

# The Almanac

NONPROFIT LOCAL NEWS FOR THE MIDPENINSULA

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## Menlo Park is ahead on market-rate housing, lags on affordable units

By Arden Margulis

Menlo Park is making steady progress toward meeting its state-mandated housing goals, according to a newly released progress report. As of the end of 2025, Menlo Park had already permitted nearly 60% of the required higher-income units but had permitted a much smaller share of the requirements for lower-income units.

A housing element is a state-mandated plan that every California city must adopt to show how it will meet its share of regional housing needs. Under the state's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) system, local governments are assigned specific targets for how many new homes must be planned and permitted during an eight-year cycle, and what portion of those units must be affordable to low- and moderate-income households.

The current Menlo Park

housing element, which covers 2023-31, sets a goal of permitting 2,946 new units. More than half of those, about 56%, must be affordable to lower-income residents. Cities are not required to build the homes themselves but must zone enough land, streamline approvals and adopt policies to make housing development feasible.

With more than five years to go in this cycle, Menlo Park is well ahead on issuing permits for above-moderate income units, which is housing affordable to people who make more than 120% of the area's median income (AMI). The city has issued permits for 763 above-moderate income units, about 59% of the requirement for the current cycle.

But when it comes to affordable housing, Menlo Park has approved a far smaller portion of its required units. For the lowest-income threshold, households

See **HOUSING**, page 10



Sammy Dallal

Construction at the now completed Springline mixed-use development by Presidio Bay Ventures on El Camino Real in Menlo Park

## Group aims to recall Sequoia Union board over high school's closure

TIDE Academy parents also seek ouster of superintendent in bid to save campus

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

A group of parents is threatening to recall members of the Sequoia Union High School District board and pressuring the superintendent to resign, after months of frustration over the district's decision to close TIDE Academy.

"The voters have voted for the money that went into building TIDE. You have not served us. Crystal Leach is completely an inept superintendent," said TIDE parent Johanna Mahal during the March 4 school board meeting.

In February, the school board unanimously voted to close TIDE this summer and move the 6-year-old school's

programs to Woodside High School in the fall. The district began exploring the closure of TIDE in November, saying that the small school in Menlo Park was a strain on its resources and its campus, built with \$50 million in bond funds, had become too costly to operate.

District officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

Mahal is leading a group of 24 parents in a recall effort that aims to unseat all three incumbent school board members whose terms end in 2028: Richard Ginn, Mary Beth Thompson and Maria Cruz. At the meeting, Mahal told the two other board members, Sathvik Nori and Amy Koo, not to seek

reelection this fall.

Mahal is also part of a larger parent group, known as TIDE Rising, which recently filed a civil rights lawsuit against the district in federal court, claiming disability discrimination because a large percentage of TIDE's students have learning disabilities and are from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. The group's request for a temporary restraining order to keep the TIDE campus open beyond the end of the school year was denied on March 5.

"I'm hoping that the continued litigation and the recall will urge (Leach) to resign before we have to have her replaced, because we will have you replaced, Crystal Leach, I promise you that," said

Mahal during public comment.

To remove all elected officials, organizers must collect signatures from registered voters in the Sequoia district and file a petition with San Mateo County to add the recall election to the ballot. Mahal told this news organization that the committee is working toward getting the recall ready for the November 2026 midterm election.

"I would love to be able to show our young people that they can have agency, and, along with their parents and with the taxpayers, all the constituents of this area, that we have a right to remove people from office who aren't doing what's in the best interest of the community," she added.

The school board's decision

to shut down TIDE has also angered a local taxpayer who doesn't have students attending district schools.

Menlo Park resident Brielle Johnck said during the recent board meeting that she was devastated to hear about the closure as a voter who supported the district's effort to open an alternative school serving primarily economically disadvantaged students.

TIDE Academy is located on Jefferson Drive in Menlo Park, east of Highway 101. The STEM school's campus is in close proximity to many tech company headquarters, including Meta, which is about a mile-and-a-half away.

See **SEQUOIA**, page 12

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**Castilleja.org/SummerCamp****(650) 470-7833****City of Sunnyvale****Sunnyvale**

Offering 110+ camps for ages 2 to 17 featuring traditional, visual arts, performing arts, sports, aquatics, STEM and teen leadership camps. Full and half day options run June 8 through Aug. 14. Dive into swim lessons for all levels starting in June, or cool off with recreation swim at our aquatic facilities all summer long.

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**StanfordJazz.org****(650) 736-0324**

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Courtesy Frances Freyberg/Midpen

Job-seekers convene at Mipeninsula Open Space District's Careers in Conservation job fair at the Los Altos Community Center on March 6.

## Hundreds seeking jobs outside of tech flock to conservation career fair

Open space district's event offers alternative to Silicon Valley office culture

By Hannah Bensen

Attendees packed into the Los Altos Community Center for a Careers in Conservation job fair last week. The scene was emblematic of California's employment market in 2026: Job seekers are packed shoulder-to-shoulder and face

lines to speak to prospective employers.

The March 6 job fair was hosted by Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Roughly half of the 800 attendees were younger, entry-level job seekers — the demographic commonly expected at a job fair. But a subset of those present — around 24% — were

looking to transition into conservation jobs.

It was Midpen's first-ever career fair, according to public affairs specialist Eleanor Raab, who said the organization was pleasantly surprised by the degree of interest. Around 30 conservation partners attended

See **CAREER FAIR**, page 20

## Menlo Park school district OKs \$1.2M in budget cuts

World language program is axed, while music classes were saved

By Arden Margulis

The Menlo Park City School District's board gave a green light to cut \$1.2 million next school year and aims to reduce expenses by a total of \$4 million over the next three school years as it seeks to balance the budget.

Since last September, Menlo Park City School District (MPCSD) Superintendent Kristina Gracia has been looking for ways to reduce the district's recurring budget deficit, now that pandemic-era programs have ended and reserve funds are drawing down.

The board approved Gracia's final recommendations, which would see the district's budget reduced by 1% to 2% annually, starting with the next school year and continuing to the 2028-29 school year.

"MPCSD must stop deficit spending and create more stability through prudent planning," Gracia told the board. "This fiscal exercise is not a situation where MPCSD is falling off a financial cliff. Reducing our budget by 1-2% for a few years is a manageable task that is not only necessary but fiscally responsible as we look to the future."

Among the cuts taking effect next fall, the district will eliminate the elementary school

world language program which will save \$365,000, according to Gracia. The Spanish immersion program will remain intact. While Gracia initially suggested canceling the fifth grade band and orchestra program, after community outreach, her final proposal preserves it.

Top of mind for board members is the district's dwindling reserves. In the 2018-19 school year, the district had a robust reserve fund of 22.9% of its annual budget, which was higher than both the state average for elementary schools (20.5%) and the district's goal of 20%. However, by the 2023-24 school year, MPCSD's reserves had fallen to 16.4% while the average for elementary school districts statewide had risen to 25.5%.

According to Gracia, the district's reserve fund would only be able to pay staff at its elementary and middle school campuses for two months.

"We are just trying to make the best of a seemingly bad situation," said board President Jed Scolnick.

At its March 5 meeting, the board approved layoff notices for a total of 7.28 full-time equivalents positions, including world language teachers, teaching aides and a district office receptionist. The district

See **BUDGET CUTS**, page 12

## Sheriff: Ex-Everest educator charged in sex-with-students case

By Arden Margulis

The former athletic director at the now-shuttered Everest Charter School in North Fair Oaks was arrested after the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said two former students accused him of having sexual relations with them when they were minors.

On March 6, Palo Alto resident Anthony Gutierrez-Molina, 31, was charged with 17 felonies, including 12 counts of statutory rape, in San Mateo County Superior Court. In January, a former student told police they had sex beginning when the victim was 16, according to the

Sheriff's Office. Investigators said they later identified a second victim, who was also a minor at the start of their sexual relations.

The Sheriff's Office obtained an arrest warrant for Gutierrez-Molina on Feb. 27 and said he was located in Ladera on March 5.

The Sheriff's Office said the crimes allegedly occurred between 2023 and 2025. Everest, where Gutierrez-Molina also served as community engagement manager, was a charter high school run by Summit Public Schools, which operates seven schools in California and Washington. It closed in 2025

due to low enrollment, according to school officials.

The Sheriff's Office said investigators do not believe Gutierrez-Molina has worked as an educator since Everest's closure.

According to a public profile viewed by this news organization, Gutierrez-Molina graduated from Woodside High School in 2013 and received an associate degree in communications from Cañada College in 2019. His previous jobs included a role as an assistant director at the Redwood City YMCA from September 2018 to August 2019.

"Anthony G. Gutierrez Molina's alleged conduct

is reprehensible and totally contrary to Summit Public Schools' mission, values and the way we run our schools," said Summit spokesperson Izzy Mason in response to a request for comment. "Our deepest sympathies go out to the former students and their families who have been impacted by this. As always, our focus is on providing our students with a safe learning environment and the academic and developmental support they need to be successful students at Summit Public Schools and beyond."

According to court records, Gutierrez-Molina's bail was

originally set at \$500,000 and Judge Rosendo Padilla Jr. denied a motion to reduce bail on March 6 due to the nature of the allegations.

Gutierrez-Molina's next hearing is scheduled for March 25 in San Mateo County Superior Court in Redwood City.

The Sheriff's Office said that, based on the nature of the crimes, investigators believe there may be additional victims and encourage anyone with information to contact Detective Temo Gonzalez at cgonzalez4@smcgov.org or 650-363-4544. ■

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

# Ladera Church to bring more affordable housing to town

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Ladera Community Church is making way for more affordable housing in Portola Valley after its congregation overwhelmingly voted to approve agreements with Habitat for Humanity to build two affordable homes on the church's property on March 1.

"The proposal for affordable housing was one reason I was attracted to this church," said Rev. Evelyn Vigil, who joined the church in March 2025. "They walk the talk, always looking for ways to make life better for others. The proposal for affordable housing had its challenges, but in the end, the congregation was united and now two, possibly three, families will benefit."

Vigil said people are already dropping by the church office to learn more about the housing project and what they can do to improve their chances.

"On a 60-2 vote, Ladera Church will allow part of the vacant parcel adjacent to the sanctuary to be used for two Habitat for Humanity homes for families that make 80% or less of the Bay Area median income," said Tim Clark, a member of the church's Affordable Housing Task Force.



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Ladera Church plans to build two affordable housing units on a half-acre lot on its property by 2029.

The nonprofit will promote the available housing units to families who currently live in the area and will hold a lottery for potential residents, according to the church. Karen Turner, another task force member, explained that they aim to house community members who are currently "renting or living in unstable environments, where they aren't guaranteed to live in the same house for multiple years."

Turner envisions local store

clerks, teachers and staff at The Sequoias senior living facility could be interested in the units.

The church's affordable housing team has been preparing for this project for years. In June 2024, members of Ladera church passed a resolution to move forward with negotiations with Habitat.

Over the past 20 months, the negotiation process explored 14 conditions that would make building housing possible and

agreeable to church members. The church worked with pro bono attorneys Frank Petrilli, Kiana Araghi and Julia Gleason to detail the conditions and craft a Joint Development Agreement and lease.

The congregation's biggest concerns were protecting three heritage oak trees growing in the open space and placing the houses 50 feet away from the church.

Clark commended the church's negotiation team for their collaborative efforts in swaying church members' mixed opinions on the housing mandate to the near-unanimous approval of the project.

They will be building two, three-bedroom houses, one of which may potentially become a four-bedroom unit, according to the church. Each house will be about 1,200 square feet and will be built off-site as modular units to reduce construction noise and disruption to the church and its preschool.

Turner said she thinks the area's landscaping will prevent the houses from being visible from Alpine Road.

She added that construction on the project will begin around late summer of 2028 and families could move in sometime in 2029. For now, the next steps are to obtain designs, building permits, plans and contracts with builders, Turner said.

Turner added that she looks forward to welcoming new homeowners, their families and children who can "avail themselves of all the wonderful services, parks, trails and schools available in Portola Valley." She hopes that these houses will provide families with security in knowing that they don't have to worry about moving year after year. ■

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

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**The Almanac**  
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Atherton, Portola Valley,  
and Woodside for over 60 years

**NEWSROOM**

**Editor** Andrea Gemmet, agemmet@almanacnews.com, 223-6537

**Staff Writers**  
Arden Margulis, 223-6518  
Jennifer Yoshikoshi, 223-6536

**Print & Lifestyle Editor** Linda Taaffe, 223-6511, ltaaffe@almanacnews.com

**Arts & Entertainment Editor**  
Heather Zimmerman, 223-6515, hzimmerman@almanacnews.com

**Features Editor** Julia Brown, 223-6531, jbrown@almanacnews.com

**Food Editor** Adrienne Mitchel, 223-6539, amitchel@almanacnews.com

**Audience Engagement Lead** Zoe Morgan, 223-6519, zmorgan@almanacnews.com

**Lifestyle Assistant Editor** Karla Kane, 223-6521, kkane@almanacnews.com

**Visual Journalist** Seeger Gray, 223-6530, sgray@almanacnews.com

**Embarcadero Media Foundation Staff Writers**

Hannah Bensen, 223-6527  
Riley Cooke, 223-6524  
Emily Margaretten, 223-6517  
Emma Montalbano, 223-6535  
Miranda de Moraes, 223-6533  
Lisa Moreno, 223-6526

**Contributors** Kate Daly, Ashwini Gangal, Neil Gonzales, Maggie Mah

**DESIGN & PRODUCTION**

**Design and Production Manager**  
Kristin Brown, 223-6562

**ADVERTISING**

**Major Accounts Sales Manager**  
Connie Cotton, 223-6571

**Multimedia Advertising Sales**  
Elaine Ogden, 223-6572

**Real Estate Manager** Neal Fine, 223-6583

**ADVERTISING SERVICES**

**Advertising Services Manager**  
Kevin Legarda, 223-6597

**Sales & Production Coordinator**  
Diane Martin, 223-6584

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Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525
- **Email news** and photos with captions to: Editor@AlmanacNews.com
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## Menlo Park Monthly Market Report

February 1, 2026 - February 28, 2026

*Rosetti Realty Inc.*

TOP 10 SALES			
1. \$7,220,000 1016 Lemon Street	2. \$6,630,000 20 Politz Drive	3. \$5,000,018 521 Entrada Way	4. \$5,000,000 2018 Sand Hill Road
5. \$3,570,000 381 Leland Avenue	6. \$3,535,000 1010 Ringwood Avenue	7. \$2,610,000 108 Durham St.	8. \$2,525,000 454 9th Avenue
9. \$2,460,000 426 Encinal Avenue	10. \$2,400,000 402 Sand Hill Circle		

**ACTIVE LISTING**  
Feb: 36 (+6%)  
Jan: 34

**PENDING LISTING**  
Feb: 32 (+68%)  
Jan: 19

**SOLD LISTING**  
Feb: 14 (-18%)  
Jan: 17

**AVERAGE SALES PRICE**  
Feb: \$3,451,430 (+4%)  
Jan: \$3,331,941

**AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ FT**  
Feb: \$1,708 (+5%)  
Jan: \$1,628

**AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET**  
Feb: 7 (-80%)  
Jan: 35

**MONTHS OF INVENTORY**  
Feb: 2.60 (+30%)  
Jan: 2.00  
If no further homes/condos were to come to market, the area would be SOLD OUT of residential real estate in the number of MONTHS shown

**SALE/LIST PRICE**  
Feb: 111.80% (+10%)  
Jan: 101.40%

**30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE**  
Feb: 6.15% (-1%)  
Jan: 6.19%

February 2026 compared January 2026

\*Source: MLS Listings for Single Family Properties | Townhomes | Condos

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# Prosecutors won't retry ex-college chancellor convicted of eight felonies

A jury deadlocked on 18 of 27 charges in Ron Galatolo's trial

By Arden Margulis

The San Mateo County District Attorney's Office will not pursue a second trial of the former chancellor of the San Mateo County Community College District who was convicted of eight felonies related to alleged kickbacks from contractors and false tax documents from his tenure at the district. The jury declared it was deadlocked on an additional 18 charges.

A jury found former chancellor Ron Galatolo guilty of four counts each of perjury and

tax fraud in a 40-day trial that ended Jan. 21. Because the jury deadlocked on 18 other counts, Judge Leland Davis declared a mistrial and gave the prosecution until March to decide whether to retry Galatolo.

District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said the decision not to retry Galatolo came down to the time he is facing on the eight felonies and the length of a new trial.



Ron Galatolo

Wagstaffe said Galatolo is facing up to seven years and four months in prison. A new trial would be lengthy and complex, Wagstaffe added, and he felt the best use of judicial and taxpayer resources would be to leave the case as it stands.

The District Attorney's Office can recommend a sentence to Judge Davis before the sentencing on June 5.

Galatolo's convictions were on charges that he falsified financial disclosures and tax filings and failed to properly report income and gifts. Jurors acquitted him on one perjury

count for tax forms filed in 2015 but could not reach unanimous verdicts on the remaining charges after eight days of deliberations.

Galatolo, a 62-year-old Menlo Park resident, has maintained his innocence and blamed honest mistakes made when filling out forms.

The 27 charges Galatolo faced included conflict of interest, misuse of public funds and embezzlement related to his time leading the community college district. As chancellor from 2001 to 2019, he oversaw a budget of nearly \$1 billion for

improvements to the district's three campuses: Cañada College in Woodside, Skyline College in San Bruno and the College of San Mateo. Some of the charges stemmed from benefits and gifts he allegedly received from district contractors while others are related to omissions on Galatolo's personal tax and DMV filings.

Galatolo's sentencing is on June 5 at the San Mateo County Superior Court in Redwood City. ■

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

# Two suspects arrested after allegedly beating man and stealing bike

By Arden Margulis

Two 21-year-old men were arrested on March 6 after allegedly beating a man and stealing his bike in unincorporated Redwood City.

According to San Mateo County prosecutors, a 25-year-old man was exiting a SamTrans bus around 11:45 a.m. near the intersection of El

Camino Real and Fifth Avenue when two suspects asked if he was selling the bike he was carrying, which belonged to his brother and is worth about \$1,500. When the man said no, the suspects, later identified as Kevin Maay Lugo and Fidel Galeana Delgado, allegedly punched him over 20 times and took his bike.

Nearby witnesses stepped in

to help the victim. One witness chased the suspects when they fled with the bike and eventually abandoned it on Fifth Avenue, according to District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe. The victim suffered cuts on his arms and legs, and his face was bruised and bloodied.

Deputies located two men matching the description of the attackers near the intersection

of Fifth Avenue and the Caltrain tracks and took them to the Atherton Police Station. According to Wagstaffe, both a witness and the victim positively identified Maay Lugo and Galeana Delgado as the assailants.

Prosecutors charged both men with felony second-degree robbery, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in

prison. The pair were arraigned on March 9 and are being held on \$50,000 bail, according to court records. Maay Lugo and Galeana Delgado are scheduled for a preliminary hearing at San Mateo County Superior Court in Redwood City on March 20. ■

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

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### OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

**Alan Churchill Jones**, 99, of Menlo Park, served in the military and survived exposure to a radiation blast, and was one of only two scientists who lived into old age without succumbing to cancer. He worked for many years at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla as a geophysicist, and was an avid traveler, and lover of birds and animals. He died on Feb. 28.

**Joseph Erskine Welsh**, 76, of Palo Alto, graduated from Palo Alto High School where his claim to fame was almost beating Mark Spitz in the 100-yard butterfly the year before Spitz won the silver medal in that same event at the Mexico City Olympic Games. He took a six-year residency at the University of Virginia in neurosurgery and merged the complexity of brain surgery with deep empathy for the physical and emotional suffering of others. He died on Feb. 27.

**Lillian Abood Harris**, 98, a longtime Midpeninsula resident who taught Spanish and English as a Second Language in the Palo Alto Unified and Sequoia Union High school districts and at Stanford International House, was known for her love of languages, travel, competitive bridge and spirited curiosity about the world She built a life centered on family, teaching and lifelong learning. She died at home on Nov. 5, 2025.

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

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Volunteers clean up Belle Haven Community Garden

Through a joint effort between the Menlo-Atherton High School Service Learning Center and Rotary Club of Menlo Park, the Belle Haven Community Garden got a "spring cleaning" on March 7.

The recent rain and warm weather created the perfect recipe for growth, of both intentionally planted crops and weeds. Students and Rotary members teamed up to clear an overgrown access path.

The Belle Haven Community Garden was established by the Rotary Club with support from the city of Menlo Park and community donations. It offers 35 planting beds and a small orchard to provide Belle Haven residents with an opportunity to garden and grow their own food.

#### Seeking info about Woodside Dairy House history

Do you have any untold memories, records or documents about Wunderlich Park's Dairy House in Woodside? Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks is inviting everyone, including local historians, longtime residents, descendants of early families and researchers to share their knowledge about the historic building and Woodside's early agricultural past.

The Woodside Dairy House was built in 1874, serving as a non-electric refrigerator that kept crops harvested from Hazel Wood Farm fresh until they were exported. Members of the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks are curious as to how the Dairy House was used and are looking to gain for insights from the community.

If you have any photos, knowledge, documents or stories related to the Dairy House to share, contact Executive Director Kym Teppo at [fhwp2961@gmail.com](mailto:fhwp2961@gmail.com).

#### Love Our Earth Festival

Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School will be hosting the fifth annual Love Our Earth Festival from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, in celebration of the community and environmental stewardship.

This annual event will feature plant-based food trucks, environmental education exhibits, local vendors, children's crafts, a bike repair station and live entertainment. You can also bring your own T-shirt and get it screen-printed for free.

The event, on the campus at 2450 Ralmar Ave., East Palo Alto, is sponsored by 350 Silicon Valley, Acterra, City of East Palo Alto, City of Menlo Park, Menlo Spark, Peninsula Clean Energy, and Ravenswood City School District.

To register for the event, visit [bit.ly/LOEF2026](http://bit.ly/LOEF2026).

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi



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## PANORAMIC VIEWS AND COVETED PALO ALTO SCHOOLS

Tucked away on a private road on just over an acre, this Los Altos Hills estate captures breathtaking views stretching to the San Francisco Bay. Spanning nearly 4,500 square feet across two levels, the home blends impressive scale with a warm, welcoming ambiance. Soaring ceilings, rich wood floors, and statement chandeliers introduce refined interiors, while thoughtful design and luxurious finishes create an atmosphere that is both sophisticated and comfortable. A dramatic wall of windows in the living and dining rooms frames the panorama and fills the home with natural light, while the quartz-appointed kitchen with Wolf and Bosch appliances opens to a generous family room ideal for both entertaining and everyday living. Five well-appointed bedrooms include a magnificent primary suite with a private balcony and spa-inspired bath. Outdoors, an expansive deck, sparkling pool, and manicured lawn take full advantage of the sweeping vistas, offering a picturesque setting for gatherings or peaceful retreat. Additional highlights include an office, air conditioning, a 2-car garage, and covered carport. Despite its serene, ultra-private setting, the home is just minutes from scenic trails, nature preserves, and the shops and dining of downtown Los Altos, and is served by the highly sought-after Palo Alto school district (buyer to verify eligibility).

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# East Palo Alto looks to add housing, expand park as part of three-party deal

After decades of conversation, city OKs deal with San Mateo County and nonprofit

By Lisa Moreno

The East Palo Alto City Council approved a partnership with the county of San Mateo and housing nonprofit EPACANDO, to swap land, construct a 100% affordable housing complex on University Ave. and expand Martin Luther King Park.

After decades of conversations, the council unanimously voted on Feb. 24 to approve a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that allows the three parties to consider ways to develop the land. The approval was characterized by all three parties as an all-around win, and the council lauded city staff and leaders of EPACANDO for their efforts to transform the County's empty land.

Under the deal, San Mateo

County is currently set to acquire the city's land at 2277 University Ave., which is occupied by a county-operated parole and probation center, according to the MOU. In return, East Palo Alto is set to acquire 1266 Beech St., which is located right beside Martin Luther King Park.

The three parties plan to create approximately 60 affordable housing units at the University property, City Manager Melvin Gaines said at the meeting.

Although the MOU is non-binding and does not yet permit the parties to begin construction, it does allow EPACANDO to temporarily manage the affordable housing units that are located right beside the University property at 2263 University Ave. The nonprofit's assistance allows the parties to create a "larger and

more feasible affordable housing development," according to city documents.

The city of East Palo Alto also hopes to use the Beech Street land as an extension of Martin Luther King Park.

"This project is an important step toward two long standing goals, one, expanding Martin Luther King Park, and two, supporting 100% affordable housing along University Avenue," Gaines said.

While the council was generally excited about the progress, council members expressed frustration over the slow-moving deal and the county's unwillingness to provide the city with the land. Council member Mark Dinan said he envisions it as an opportunity to build a regulation-sized soccer field, tennis courts and expanded parking lots.

"My strong feeling on this is that the county of San Mateo should have already given us this land, and if you go up to San Mateo, you'll see beautiful county of San Mateo parks, where they've invested millions of dollars and facilities. ... We don't have that in East Palo Alto," Dinan said.

Raymond Hodges, director of San Mateo County's Department of Housing, said the county was unable to give away the land because it was acquired with state



Seeger Gray

Martin Luther King Jr. Park in East Palo Alto may expand under a deal inked by the city, the county and nonprofit EPACANDO.

Community Development Block Grant funds.

"We have multiple priorities that we have to balance," Hodges said at the meeting. "So, in this case, our role is in service to the community."

Residents of East Palo Alto who spoke at the meeting expressed general excitement about development but asked city staff to ensure habitability standards in its existing affordable housing units while it makes progress on city goals.

Praise Olatunde, an East Palo Alto resident, said she experienced problems such as a lack of heat, substandard electrical circuits, dampness and toxic mold in an affordable housing unit.

"Why are we building new homes when residents are dealing with habitability issues in their homes now?" she said during the public comment period.

Development of the land is still likely years away. Now that the city has approved the memorandum, the county will make a decision and the three parties will engage in community discussions, cost studies and a developer selection process. Each party must independently approve updates in the future.

"Let's see if we can make it happen," Dinan said. ■

Email Staff Writer Lisa Moreno at [lmoreno@almanacnews.com](mailto:lmoreno@almanacnews.com).

## Employment

### TECHNOLOGY

Mainspring Energy, Inc. is accepting resumes for Staff Technical Project Manager in Menlo Park, CA: Perform comprehensive project management for product engineering initiatives, overseeing the entire lifecycle from concept to delivery. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary: \$184,000 - \$204,918/yr. Email resume to [careers@mainspringenergy.com](mailto:careers@mainspringenergy.com). Must reference Ref# MM-PM.

### ENGINEERING

Robinhood Markets, Inc. has an opening in Menlo Park, CA for Applications Engineer (9392659): Dev systm engng, sftwr engng, systm integrtn, or dist systm archtcts. Tlcmgt prmttd. Salary Rnge: \$124051-\$149500/year. Minimum Requirements for Position: Master's degree or foreign academic equivalent in Information Systems Management or a related field. Education or experience must include: Actimize, including work with current versions. Java development experience for system integrations and internal Actimize scripting. SQL scripting for data extraction, transformation, and analysis. Python for automation and tooling. Broader AML or financial crime compliance systems and workflows. Containerization technologies, ideally Kubernetes and Docker. Bckground checks req. See bnfts at <https://careers.robinhood.com/benefits>. Email resume with job title & job code Ref#9392659 to [rhijobs@robinhood.com](mailto:rhijobs@robinhood.com).

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### ENGINEERING

Robinhood Markets, Inc. has an opening in Menlo Park, CA for Software Engineer (9492871): Desgn & devlp larg-scale systms wthn the team, making infmrd tradeoffs for risk & long trm mantainbly. Tlcmgt prmttd. Minimum Requirements for the position: PhD or foreign equivalent in Physics, Computer Science, Mathematics, Quantum Computing, or related field and 1 year of experience in the job offered or related occupation. In the alternative the employer will accept a Master's degree or foreign equivalent in Physics, Computer Science, Mathematics, Quantum Computing or related field and 2 years of experience in the job offered or related occupation. Any suitable combination of education, experience or training is acceptable. Education or experience must include: utilizing Golang to build large-scale backend systems, developing financial smart contracts in Solidity for EVM-compatible blockchains, designing and developing REST APIs for mobile-to-server communication, creating automated tests to verify the correctness of smart contracts and backend systems; and writing performant SQL queries to support backend systems operating under high load. Salary Rnge: \$188,000 - \$220,000/year. Bckground checks req. See bnfts at <https://careers.robinhood.com/benefits>. Email resume with job title & job code Ref# 9492871 to [rhijobs@robinhood.com](mailto:rhijobs@robinhood.com).

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### HOUSING

continued from page 1

that earn 0% to 50% of AMI, the city has permitted 18.5% of the 740 units it is required during the cycle.

This is not a new trend for Menlo Park: during the previous housing element cycle, Menlo Park permitted the development of over seven times the required number of above-moderate income units but only 15% of the required moderate income units. The city did fare better on very-low income housing, permitting 93% of what was required.

Area median income is set annually by family size for San Mateo County, which has the second-highest AMI in the state. In 2025, the state set the AMI for a family of four in San Mateo County at \$186,600. The state average AMI for a family of four is \$118,100.

The city must submit the 2025 housing progress report by April 1. While the state is not expected to take any action on this year's report, the results of the 2026 progress report could trigger additional state penalties. In June 2027, the state will determine

whether or not Menlo Park will be subject to the Streamlined Ministerial Approval Process (SMAP) based on its completion of the requirements. If Menlo Park is subject to SMAP, some projects may be able to bypass discretionary processes like environmental review or public hearings. However, SMAP projects must still comply with city zoning and objective standards.

To meet the goals set by the state, Menlo Park officials promised to implement 69 programs to encourage the construction of housing and prevent displacement. One of the most controversial programs is a proposal to build at least 345 affordable housing units on several city-owned parking lots in downtown Menlo Park.

Only units that were permitted by the end of 2025 were included in the report, however several projects have not gotten permits but are in the works, according to city planner Tom Smith. Smith cited a proposed development at 80 Willow Road, the former headquarters of Sunset Magazine, and proposed townhomes at 68 Willow Road, in addition to applications received in 2026. Already

in the first few months of 2026, the city has received several housing proposals that could make a significant dent in Menlo Park's required units.

In January, Springline developer Presidio Bay Ventures proposed building 670 housing units, including 101 affordable units, at the former USGS campus on Middlefield Road. Another recent proposal seeks to build 199 apartments — including 20 for low income households and nine for very low income — at 155 Jefferson Drive.

Those two projects alone, if approved by the city, would produce over eight times the number of units approved in 2025.

In 2025, Menlo Park issued permits for a total of 102 new housing units and 42 units were completed and ready to be occupied. Of the units permitted, 38 were accessory dwelling units, 29 of which were completed.

While 2025 saw fewer permitted projects than 2024, it was more than the 65 units permitted in 2023, according to the staff report. ■

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

# Federal judge denies parents' request to halt TIDE Academy's closure in June

TIDE Rising sought a temporary restraining order in its civil rights lawsuit against Sequoia Union High School District

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

A group of parents trying to keep TIDE Academy from closing hit a setback on March 5, when a federal judge denied the group's request for a temporary restraining order that would force The Sequoia Union High School District to keep open the 6-year-old campus beyond the end of the school year.

As part of the civil rights lawsuit filed on Feb. 13, the parent group known as TIDE Rising asked the judge for a temporary restraining order, also known as a TRO, to prevent the district from vacating the campus in June. Sequoia district officials cited budget woes and declining enrollment across its high schools in their decision to shut down TIDE.

U.S. District Judge Trina L. Thompson explained that the parents' concerns "fall short" since TIDE will not close down until the school year ends. She said that a TRO is typically granted to prevent something from happening in the immediate future but in this case, there is "time for further consideration."

After the school district board voted in early February to close down TIDE, a small STEM-based school in Menlo Park, parents were quick to take action by filing a lawsuit against Sequoia Union in the U.S. District Court in San Francisco.

Parents alleged in their suit that the school district discriminated against students with disabilities, who make up a disproportionately large share of TIDE's enrollment, and that the board's decision was predetermined before public hearings were held, according to documents they obtained through the Public Records Act request.

Jay Jambek, the attorney for TIDE Rising, said at the hearing that parents are worried that their children will not thrive in a large school environment, where some experienced bullying in the past. The parents are also worried they will have to "fight for accommodations and services" for their special education children, Jambek said.

Although TIDE's programs will be transferred to Woodside High School, its students, teachers and staff will be dispersed throughout all of Sequoia District's campuses including Menlo-Atherton, Sequoia and Carmont high schools.

During a Sequoia Union board meeting on March 4, district officials stated that no teachers will be laid off this school year and all TIDE teachers have the opportunity to choose to which site they would like to transfer. Students have until March 9 to submit their open enrollment forms and list their top school choice.

In a pleading filed on March 4, Jambek suggested that, as an alternative to closing TIDE, the district could spend the next school year conducting disability-impact and feasibility analyses and explore "less discriminatory alternatives" while students remain on TIDE's campus.

Other suggestions included reducing costs districtwide, exploring optimization of its operational budget, and offsetting costs for TIDE's career technical education programs by partnering with colleges, fundraising or applying for grants. The pleading suggested leasing the Summit Everest campus, which has been unoccupied since the charter school in North Fair Oaks closed in March 2025.

Despite parents' concerns about the lack of services available at other schools, the district's attorney Sheila Crawford argued that all campuses within Sequoia Union are required and able to provide the special



Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Signs supporting TIDE Academy were brought to the Sequoia Union High School District's study session on Jan. 26.

education services that parents say are significant to TIDE. During board meetings, students shared they were able to receive increased support from teachers for their learning accommodations because of

smaller class sizes. Crawford noted that larger schools would also offer students with more services and opportunities through their robust catalog

See **TIDE ACADEMY**, page 12

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that said application is set for hearing by the Planning Commission at its meeting on **March 25, 2026, at 6:00 PM** in-person and via teleconference accessible through the information provided below, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the projects listed in the public hearing section should or should not be approved. This meeting will be held via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The public may participate in the Planning Commission Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

**Topic:** Atherton Planning Commission Regular Meeting

**Time:** March 25, 2026, 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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

**Zoom Meeting Option and Details:**

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

Meeting ID: 841 5024 9099

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**Remote Public Comments:**

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

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

#### Projects under Public Hearing:

1. Request for a **Special Structures Permit (SSR26-001)** to accommodate a new swimming pool as part of a new full site development **180 Isabella Avenue (APN 070-211-210)**, an approximately 2-acre site within the R-1A zoning district. Zoning Code Section 17.40.040(A) requires that accessory buildings or structures must be set back 120 feet from the front property line, or 30 feet behind the front line of the main structure, whichever is less. However, swimming pools may be located between the front setback line and the front line of the main structure upon issuance of a Special Structures Permit, pursuant to Zoning Code Section 17.40.050(E). The proposed main residence provides a code-complying front setback of 68 feet and 9 inches from the front right-of-way easement, greater than the required 60 feet. The Special Structures Permit seeks to allow a swimming pool to be set back 60 feet from the front right-of-way easement. This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to: CEQA Sections 15303 (New Construction). If you have any questions on the item, please contact Gerry Martin, Assistant Planner, at [gmartin@athertonca.gov](mailto:gmartin@athertonca.gov) or (408) 809-9513.
2. Request for a **Conditional Use Permit (CUP26-001)** and a **Tree Protection Zone Exception (PTPZ26-00001)** for the installation of 21-foot tall sports field netting along the Alejandra frontage at Wunderlich Field, located at **65 Alejandra Avenue (APN 070-360-110)**, a portion of the Menlo School campus at 50 Valparaiso Avenue (APN 070-390-010) and within the Public Facilities and Schools (PFS) zoning district. Pursuant to Atherton Municipal Code (AMC) Table 17.36.030-1, all facility changes, improvements, or new construction at this property require approval of a CUP. Additionally, AMC Sections 8.10.050 (Request for Exceptions to the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)) and 8.10.020 (Definitions) outline the requirements for Tree Protection Zones. The Town of Atherton *Heritage Tree Preservation Standards and Specifications* provide that the Planning Commission may grant a Tree Protection Zone Exception for walls or fences allowing encroachment from six (6) times the tree diameter to three (3) times the tree diameter. The proposed netting would reduce the potential for balls to leave the field and enter Alejandra Avenue, a public right-of-way used by pedestrians and vehicles. The posts supporting the proposed sports netting are located within the Tree Protection Zones of three (3) heritage trees: two (2) Coast Live Oaks and one (1) Valley Oak, and therefore require Planning Commission consideration of a Tree Protection Zone Exception. The proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to AMC Section 15.32.100 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) and 15311 (Accessory Structures). If you have any questions on the item please contact Lorrin French, Assistant Planner, at [lfrench@athertonca.gov](mailto:lfrench@athertonca.gov) or (650) 752-0544.
3. Request for a **Variance (VAR26-001)** to reconstruct a portion of an existing legally non-complying single-family dwelling that is legally non-complying with regard to side and rear yard setbacks at **70 Linda Vista (APN 070-161-040)**, an approximately 0.98-acre site within the R-1A zoning district. Atherton Municipal Code Section 17.26.040 allows for the repair and reconstruction of up to 50% of a legal non-complying structure. A Building Permit Application No. BP24-00264 approved modifications consistent with this section. However, during construction additional deterioration of the existing walls was uncovered. In order to proceed with the reconstruction of the legal non-complying elements of main building, the project requires a variance from the R-1A standards for rear and side setbacks. AMC Section 17.32.040 requires a side yard setback of 50-feet and a rear yard setback of 60-feet. The existing structure provides a legal non-complying side yard setback of 34-feet along the east property line and a rear yard setback of 57-feet. This proposal has been determined to be categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to: CEQA Sections 15303 (New Construction) and 15304 (Minor Alterations). If you have any questions on the item, please contact Tom Ford, Senior Planner, at [tford@athertonca.gov](mailto:tford@athertonca.gov) or (510) 473-3078.

The agenda for this meeting with links to related staff reports can be found online by **Friday, March 20, 2026**, here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

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

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

ATHERTON PLANNING COMMISSION

/s/ Brittany Bendix  
Brittany Bendix, Consulting Town Planner

### SEQUOIA

*continued from page 1*

“Was there a robust reach-out to tech companies? These are the companies that want employees who have the very education that TIDE is offering. It just is shocking that in the middle of Silicon Valley, we’re gonna roll over and give up,” said Johnck.

While parents pursue a recall, Mahal said she would like to see new school board members who carry a wide breadth of knowledge in different areas of expertise and are not afraid to stand up to the superintendent and hold them accountable.

“It’s not about being right, it’s not about winning,” said Mahal, who added that parents involved in the recall are just passionate about setting an example for younger generations. “That type of power and agency is something that’s a gift to give our young people.”

TIDE Rising members have been actively fighting to save their children’s school since the

board announced in November that it would be exploring the high school’s closure.

“This is not just about TIDE Academy. This is about litigations that are draining the district, mishandling and lack of transparency,” said Mahal. “It’s really a disregard for student stability and educational outcomes and they’ve lost confidence in so many ways, not just through TIDE’s closure.”

Parents organizing the recall said they will be working on collecting signatures from the community members within the districts represented by Ginn, Thompson and Cruz. Sequoia Union divides its territory into five districts, each electing one board member.

“I am fighting for all the other kids that are so deflated, that feel like something has been taken away from them and from their parents that don’t know what to do,” said Mahal. ■

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

### TIDE ACADEMY

*continued from page 11*

of Advanced Placement classes, electives and more.

“Federal disability law guarantees meaningful access to educational services; it does not require a district to maintain an underenrolled school at diminished capacity or at the expense of broader districtwide fiscal stability,” wrote the district’s law firm in its pleading.

If the district were to keep TIDE open, it would have to reduce staffing and programming to lower its expenditures,

which would eliminate many of its advanced courses, electives and dual enrollment opportunities, the district added. Its legal team argues that reduced course offerings would likely accelerate enrollment declines and lead to further challenges in maintaining a viable campus.

Thompson suggested the two parties schedule a court-assisted mediation. A case management conference is scheduled for May 7. ■

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

### BUDGET CUTS

*continued from page 5*

is required to issue layoff notices by March 15.

Menlo Park’s current budget situation stems from a variety of factors, including the requirement to start transitional kindergarten, increased payments to the state’s retirement system and compensation increases to district staff, according to district board member Scott Saywell said.

“We’ve been able to manage through these significant increases largely because the enrollment has gone down,” Saywell said.

Saywell also said that he wanted to keep a promise to voters from the last time the district asked for a parcel tax.

“The rationale was we are cutting the budget, we are asking

for a new parcel tax, and we are not going to come back to you with another one for a very long time,” Saywell said. “We said that with this big ask, we are going to be good stewards of your investment into the district and we are going to do a really good job of managing our budget.”

In total, the cuts for the 2026-27 school year are \$172,000 less than the board had wanted, but Superintendent Gracia said she is hopeful that the district will be able to find more room to trim the budget in future years.

Gracia will present more specifics about the reductions for next school year when the board votes on the budget later this year. Additionally, she said that when new data and estimates come out, the district will refine the plan. ■

*Email Staff Writer Arden Margulis  
at [amargulis@almanacnews.com](mailto:amargulis@almanacnews.com).*

## After Corpus removal, new sheriff pledges stability and accountability

By Joshua Picazo

San Mateo County's new sheriff pledged stability, accountability and stronger community engagement on March 3 as he met with a local transparency group following the removal of former Sheriff Christina Corpus.

Sheriff Kenneth Binder discussed his priorities and fielded questions about oversight, immigration policy and department culture during the meeting with Fixin' SMC.

Fixin' SMC Chair Jim Lawrence urged residents to give Binder an opportunity to lead.

Students from Sequoia High School also attended the meeting, presenting survey results and sharing their views on how the Sheriff's Office can work with residents to create a safer community.

"Our group conducted surveys with several high schools in San Mateo County," said Caitlin, a senior at Sequoia High School.

According to the surveys, 38.8% of respondents said they felt safe around local police officers, while 57% said they felt "somewhat safe."

Binder said restoring stability to the department was his top priority upon taking office.

"My number one goal was to provide some stability to the organization," Binder said, referring to the previous administration.

Corpus was removed by county supervisors over allegations of misconduct, including abuse of authority and improper hiring practices.

Binder emphasized the importance of building a new culture within the department and said hiring an undersheriff, Chris Hsiung, would help lay the groundwork.

"Culture is the key to modernizing and making an awesome public safety agency," Hsiung said. "When you have leaders at the top who put humans first, the chances are the way your

deputies and officers are treated is the same way they are going to treat the public."

Binder said justice, community engagement and "organizational excellence" are the department's top three priorities.

"Where does civilian oversight fall?" asked Trina Patton, a Fixin' SMC member.

Binder said new hires face an 18-month probationary period and that internal oversight mechanisms are already in place.

"We are holding our people accountable," Binder said. "We have had some folks who were on probation and weren't



Kenneth Binder

meeting our standards, and we sent them on their way. We want to make sure we have only the best."

The group also asked about the Sheriff's Office's stance on cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"We will not cooperate with ICE," Binder said. "We want to build trust with everyone."

Under Corpus, the Sheriff's Office also said it did not cooperate with ICE beyond what was required by state law. ■

Email Contributing Writer Joshua Picazo at [joshuadpicazo@gmail.com](mailto:joshuadpicazo@gmail.com).



### Lisa Burnett

March 9, 1952 – January 16, 2026

Lisa Burnett, 73, passed away at her home in Menlo Park on January 16, 2026. She had a life full of friendships, family, dance, horses, cats, Pilates, Shiatsu, music, travel, cooking, and Cosmos. She spent a lifetime creating dances and inspiring others to bring dance into their lives as well as strength and grace into their bodies. Her home became a gathering place for a coterie of dedicated followers, many of whom remained friends across decades.

Lisa was born in Salt Lake City on March 9, 1952 to Barbara (Rosenblatt) and Ted Burnett. By the age of 10, she was a burgeoning, determined equestrian. She convinced her parents to buy her a retired show horse, Geyser, for \$150. Ever since, she devoted herself to all the horses she rode with such elegance. Her last horse, Addie (a Haflinger) brought her great joy through her final battle with a relentless sarcoma. She was just starting to learn the art of Dressage which combined her lifetime of dance movement — holding awareness of every part of the body at once — and communicating with a horse in small, subtle cues.

She graduated from Olympus High in 1970, and following her mother's path, went to Stanford University where her freshman roommate sparked an interest in dance. She graduated Cum Laude in 1974 with a BA in Human Biology and stayed on get an MA in Dance. The program was led by Inga Weiss, who had performed with Mary Wigman, a pioneer of modern dance. While dancing with the Khadra Folk Dance group, she met fellow dance enthusiast and future husband, Larry Cofer. On their way to a folk-dance workshop in Poland, they bicycled around Europe. They married on August 6, 1978, 47 years ago.

Early in her career, Lisa taught modern dance at Bay Area colleges and took ballet with Richard Gibson in Palo Alto. When Larry Rhodes came to teach ballet at Richard's studio, his style of dance, inspired by José Limón, touched her so deeply that she followed him to NYU Tisch School of Dance to get an MFA just so she could take class with him. Another big influence on Lisa's flowing style of modern dance was Aaron Osborn, who taught in San Francisco. For over 40 years, Lisa taught modern dance at Zohar Dance Company in Palo Alto. She developed a loyal group of students who also became long-time friends.

A healer at heart and a relentless student of the human body, Lisa got certified in both Shiatsu (Japanese pressure massage) and Pilates. With massage, she helped many clients with their pain, including some in hospice. Through Pilates she connected her students with their body, healthy alignment and flowing strength. A special teacher, her gentle corrections and clever visual images filled her home studio with loyal followers for decades.

Many will miss her. She was preceded in death by her parents and infant son Zachary. She is survived by husband Larry Cofer, son Wyatt Burnett and his partner Lacey Eberl, brothers Tom and David, sisters in law Harriet and Iris.

A celebration of her life will be held Saturday, April 4, at 2pm at Cubberley Theatre, 4120 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

In memory of Lisa, please consider making a donation to Stanford Sarcoma Research at <https://medgift.stanford.edu>. In "Other", type "The Dr. Anusha Kalbasi Sarcoma Research Fund" or "The Dr. Nam Q. Bui Sarcoma Research Fund".

### Joseph Erskine Welsh

September 19, 1949 - February 27, 2026

Born in San Francisco and raised in Palo Alto and Santa Cruz, Joseph Erskine Welsh was a true California boy. He surfed the Rivermouth in Santa Cruz on a 9'6" Jack's longboard and skied the steep slopes of Lake Tahoe on the new Head Aluminum Standard skis. When he was 10 years old, he rode the Squaw Peak chairlift serving modern-day Siberia with a frightened Icelandic downhill who subsequently wiped out on the steep terrain of the 1960 Olympic downhill. On the morning of his oldest daughter's wedding in 2008, he skied that same slope with his family (and none of them wiped out).



Joe graduated from Palo Alto High School, where his claim to fame was almost beating Mark Spitz in the 100-yard butterfly the year before he won the silver medal in that same event at the Mexico City Olympic Games. He was a member of the varsity water polo and swimming teams at Stanford University, where he received a BA in Biology in 1971 and subsequently an MD in 1975. After a six-year residency at the University of Virginia in neurosurgery, Joe returned to California to raise his family, ever drawn to the mountains he loved and his family home in Dollar Point.

Joe's career touched many lives as he gracefully merged the complexity of brain surgery with deep empathy for the physical and emotional suffering of others. He found solace in poetry and the beauty of the great outdoors. He hosted countless sun-baked days in his hometown on SeaBright Beach, fly fishing trips in the Trinity Alps and an annual birthday celebration at the top of Half Dome in Yosemite National Park.

He is survived by his six children: Joseph Erskine Welsh, Jr., Lindsay McConnon, Erin Keefe, Courtney Yarbrough, Jacob Welsh, and Zachary Welsh, his ten grandchildren, his wife, Anne Ziffer Welsh, and siblings Jeffie Feakins, Sally Welsh, John Welsh, and David Welsh. Joe was surrounded by the deep love of lifelong friends until the end. He was a world champion eater of vanilla ice cream and salted peanuts, knew every single baseball stat for the San Francisco Giants, and was a devoted Stanford fan.

In lieu of flowers, Joe asks you to consider making a donation to Keep Tahoe Blue, whose mission is to protect one of his most beloved places. <https://keeptahoeblue.givevirtuous.org/donate/memorial-joseph-erskine-welsh-md>

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Sweeping, unobstructed San Francisco Bay views take center stage at this extraordinary contemporary estate set on more than an acre in Woodside Hills, with dramatic vistas enjoyed from nearly every room. Walls of glass, soaring ceilings, and refined finishes including marble, granite, and travertine floors create a striking yet warm aesthetic, while 4,800 square feet of living space unfolds across two thoughtfully designed levels. The expansive kitchen and family room anchor the main level and are complemented by gracious formal living and dining spaces, creating multiple areas for entertaining that suit both daily living and larger occasions.

The upper level offers additional gathering spaces including a media room, along with four bedroom suites highlighted by a luxurious primary retreat with a spa-inspired bath. Outside, the grounds are designed for relaxed entertaining, featuring a pool and a pergola-covered terrace, all oriented toward the views. Climate control ensures year-round comfort, and the gated setting provides exceptional privacy while remaining close to parks, nature preserves, and the charm of downtown Woodside. A rare offering that pairs architectural presence, luxurious seclusion, and spectacular surroundings with effortless access to the heart of Silicon Valley.

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Over 2.5 acres of quintessential Woodside grounds set the stage for this spectacular estate that strikes a balance between timeless elegance and effortless livability. Set behind gates, surrounded by mature trees and lush foliage, the setting of this English-manor style home instantly conveys an atmosphere of luxurious seclusion. Step inside to the dramatic foyer, where columns frame the expansive living room and a feeling of warm, inviting grandeur fills more than 6,400 square feet of total space. Beautifully appointed with high-end materials and displaying expert craftsmanship at every turn, the floorplan balances elegant social areas with private spaces designed for ease and comfort. Formal rooms flow gracefully, a chef's kitchen and executive office balance function with refinement, and a theater room provides the perfect retreat for movie nights, while five bedrooms include a sanctuary-like primary suite for the ultimate retreat.

Outside, the resort-like grounds are a world unto themselves. A patio with a fireplace and built-in grill sets the scene for outdoor gatherings, while the pool and spa are joined by a full pool house. A cascading waterfall provides a striking centerpiece, spanned by a charming bridge that leads to meandering paths, vibrant gardens, fruit trees, and a detached studio that offers space for work or fitness. Behind the scenes, Tesla solar panels with six Powerwall batteries and a Sonos sound system blend seamlessly with the estate's classic character. Just minutes from Woodside proper, with convenient access to Sand Hill Road, Palo Alto, top schools, and commute options, this estate achieves a rare fusion of privacy, prestige, and proximity.

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# Maguire jail in Redwood City halts in-person visits for elevator repairs

Families worry about the mental health toll on inmates

By Kayla Chan

Inmates at Redwood City's Maguire Correctional Facility in Redwood City won't be able to see their loved ones in person for three-and-a-half months starting this fall, as the jail replaces the outdated, frequently inoperable elevators used for visits.

The pause comes after a six-month hiatus in visitation last year, after a control board malfunction of the only secure elevator at the facility went unfixed.

The elevator debacle has drawn the scorn of family members of those incarcerated and reflects a lack of care for inmate well-being on the part of the county, the family members say.

The San Mateo Sheriff's Office has known about the

elevators' problems for some time. According to former Undersheriff Dan Perea, breakdowns have been frequent in recent years.

"Everything works well for a certain period, and then something happens again," he said in a meeting of the Independent Civilian Advisory Commission on the Sheriff's Office (ICAC) last September.

Part of the problem lies in the elevators' age. They were installed when the facility was built in 1988, and both the machinery and the wiring have seen better days, said Perea.

Parts required for maintenance are no longer manufactured, so the county's Office of Public Works has to get replacements custom made, dragging out each round of repairs. Using one of the other non-visitation

elevators is out of the question, said Capt. William Fogarty, because of security concerns.

With the installation of new elevators, the Sheriff's Office hopes to make them more dependable, the office's public information officer, Gretchen Spiker, said in an email.

During last year's six-month visitation shutdown, the Sheriff's Office moved about 120 residents to the Maple Street Correctional Center in San Mateo, where in-person visits were available. Once the elevator replacement project begins this fall, officials said they may consider similar steps to reduce disruption.

Those remaining at Maguire will rely on video visits — but families of the incarcerated say that the program is woefully inadequate. In an anonymous

complaint submitted to local nonprofit Fixin' SMC, the mother of a Maguire inmate called the virtual visitation platform "pathetic," citing an abundance of technical issues.

"You only see his face in the little square the size of a postage stamp," she said. "It also glitches out if either one of us moves our faces even an inch."

Another problem is privacy. Unlike with in-person visitation, which happens in special rooms, video visits are conducted through a handheld tablet in public recreation areas. "There (are) 20, 30 guys behind (the inmate)," said Jennifer Rodriguez, the wife of a Maguire resident.

"(The inmate) can't really focus because you're trying to be on alert." The calls are also on speaker, meaning surrounding

residents can hear the conversation, she said.

While the Sheriff's Office has heard these concerns, they are unable to resolve the technical issues in the short term, according to Spiker.

Complaints have been forwarded to Smart Communications, the vendor of the tablet software, she wrote, but the office's contract with Smart Communications doesn't expire until later this year. Once it does, "the Sheriff's Office will explore a competitive procurement process to ensure we're providing the best services available," she wrote.

Beyond the elevator, families say there's a larger pattern of visitation issues at San Mateo County jails.

"Their whole entire system

See **JAIL**, page 20

## Meet the candidates running for California governor

The field is set for a crowded primary race

By CalMatters

It's official: Eight Democrats and two Republicans say they have filed paperwork for the June 2 primary ballot in the California governor's race, setting up a wide-open contest in which two Republicans who have consistently led in polls could shut out all other Democrats.

Here are the 10 candidates:

- Xavier Becerra, Democrat, former U.S. Health and

Human Services secretary and former California Attorney General

- Chad Bianco, Republican, Riverside County Sheriff
- Steve Hilton, Republican, Fox News contributor and former adviser to conservative British prime minister David Cameron
- Matt Mahan, Democrat, mayor of San Jose
- Katie Porter, Democrat, former U.S. representative representing Orange County

- Tom Steyer, Democrat, billionaire entrepreneur and former presidential candidate
- Eric Swalwell, Democrat, U.S. representative from the Tri-Valley
- Tony Thurmond, Democrat, state superintendent of public instruction
- Antonio Villaraigosa, Democrat, former mayor of Los Angeles and former Assembly Speaker
- Betty Yee, Democrat, former

state Controller

Steyer became the last to officially file on Friday, the deadline for submitting candidacy paperwork.

Former Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon exited the race earlier this week, endorsing Swalwell instead.

### What's next?

The secretary of state's office says it will verify the paperwork their campaigns submitted and publish an official list of primary candidates by March 21.

The top two vote recipients in the primary, regardless of party, will advance to the general election. But the two Republican frontrunners enjoy more consolidated support from their base than their Democratic counterparts, who risk fragmenting the Democratic vote. At the February state Democratic Party convention, delegates were so split that no candidate earned enough votes for the party endorsement.

With the current field, there's a 27% chance of a Republican faceoff in November, according to statistical modeling by Democratic strategist Paul Mitchell.

The prospect is worrisome for many Democratic leaders, including state party leader Rusty Hicks, who earlier this week penned an open letter calling for those without a "viable path" to victory to drop out before the Friday deadline to file paperwork. And for those who remained, he pleaded, drop out

by April 15 at the very latest if they couldn't make "meaningful progress."

The call appeared to fall on deaf ears, as eight of the nine announced Democratic candidates stayed in. Even if someone drops out now, their name will still appear on the primary ballot as long as they qualify, risking siphoning votes away from other Democrats.

### Discounting the risk

When asked about the risk of a November shutout at a Thursday gubernatorial forum, several Democratic candidates brushed it aside while insisting they each would be voters' best choice.

Villaraigosa told CalMatters the GOP base will coalesce behind just one candidate when President Donald Trump makes an endorsement.

"When that happens, that person is going to surge up and the other (Republican is) going to go down, it's as simple as that," he said.

Of the Democratic attendees at the forum, only Porter acknowledged the risk of a crowded field of Democrats.

"I think it is terrifying to think about what Trump would do to Californians if we had a governor who at every turn cooperated with him rather than stood up for our California values," she said. "So I don't think it's a certainty, but I do think it's a risk, and I think the stakes are very, very, very high." ■



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- Committed to attending scheduled meetings

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# Supreme Court blocks California ban on schools outing transgender students

By Vani Sanganeria / EdSource

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday blocked California's ban on schools outing transgender students to their parents without the student's approval.

Granting an emergency appeal to a conservative legal group, the 6-3 vote now allows schools to disclose to parents if students change their pronouns or gender expression at school. The court's ruling addressed parents' claim of rights under the free exercise clause of the First Amendment, which protects free speech and religious expression.

"The parents who assert a free exercise claim have sincere religious beliefs about

sex and gender, and they feel a religious obligation to raise their children in accordance with those beliefs," the court ruling stated.

The 2024 California law stated that the ban on automatic parental notification ensured students' rights to privacy as well as protected transgender students "from the reasonable risk of physical, emotional, and psychological harm that forced disclosure causes."

The Thomas More Society, a conservative group representing parents and teachers, said the ruling is "the most significant parental rights ruling in a generation." The order, which followed the Trump administration's investigation

into the claim in January that California violated parents' right to access students' gender identity records, secured another win for the parental rights movement.

"The right protected by these precedents includes the right not to be shut out of participation in decisions regarding their children's mental health," the court stated in the ruling, referencing the 14th Amendment.

Liberal Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson dissented. Kagan said the court's decision contradicted its previous interpretations of the 14th Amendment, pointing to the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, which established that



Michelle Le

A welcome sign is posted inside a classroom at Woodside High School.

the Constitution protects rights even if they are not spelled out in text.

The new ruling "cannot but induce a strong sense of whip-lash," Kagan wrote. ■

## JAIL

continued from page 16

of scheduling in-person visits is horrible," said Jamilah Rosales-Webb of local nonprofit Silicon Valley De-Bug, whose husband is incarcerated at Maguire. Unlike Santa Clara County, which uses an online registration platform to schedule visitation, San Mateo requires family members to call in and book a visit. The first-come, first-served system often means that slots run out by 7 a.m., said Rodriguez.

"It's literally half an hour that you're sitting there, dialing over and over, like you're trying to win concert tickets or something," she said.

Even when they succeed in connecting the call, receptionists don't always want to help.

"They're setting you up for failure with their tone of voice," said Rosales-Webb. "They're making you feel like this issue is small, and that the inmates should just be happy that they have anything," she said. For Rosales-Webb, the elevator's ongoing issues are a

symptom of public officials' insufficient prioritization of residents' dignity in jail.

Critics believe such roadblocks to in-person visitation are destructive to residents' mental health. "The inmates, they count on (visitations), and they need that human connection with people who love them," said Rosales-Webb. When visits are suspended, "it causes ... frustration, anger and isolation, depression, all that."

According to research from Kansas State University, incarcerated people who receive more

calls and visits experience better mental health outcomes than those who do not. Official statistics from a county report state that almost half of Maguire's residents have some form of mental illness, while 70% suffer from drug or alcohol addiction.

Others have raised concerns about rehabilitation. Research has shown that residents who receive more family visits are more likely to gain employment and less likely to reoffend after leaving jail.

"Pretty much everyone that's in jail is going to get out and come

back," said Fixin' SMC board member Nancy Goodman, which is why she believes prioritizing rehabilitation is important. "(For) our community safety, we are much better off ... keeping (jail residents) integrated in with their community."

But Fogarty said the Sheriff's Office's hands are tied. As far as maintenance issues go, "we're at the whim of (the elevator repair company) and also at the Department of Public Works of when those elevators will then be up and running," he said. ■

## CAREER FAIR

continued from page 5

the fair, including nonprofits like the Palo Alto Open Space Trust, indigenous groups like the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, and environmental consulting firms such as Stillwater Sciences. Midpen also aimed to highlight the broad range of careers that are needed in conservation organizations: field work and ecology-focused employees, of course, but also communications, human relations and finance.

"We decided to put on this career fair basically just to raise the profile of conservation jobs in general throughout the Bay Area," Raab said. "I think a lot of people underestimate the amount of amazing conservation- and environment-related jobs that are available in this region."

Midpen is a unique form of government called an "independent special district," which is a multi-county agency that preserves a green belt of more than 70,000 acres of open space. Raab suspects that some of the career-changers in attendance were tech professionals looking to ditch screen fatigue for careers

that serve the environment.

"We do have a good chunk of people who moved from tech careers to working for [Midpen] because they wanted to work for a mission-driven place and because they were burnt out with their tech jobs," Raab said. "We've inferred that there's a chunk of folks that are looking to do something similar at the career fair."

Vinay Patel is a former tech employee who attended Friday's job fair. He worked on Meta's Metaverse team until he was laid off in January, alongside thousands of other employees in the Reality Labs division. Patel now seeks a role with a larger purpose, and one that doesn't involve desk work.

"I want to be outside, and I want to do something useful and meaningful, and that contributes in a positive way," Patel said. "Ideally, something where I can actually see the fruits of my labor."

In his previous tech roles, Patel said employees were seen as dispensable. Patel worked for seven years at Meta and had stints at other technology companies before that. Company executives were prone to capricious changes in the priorities of the company,

Patel said. The Metaverse, for example, was once described as the future of Meta.

"From now on, we will be metaverse-first, not Facebook-first," Meta Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg wrote in a 2021 founder's letter which helped announce the company's rebrand from Facebook to Meta. The company is now focusing on its wearable technology and artificial intelligence, the Wall Street Journal reported after the January layoffs that impacted Patel.

Patel said there was a "constant threat of being fired" while working in the tech industry. When the day of his layoff came, Patel described the news as freeing.

In recent months, companies like Amazon, Salesforce and Block have laid off thousands of employees, citing artificial intelligence tools as a reason for its workforce reduction.

"That felt like it reinforced my decision to not keep trying to plug away right at this castle that does not want you in there, at least not for long," Patel said, referring to Block's February layoffs. "I think [for] more and more people, their eyes are being opened to the reality of how harmful these companies

are, and the golden handcuffs become less and less worth it every day."

Conservation careers are just one of Patel's possible next moves. With a financial safety net, Patel has the ability to explore options. In the short term, he's considering getting a part-time job as a barista.

Sarah Araya is a current Midpen employee who made the transition from the technology industry to government. For 10 years, she worked for Meta, DocuSign, and a cybersecurity firm in procurement. Three years ago, she saw a similar role at Midpen. She applied and had a smooth recruiting process. The whole thing happened organically, she said.

"I thought ... 'I don't know if I want to be in tech anymore,'" Araya said. "My heart and soul felt like I needed something different."

Since transitioning to Midpen in 2023, Araya said she's kept in contact with her former colleagues in the technology industry. Many of them seem to be seeking a career change.

"It seems like a lot of the folks in tech are looking for more stability," she said. "They're looking for an opportunity where

they can do some greater good, where they can work with the community."

It's difficult to say with certainty what prompted so many people to attend Friday's job fair. It could be a tight market that is making all jobs competitive, regardless of industry. It could be layoffs that are driving former tech employees to other industries, or reduced hiring opportunities as more companies turn to artificial intelligence.

But one thing seems clear: There is interest in conservation jobs. Raab, who previously worked as a reporter at *The Almanac*, noted that some of Midpen's social media posts advertising the career fair touched a nerve, with one Instagram post garnering 4,500 likes.

"There are a lot of comments on those posts expressing that people are super excited to see that there's something for the Bay Area to highlight something other than tech jobs," Raab said. ■

*Hannah Bensen is a recipient of the California Local News Fellowship who is a member of the Embarcadero Media Foundation Staff through 2027. She can be reached at [hbensen@almanacnews.com](mailto:hbensen@almanacnews.com).*

# Public Notices

**ERLY'S SHEAR BEAUTY**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-302932  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) ERLY'S SHEAR BEAUTY, located at 611 West Orange Ave, South San Francisco, CA 94080.  
Registered owner(s):  
MARAH LICUANAN  
611 West Orange Ave  
South San Francisco, CA 94080  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/10/2026.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 10, 2026.  
(ALM Feb 20, 27, Mar 6 and 13, 2026)

**PARK PLACE DENTAL OF SAN MATEO**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-302979  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) PARK PLACE DENTAL OF SAN MATEO, located at 1100 Park Place, #30, San Mateo, CA 94403. Mailing Address: 2383 California Street, Suite 5  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
Registered owner(s):  
BAY AREA DENTAL INC.  
2383 California Street, Suite 5  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
State of Incorporation/Organization:  
California  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/17/2025.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 17, 2026.  
(ALM Mar 13, 20, 27 and Apr 3, 2026)

**GREEN GARDEN GONZALEZ**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-302731

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) GREEN GARDEN GONZALEZ, located at 219 Jervis Ave, East Palo Alto, CA 94303.  
Registered owner(s):  
ARNOLDO GONZALEZ VASQUEZ  
219 Jervis Ave  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2026.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 21, 2026.  
(ALM Feb 20, 27, Mar 6 and 13, 2026)

**MP JUNK REMOVAL**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-302749  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) MP JUNK REMOVAL, located at 836 Willow St, Redwood City, CA 94063.  
Registered owner(s):  
MARCO FABRICIO PALOMINOS  
836 Willow St  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/23/2026.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 23, 2026.  
(ALM Feb 20, 27, Mar 6 and 13, 2026)

**WILD ORCHID FOODS**  
WILD ORCHID BOUTIQUE  
WILD ORCHID WELLNESS & RETREATS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: /M-303017  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) WILD ORCHID FOODS, 2.) WILD ORCHID BOUTIQUE, 3.) WILD ORCHID WELLNESS & RETREATS, located at 104 Gilbert Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Mailing Address: 228 Flynn Ave Mountain View, CA 94043  
Registered owner(s):

**KRISTINE PHILLIPS**  
228 Flynn Ave  
Mountain View, CA 94043  
**TAYLOR FLEMMING**  
228 Flynn Ave  
Mountain View, CA 94043  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a General Partnership.  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 19, 2026.  
(ALM Mar 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2026)

**THE ARETE METHOD**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-302987  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) THE ARETE METHOD, located at 3304 EDISON WAY, MENLO PARK, CA 94025.  
Registered owner(s):  
VARUNI KASHMIRA NANAYAKKARA  
3304 EDISON WAY  
MENLO PARK, CA.94025  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 17, 2026.  
(ALM Mar 13, 20, 27 and Apr 3, 2026)

**SUBTLE COMPUTING**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-303019  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) SUBTLE COMPUTING, located at 311 7th Ave, San Mateo, CA, 94401.  
Registered owner(s):  
SKYWALK INC.  
855 El Camino Real - Ste 13A-230  
Palo Alto, CA, 94301  
State of Incorporation/Organization: DE  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/04/2026.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on

February 19, 2026.  
(ALM Feb 27, Mar 6, 13 and 20, 2026)

**FENCE MOD**  
POLLIONI  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-302948  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) FENCE MOD, 2.) POLLIONI, located at 292 Raymundo Drive, Woodside, CA 94062.  
Registered owner(s):  
POLLIONI GROUP LLC  
292 Raymundo Drive  
Woodside, CA 94062  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 11, 2026.  
(ALM Feb 20, 27, Mar 6 and 13, 2026)

**HOKKAIDO BAKERY**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-303001  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) HOKKAIDO BAKERY, located at 433 Airport Blvd. Suite 103, Burlingame, CA 94010.  
Registered owner(s):  
BE BLUE VENTURES, INC.  
433 Airport Blvd. Suite 103  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
State of Incorporation/Organization: CA  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 18, 2026.  
(ALM Feb 27, Mar 6, 13 and 20, 2026)

**GYMIO**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-302835  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) GYMIO, located at 1580 Southgate Avenue 416, Daly City, CA 94015.

Registered owner(s):  
BEYOND LLC  
1580 Southgate Avenue 416  
Daly City, CA 94015  
State of Incorporation/Organization:  
California  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/01/2025.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 02, 2026.  
(ALM Feb 20, 27, Mar 6 and 13, 2026)

**LL CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY**  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-302891  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) LL CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY, located at 189 Constitution Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025.  
Registered owner(s):  
LOVAZZANO LOGISTICS  
189 Constitution Dr  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
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 12-1-2025.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 05, 2026.  
(ALM Feb 20, 27, Mar 6 and 13, 2026)

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

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

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## Responsible reporting matters in child abuse cases

By Lorry Thomas

### GUEST OPINION

I am writing as the deputy director and trauma therapist at Rape Trauma Services (RTS), San Mateo County's sole rape crisis center. For over 25 years, RTS has provided 24/7 crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy and prevention education to survivors of sexual violence across our county, including the most vulnerable among them: children and youth. It is from this vantage point that I feel a professional and ethical responsibility to respond to the article "Charged with child sex abuse, East Palo Alto employee gets character reference from council member" that the Almanac published on Feb. 23 regarding a child sexual abuse case.

I want to be clear: Reporting on child sexual abuse matters. It matters that this case is in the public record. It matters that your publication covered it. What also matters, and what I am compelled to address, is how it was covered.

The level of graphic detail included in this article was not necessary to serve the public interest, and it was not trauma-informed. Describing the specific substances used, the circumstances of the assault, the victim's living situation, family history and subsequent experiences serves no clear journalistic

purpose beyond what could be perceived as sensationalism. For any young person who has experienced sexual abuse and comes across this article (and given that estimates show that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys in the United States experience sexual abuse before age 18, some of your readers almost certainly have), this level of detail is unnecessary and potentially retraumatizing. I urge your editorial team to ask, before publishing: What is the purpose of including this detail? If the honest answer is not "it materially advances public understanding of the issue," it should not be there.

I also need to name something more specific, because it reflects a pattern of harmful language that appears in coverage of cases like this one, with real consequences for real survivors. Your article used the word "prostitution" to describe what this child experienced. It should not have. Under California law and by any reasonable ethical standard, a minor cannot consent to commercial sex acts. What happened to this child was not prostitution. It was commercial sexual exploitation. It was trafficking. The use of the word "prostitution" implies agency, choice, and consent that a 13-year-old is legally

and developmentally incapable of exercising. Using it is not a neutral reporting choice; It assigns a status to a child victim that belongs entirely to the adults who exploited him.

The same applies to the framing around this child's drug use. The article repeatedly references it in ways that, even if unintentionally, invite readers to draw a line between the victim's behavior and his victimization. By legal definition, providing controlled substances to a minor in connection with a sexual act is a component of commercial sexual exploitation of a child (CSEC). The drugs were not incidental to the abuse — they were part of it. Framing them as a characteristic of the victim rather than a tool of the abuser subtly, and incorrectly, shifts culpability.

I recognize that your reporter and editors may not have intended any of this harm. That is precisely why I am writing. These are not matters of opinion or political sensitivity; they reflect a well-documented body of knowledge about trauma, exploitation and the psychological impact of how survivors are represented in the media. Harmful myths about child sexual abuse (that children who are exploited were somehow complicit, that certain children are less credible victims, that behavior consistent with trauma responses

is evidence of unreliability) are not neutralized by appearing in a news article rather than on social media. They can be amplified.

The Almanac reaches a significant portion of San Mateo County readership. The messages embedded in your coverage of sexual violence become part of how your community understands and misunderstands these crimes. Your readers will carry those messages into jury pools, school board meetings, child protective investigations, and their own homes.

I am respectfully urging The Almanac to require trauma-informed training for journalists who cover sexual violence, child abuse, and exploitation. Organizations, including the Global Center for Journalism and Trauma, the National Sexual

Violence Resource Center and the Office for Victims of Crime all offer guidance and resources specifically designed for news professionals. These requirements should be looked at as the baseline for responsible reporting on some of the most consequential stories a local publication can cover.

RTS stands ready to serve as a resource. We work with law enforcement, prosecutors, health-care providers, and schools across San Mateo County to build more informed, trauma-responsive communities. We would welcome the opportunity to connect with your editorial team as well.

*Lorry Thomas is deputy director and trauma therapist, Rape Trauma Services.*

### LETTERS

Our readers write

#### Kudos to Woodside's mayor

Editor,

Woodsiders have been very fortunate to have had such a talented and successful leader as Paul Goeld, who has served as Woodside's mayor several times since 1999. He's spent countless hours applying his

long experience as a founder of a major company to help resolve many town issues. He also has represented Woodside in meetings of the San Mateo County Emergency Services, the SFO Airport/Community Roundtable and other civic organizations. I've lived in Woodside for over 50 years, and I, along with many Woodsiders, have a very high regard for Mayor Paul Goeld's professional leadership.

Ed Kahl  
Woodside



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- Llame al 650-330-6620

TOWN OF WOODSIDE  
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD  
WOODSIDE, CA 94062

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WOODSIDE will hold a hybrid public hearing allowing for the option to attend by teleconference/video conference or in person in Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 7:00 PM, to consider:

**Mission Trail Road EASE2025-0001; GPCD2025-0001**  
**Lisa Putnam, Planner; Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner**

Town Council review of a proposal to abandon one existing 100-foot Building Setback Easement restriction across four lots located on Mission Trail Road. The subject lots include APNs 073-011-330; 073-011-340; 073-011-350; and 073-011-360.

The project is Categorically Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3), in that the project has no potential for causing a significant impact to the environment.

The application materials are available for public review by contacting Sarah Filipe at [sfilipe@woodsideca.gov](mailto:sfilipe@woodsideca.gov).

All interested parties are invited to submit written comments to [townhall@woodsideca.gov](mailto:townhall@woodsideca.gov) and/or attend in person or virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85437892933> and give testimony.

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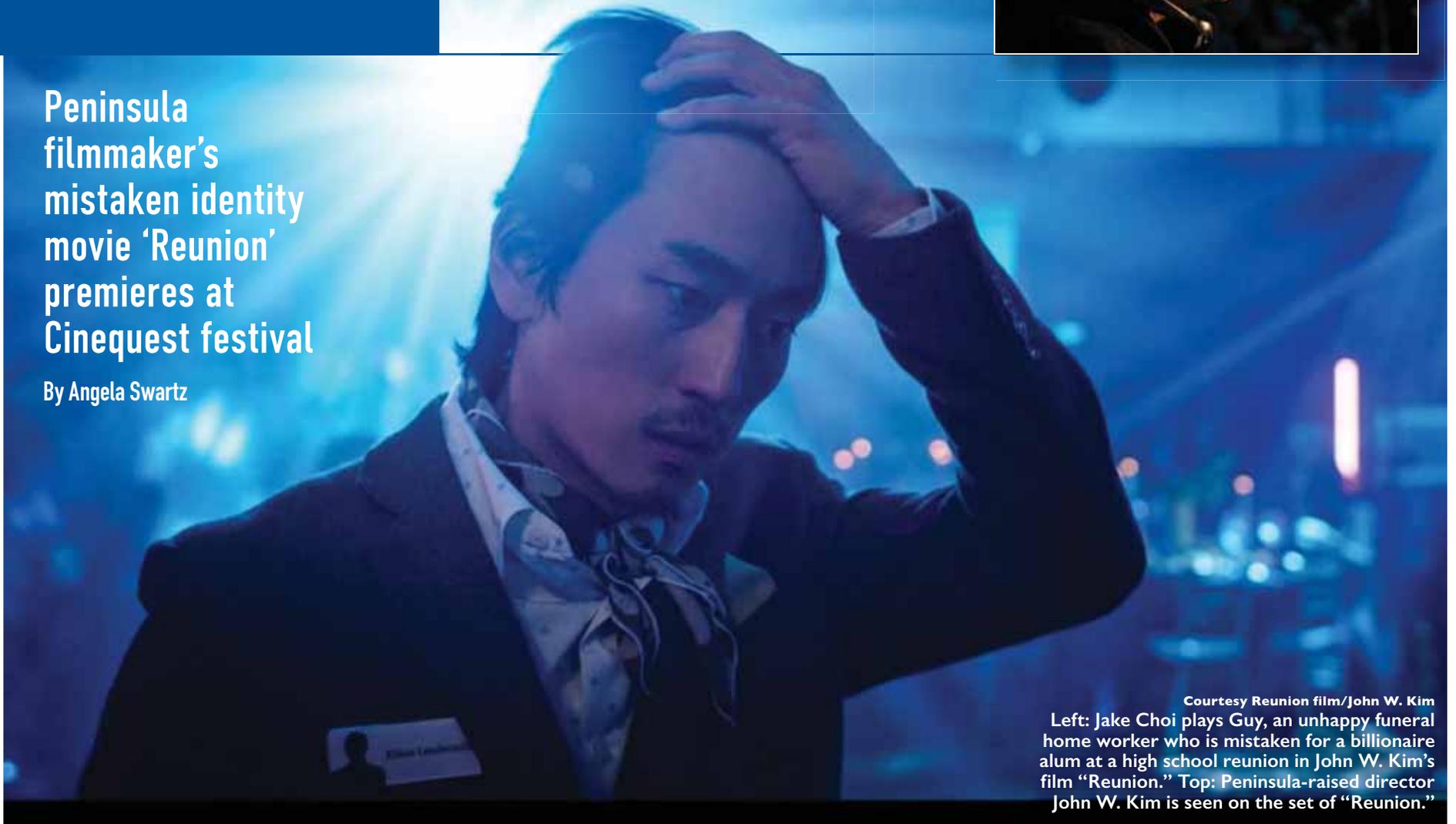
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## LIFE SWAP

Peninsula filmmaker's mistaken identity movie 'Reunion' premieres at Cinequest festival

By Angela Swartz



Courtesy Reunion film/John W. Kim

Left: Jake Choi plays Guy, an unhappy funeral home worker who is mistaken for a billionaire alum at a high school reunion in John W. Kim's film "Reunion." Top: Peninsula-raised director John W. Kim is seen on the set of "Reunion."

When a man in his late 30s finds himself unhappy running his family's funeral home, he stumbles into what he thinks is his 20-year high school reunion. There, he is mistaken for a billionaire alum.

That's the premise of Mountain View resident John W. Kim's independent feature film "Reunion," which debuts at the Cinequest Film Festival on March 15 in San Jose. Reunion guests vie for the attention of the main character, Guy Park, who they believe is an uber-successful former classmate, who they don't actually remember.

"I wanted to put a lead character in what I thought was in the worst possible position, which is being trapped in a life that he didn't really choose," said writer-director Kim, who grew up in Palo Alto. "High school has a seminal role to play in the development of American kids. You always look back ... and think, 'Who was I when I was

17 or 18 years old and what did I want?' Then you look around at your peers, and say, 'Who were these people and which one of us was successful?' That's a very dangerous game to play."

One of the major themes of the movie is the danger of comparison shopping, wishing one is a little bit taller, prettier, richer or thinner and, only then, will one's life be perfect. Kim uses a reunion as a plot device because people often reassess their lives at these events.

Kim saw parallels between the points in "Reunion" while watching Oakland's Alysa Liu win gold at the 2026 Winter Olympics for figure skating. He was struck by how she would not compete unless she could do it on her own terms.

"I think that the pure joy of her performance and the way that she presents herself is really inspiring," Kim said.

"That's somebody who has found who she is by rejecting what everyone else asked her to

be when she was at 14 or 15 or 16 years old."

Kim also relates to the messages of the film personally. As a first-generation Korean American, Kim spent a lot of his early years between two cultures. Outside of his home, he would sometimes be mistaken for someone else — "another Asian" or a "model minority," he said, even though he considered himself a rebellious teen.

"Film and books really helped me understand my neighbors and my friends, and so I feel the responsibility for making films that have something to say," said Kim, who grew up across the street from Palo Alto's Mitchell Library.

"I believe that almost everything you do as a filmmaker, and probably as an artist, is political in some way. You decide who your characters are. You decide what is important. Sometimes, when you make a really good film or tell a really good story ... you decide what the moral code

is. It doesn't matter whether you're making a romantic comedy or a Hallmark movie."

Kim's love of the arts started at Gunn High School in Palo Alto. There, he fell into the theater crowd after finding himself benched with the highly competitive tennis team. He ended up playing the lead in the school play his senior year.

He went on to study literature and creative writing at University of California at Santa Cruz, where he helped found the Shakespeare Santa Cruz theater festival. He then studied film at University of Southern California and spent years as a journalist.

### Filmmaking amid pandemic, wildfires

The casting process for "Reunion" was difficult because it began during the pandemic, meaning auditions, with the exception of one or two actors, took place online, Kim said. The film has an ensemble cast but is led by Jake Choi, who plays Guy,

and is known for playing Miggy Park on the TV show "Single Parents" alongside Leighton Meester.

In January 2025, "Reunion" faced another challenge on the first day of filming in Los Angeles: the devastating Eaton and Pacific Palisades fires, which killed at least 28 people and destroyed over 16,000 buildings.

"Sometime after lunch, one of our producers came up and said, 'I think we have a problem,'" Kim said. "He showed me this video, and it was the start of the Eaton fires in the mountains. And we went outside the building, and you could literally see the fires about 2 miles away."

The fires displaced members of the production team, some of whom lost their homes. The filmmakers decided to press forward after a 10-day break, he said.

"We did our best to be respectful," he said. "We knew the fires

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# Review: 'Primary Trust' plays heart-restoring mind games

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley stages imaginative telling of Eboni Booth's Pulitzer Prize-winning show

By Michael J. Vaughn

To call Eboni Booth's Pulitzer-winner "heartwarming" only gets us about halfway there. Let's call it heart-restoring. TheatreWorks and director Jeffrey Lo have given the work an imaginative, whimsical telling that tickles all the feels as well as working out the cerebellum and the empathy muscles.

The initial setup is a show unto itself. Playing Kenneth, William Thomas Hodgson has that particular "it" quality of instant likeability. He steps out on a gargantuan Chamber of Commerce map of Cranberry, New York (a suburb of Rochester), to give a TED Talk on his beloved town. Christopher Fitzer's innovative set lights up with little Google Map-style icons as Kenneth boasts of a grocery store, two banks, a bookstore, and a tiki lounge called Wally's.

Kenneth's energy is contagious, but something's amiss. He is steadily interrupted by a "ding!" sound and brief blackouts that disrupt his narrative, as if his mind is locking up. In this and other ways, the play shifts us into the narrator's off-kilter reality.

It's easy to think there might be something wrong. Kenneth lost his mother when he was 10, and he was left to the tender mercies of social services. At 18, he managed to find a job at a bookstore, and seemingly has survived the 20 years since by keeping his world small and tightly focused. Now, at 38, he discovers that his kind-hearted boss, Sam (Dan Hiatt) is selling the bookstore and moving to Arizona.

As you might imagine, this sudden change sends Kenneth into depression. He heads for Wally's, his regular drinking spot, to consume margaritas and

confer with his best friend, Bert. Kenny Scott plays Bert with a perfect balance of joie d'vivre, encouragement and wisdom. He uses a 10-step breathing technique to keep his friend out of panic attacks. He may, in fact, be too perfect of a friend to be believed (that's a hint, by the way. Ding!).

Wally's has its own quirks, including a 20-person staff who all appear to be the same woman in different disguises. When Rolanda D. Bell finishes cycling through all these highly amusing personalities, she filters down to Corrina, a new hire who befriends Kenneth and encourages him to apply for a teller position at, you got it, Primary Trust.

The great joy of the play is that we can all connect with Kenneth's struggles, and although his mental makeup is perhaps a bit more disjointed, we can all remember anxiety attacks and employment-related depressions.

Perhaps even more gratifying is the way that Booth deftly avoids tropes. I kept expecting Hiatt, who reappears as Clay the bank manager, to turn into the usual stiff, crabby boss type, but it turns out that our playwright is writing real, unpredictable human beings. In fact, Clay is having more fun than anyone, and Hiatt revels in the part. (Just to keep things surreal, he also appears as a mustachioed French waiter.)

Finding a friend, learning a new job — these are such simple matters, but Kenneth's mental health issues make them hugely



Courtesy Kevin Berne

Kenneth (William Thomas Hodgson) chats with server Corrina (Rolanda D. Bell) at the tiki bar that's his favorite local hangout.

intimidating. And even though the play is lighthearted in tone, it's backed up with serious and troubling psychological traumas. Throughout, Booth gives her characters a free-flowing and gentle humor.

The production is immaculate, especially the choreography of the "ding!" blackouts and the slide-in furniture (Steven B. Mannshardt, lighting designer, Gregory Robinson, sound designer, Laura Hicks Perreault, stage manager). I also think that the play's one-act, 90-minute format is the wave of the future. It allows the audience to stay connected with the altered reality that has been so carefully constructed. ■

Email Contributing Writer  
Michael J. Vaughn at  
michaeljvaughn@hotmail.com.

"Primary Trust" runs through March 29 at the Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$34-\$115, theatreworks.org, 877-662-8978.

you're going to put your tents and throw on this show. To me, that's one of the energizing things about film."

"Reunion" also stars Academy Award-nominated actress Candy Clark ("American Graffiti"), Kelli Garner ("Lars and the Real Girl," "Thumbsucker"), Madeline Zima ("Twin Peaks," "Subservience"), Ludi Lin ("Mortal Kombat," "Power Rangers"), Ryan Hansen ("Party Down," "Veronica Mars"), Helena Mattsson ("Surrogates," "666 Park Avenue"), Sarah Waisman ("The Goldbergs," "Fallout") and Crystal

Rivers ("General Hospital," "The Resident"). ■

Angela Swartz is a Contributing Writer.

"Reunion" premieres at the California Theatre, 345 S. First St. in San Jose, on March 15 at 12:30 p.m. It will screen again on March 21 at 2:45 p.m. at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema Mountain View, 2575 California St., Suite 99 in Mountain View. Single tickets are \$14; festival pass options start at \$50. Tickets are available at tinyurl.com/ReunionatCinequest.

# Worth a Look

## 'Apple: The First 50 Years'

This spring, the quintessentially Silicon Valley company Apple turns 50. In the book "Apple: The First 50 Years,"

CBS correspondent David Pogue explores Apple's history, from its founding as a startup

by two young guys named Steve with a goal of making computing accessible to all to its rise to become an all-time tech icon. Drawing on interviews with many Apple insiders, the book "busts long-held myths; goes backstage for both the titanic successes and the instructive failures; and assesses the forces that challenge Apple's dominance as it enters its second half century," according to Kepler's, where Pogue speaks this week.

March 13, 7 p.m., Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; \$11.49-\$64; keplers.org.



Courtesy David Pogue

CBS correspondent David Pogue discusses the history of Apple in his new book "Apple: The First 50 Years" on March 13 at Kepler's Books.

## Edu Ribeiro Trio

Grammy Award-winning Brazilian drummer, composer and educator Edu Ribeiro is joined by guitarist Vinicius Gomes and bassist Noah Garabedian for a jazz concert presented by Earthwise Productions. The trio's stop in Palo Alto is part of a U.S. tour. Bay Area pianist and Stanford University lecturer Murray Low opens the show.

March 17, 8 p.m., Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto; \$20; tinyurl.com/RibeiroTrioPA.

## Opera San José at Filoli

Filoli's ballroom plays host to a series of intimate performances, including three evenings this month, from Opera San José. The company offers a preview of its 2026-2027 season, plus highlights from its upcoming performance of Verdi's tragic love story "La Traviata." Bottles of Champagne are available to purchase at an extra cost.

March 17-19, 7 p.m., Filoli, 86 Cañada Road, Woodside; \$75-\$100; filoli.org/performance.

## 'Seascape and More'

The vibrant paintings of Nance Wheeler are Gallery House's special feature this month, with an artist's reception March 14. "I like to author paintings as one might write a book. Sometimes my visual books are autobiographical, other times they are strictly fictional. My paintings are often created in a series with color, composition and execution serving as the characters and settings," Wheeler's artist statement says.

Exhibit runs in March (reception March 14, 6-8 p.m.); regular gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Gallery House, 826 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park; free; galleryhouse.art.

## 'Pearls of Sorrow'

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale's "Pearls of Sorrow," featuring countertenor Reginald Mobley and conducted by Christine Brandes, presents a reflective curated program that pairs Black spirituals with sacred music by J.S. Bach and other German Baroque composers. "Mobley charts a musical journey from the trauma of war and enslavement to the finding of peace, freedom, and resilience," the program's event page states.

March 15, 2:30 p.m., Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford; prices vary depending on ticket type (\$16-\$135); live.stanford.edu.

## LIFE SWAP

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were going to be cataclysmic, and they were the largest natural disaster in Southern California history. But we also wanted to make something out of this environment. We believed in our film, and we wanted to put our resources towards the city itself."

Kim said he would like to film his next movie, "The Request" in the Bay Area if he secures the financing.

"An independent film is sort of like the traveling circus," he said. "You have to find out where



By Adrienne Mitchel  
Photos by Seegar Gray

**A**mbitious, inspiring and caring are just a few of the words Myshel Portz's friends and family use to describe her.

"She's a legend in these parts," said Woodside resident Becky Thatcher.

Portz said she was the "house mom" at Buck's of Woodside for more than 21 years, working as a host, server and bartender. She then was a bartender at Alice's Restaurant for three years, where she organized the music programs. Her experience in Woodside's hospitality industry, coupled with her reputation for attentive service, earned her the nickname "Mayor of Woodside."

In May, the Woodside resident fulfilled her longtime dream of opening a coffee spot, Mountain Mama Java, and has since been growing a loyal customer base.

"I think we all follow her anywhere, really, just to interact with her, say hi, support her," said Thatcher, one of her regulars.

Portz's business is centered around a mobile trailer made from a 1967 Stidham two-horse trailer outfitted with a La Marzocco espresso machine. She travels all over San Mateo County, from Woodside to the Coastsides — and her regulars follow.

"It is the best coffee in town," Redwood City resident Joe MacKessy said. "She's very personable, and she has a connection with everybody. She's the glue of the community."

The name Mountain Mama Java comes from Portz's caring demeanor as well as her roots in Woodside and the community at large.

"Everybody calls me mom, because I mother everybody, whether you're older or younger than me, doesn't matter," Portz said. "It's just in my nature."

Portz grew up in the restaurant business, with her dad working as a chef and

her mom as a server. At 18, she worked at Printers Inc. Cafe in Palo Alto and always loved the idea of owning a coffee shop of her own, drawn to the community-centric aspect and the comforting feeling of a cup of coffee. While she dreamed about a brick-and-mortar store, the startup costs were just too high, so she pivoted and searched for a trailer.

While the enterprise may be small, the menu is expansive, with all sorts of espresso-based beverages made with beans from Redwood City's Connoisseur Coffee as well as teas and Italian sodas. Portz offers eight milk options — including organic lactose-free low-fat milk and coconut milk — and 14 syrups ranging from blackberry to lavender. All drinks are customizable.

"I love making you just the best cup of coffee, just how you want it: stronger, weaker, one pump of vanilla, whatever it is," she said. "I just feel like there's a closeness, like you make a new friend every time somebody comes to your coffee shop."



Top: Mountain Mama Java owner Myshel Portz, left, talks with Becky Thatcher outside Portz's coffee trailer outside Half Moon Bay Nursery in Half Moon Bay who she named her "O.M.G. Becky" coffee drink after. Above: Decorations and snacks outside the Mountain Mama Java coffee trailer.

The drink Portz is most known for is her Mexican mocha, a spiced chocolate-forward latte.

"The Mexican mocha is a wonderful, wonderful drink. I think she does it the best," MacKessy said. "She's got secret ingredients that she won't divulge."

Another specialty beverage is the OMG Becky, named after Mountain Mama Java regular Thatcher. It's an iced double espresso with a thick layer of foam that's topped with Mexican hot chocolate.

"(Portz is) everybody's angel, watches over people," Thatcher said. "I've seen her almost jump over the bar to catch a child who was about to hurt themselves before their mother even saw what was happening."

Portz says her own children have been a big help in starting her business. Her

**'I love making you just the best cup of coffee, just how you want it.'**

MYSHEL PORTZ, MOUNTAIN MAMA JAVA

**A LONGTIME WOODSIDE BARTENDER IS NOW SERVING ESPRESSOS FROM HER OWN COFFEE TRAILER**

daughter, Sara Portz, described her as a "go-getter."

"(My mom is) just relentlessly ambitious," she said. "I don't think there's anything in the

world that could stop her her drive."

Portz's sister, Maria Bowen, said Portz's hardworking nature is a trait instilled by their father, who was a business owner and chef. When Bowen started a clothing line, Portz organized pop-ups at Alice's Restaurant, and the outpouring of support was astonishing, Bowen said.

"People wanted to support my sister, therefore they wanted to support me and all her friends," Bowen said.

Lucky customers may even find fudge at Mountain Mama Java, handmade by Portz's sister, Liz Ruiz. Ruiz's business, Fudge Love, features flavors such as rocky road or dark chocolate orange.

But beyond the fudge and coffee, Mountain Mama Java regulars say it's Portz's presence that brings them back.

"She doesn't just make coffee," Thatcher said. "She gives advice, she encourages, she makes you laugh."

To find Mountain Mama Java, check her Nextdoor profile. You can often find her at the Horse Park at Woodside, Silicon Valley Motor Club, Half Moon Bay Nursery and OceanCiders. ■

Email Food Editor Adrienne Mitchel at [amitchel@almanacnews.com](mailto:amitchel@almanacnews.com).

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Anna Hoch-Kenney

Left to right: A bartender serves a Guinness beer and a beer dyed green with edible food dye on St. Patrick's day at St. Stephen's Green in Mountain View. Aileen Ward and James McLoughlin perform a "two-hand reel" for St. Patrick's Day at Molloy's Tavern in Colma.

## Here are 20 Silicon Valley events and specials for some good craic

From dueling pianos to Guinness stew, these spots are celebrating the holiday in style

By Adrienne Mitchel

**R**aise a pint of green beer and chow down on a plate of corned beef and cabbage this St. Patrick's Day at restaurants and pubs along the Peninsula. Here's where to find live Irish music, Irish dancing and plentiful food and drink specials. Sláinte!

### 7 Mile House, Brisbane

The Filipino-fusion bar and grill is celebrating St. Patrick's Day with a variety of specials Friday to Sunday: baby Guinness shots, Irish whiskey shots, Shamrock Sours and corned beef and cabbage.

### Alexander's Patisserie, Mountain View and Cupertino

The French bakery is offering a limited-time pistachio saint-honoré, made with pistachio croûstillant, caramelized choux, silky pistachio crèmeux and light pistachio diplomat cream.

### Alhambra Irish House, Redwood City

The Irish pub is offering a variety of limited-time food specials, including corned beef and cabbage, Guinness lamb stew, corned beef and cabbage egg rolls and Bailey's chocolate bread pudding.

Expect a whole week of activities starting with Irish Trivia Night on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. with an Irish dance-off round and giveaways all evening. The Heady Vedders band will perform Friday at 8 p.m., and Magic Nostalgia will perform Saturday at 8 p.m., followed by a DJ. On Sunday, Alhambra will host its traditional full Irish breakfast and brunch

with the Jackie Flynn Irish Dance Academy at noon, then Paddy O Furniture will perform at 6 p.m.

On St. Patrick's Day, the Jackie Flynn Irish Dance Academy will perform at noon, and The Rounder Circle Band will play live Irish country music at 8 p.m.

### Alice's Restaurant, Woodside

The Lucky Charms (aka local band Pathetic Honey) will be performing at Alice's on St. Patrick's Day from 5-8 p.m.

### Campo Di Bocce, Los Gatos

The bocce ball venue is hosting a ticketed event on March 17 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. with green beer, Irish music and activities (\$108.55). Green outfits are encouraged.

### Courtyard Long Bar & Bistro, Los Altos

Located in a Marriott, the bistro will be offering green beer and corned beef and cabbage for St. Patrick's Day.

### Domenico Winery, San Carlos

The winery is offering Irish food and drinks as well as live music from Erica & Friends (playing thick ballads, jigs, reels, polkas, upbeat pub songs and modern pop songs) on St. Patrick's Day.

### Downtown Los Altos St. Paddy's Beer Stroll, Los Altos

This three-hour beer stroll on Friday includes unlimited samples of local craft beer from breweries such as Laughing Monk and Sugoi (\$71.88). There will be 10 bands

performing live music throughout the downtown area.

### Fibbar MaGees, Sunnyvale

The downtown Sunnyvale Irish pub is offering corned beef and cabbage Friday to Tuesday, while supplies last. Customers can also get their picture on their Guinness on Saturday at 4 p.m., build their own Irish coffee with various toppings on Sunday at 3 p.m. and enjoy a live performance of Irish dancers Sunday at 4 p.m.

### Fiddlers Green, Millbrae

Fiddlers Green has an extensive live music lineup for the month of March: Jim McGowan is performing Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m., followed by Juice of the Barley March 21 at 8 p.m. and Mossy Power March 29 at 4 p.m.

On Tuesday, Fiddlers will serve corned beef and cabbage and shepherd's pie, with performances by a bagpiper and the Whelan School World Champion Irish Dancers.

### Heritage Pub and Chop House, Los Gatos

The restaurant is celebrating St. Patrick's Day on Saturday with a prepaid event beginning at noon featuring Guinness, Jameson, live music, games, a best outfit competition and a buffet (\$75 for an adult ticket, \$35 for a kids ticket). Stay until 8 p.m. and California Dueling Pianos will be performing and taking crowd requests.

### Khartoum Lounge, Campbell

The downtown Campbell bar is hosting two St. Patrick's Day parties: one on Saturday at 10 p.m. with Skyline and Kamsyn and

the other March 17 at 3 p.m.

### Longboard Bar and Venue, Pacifica

The Coastside bar is offering free beef stew beginning at 5 p.m. on March 17, as well as a \$10 Guinness and Jameson combo.

### Molloy's Tavern, Colma

Molloy's is hosting a St. Patrick's Day Bash on March 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with Irish drinks, a performance by the Whelan Irish dancers at 1 p.m. and a DJ starting at 8 p.m. Green outfits are encouraged.

### Molly O's, San Carlos

The Irish pub, a sister restaurant of Fiddlers Green, is kicking off St. Patrick's weekend with a performance by Irish folk band Juice of the Barley Saturday at 8 p.m. Then on Sunday, Fret & Fiddle will play a mix of jigs, reels and ballads.

On Tuesday, Molly O's will serve corned beef and cabbage plus Irish stew, with performances by a bagpiper and Irish dancers. To close out the festivities, Ivor Collins will perform pub tunes, ballads and reels March 21 at 8 p.m.

### Old Princeton Landing, Half Moon Bay

Traditional Irish band Finians Call is performing at Old Princeton Landing from 7-9 p.m. on March 17. The restaurant will also be running a corned beef special. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

### Sand Hill Sundeck, Menlo Park

Sand Hill Sundeck is offering a special St. Patrick's Day dinner with braised house corned

beef, cabbage and nantes carrots, potatoes colcannon and soda bread. The \$55 ticket, which includes gratuity, also includes two drink tickets, redeemable for Irish whiskey, Guinness or green draft beers.

### St. Stephen's Green, Mountain View

The downtown Mountain View Irish pub is offering the same Irish food specials as its sister pub Alhambra Irish House: corned beef and cabbage, Guinness lamb stew, corned beef and cabbage egg rolls and Bailey's chocolate bread pudding (\$11-\$26).

It will also host a multiday St. Patrick's celebration, beginning Sunday with traditional full Irish breakfast beginning at 11 a.m. and live music with Stephen Ross at 2 p.m. On Monday, expect Irish Trivia Night with an Irish dance-off round and giveaways.

On St. Patrick's Day, the Jackie Flynn Irish Dance Academy will perform at 3 p.m., Michael Gorman will play live music at 5 p.m. and DJ Gallo N3GRO will play music starting at 8 p.m.

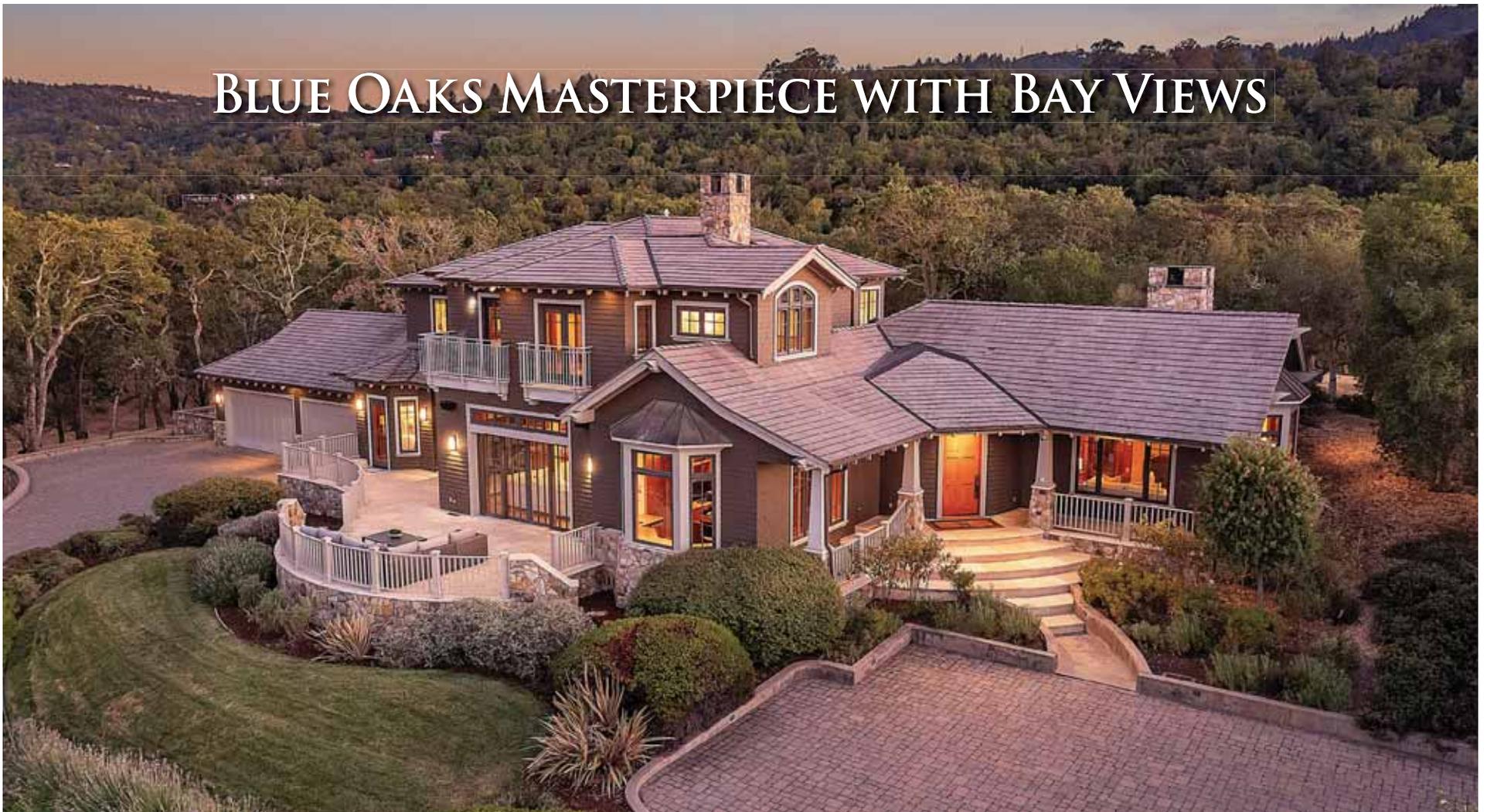
### The Wild Rover, Redwood City

The Irish pub is offering a variety of food specials, including corned beef and cabbage, shepherd's pie, bangers and mash, fish and chips, Guinness beef stew, freshly baked Irish soda bread and green soft serve ice cream. Drink specials include green beer, Guinness and Guinness floats.

### Tipsy Putt, Sunnyvale

The mini golf and craft beer venue is offering green beer and whiskey shooters for \$7 March 13-17. ■

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**HUGH CORNISH**

650.619.6461

hcornish@cbtnorcal.com

DRE# 00912143

hughcornish.com



**CHRISTINA HENGEHOLD**

415.722.6402

christina.hengehold@cbrealty.com

DRE# 02210414

hughcornish.com

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