

The Almanac

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Menlo Park Mayor Betsy Nash won't seek reelection after eight years on City Council

By Arden Margulis

Menlo Park Mayor Betsy Nash announced she will not seek reelection in November, stepping down after eight years on the City Council. Nash, who was first elected in 2018, said she always intended to serve just two terms.

"I basically think that two terms is a good service. The first term, you're learning a lot and the second term you know how the city works, you know residents and are able to work well," Nash said. "Two terms is great, and now it's sort of time for someone else to step in."

Nash is serving as mayor this year and said she remains focused on revitalizing downtown Menlo Park during her final months in office. She represents District 4, which covers the downtown plus parts of central Menlo Park and the Allied Arts neighborhood. But challenges remain: voters will soon decide whether to require

a citywide vote on plans to develop housing on several city-owned downtown parking lots.

"Elections are difficult times," Nash said. "There is a real divide right now in the city, and there's a lot we need to do to build bridges. We need to build trust. And we need to get good information out and heal the city. I think it is a challenge and something that we really need. It's certainly a focus of mine."

Nash was first elected in 2018, when she unseated two-term council member Peter Ohtaki. At the time, Ohtaki said it was clear that voters were sending a message to slow down growth. He ran again in 2022 but lost to Nash in her reelection bid.

Accomplishments and priorities

During her tenure, Nash has been a vocal advocate for city action on climate change.

She said she is very proud of



Seeger Gray

See **BETSY NASH**, page 20

Menlo Park Mayor Betsy Nash announced she will not run for reelection.

Joan Lane, Stanford's go-to for 'sticky problems,' dies at 97

By Arden Margulis

Atherton resident Joan Lane, a longtime Stanford University supporter and widow of Sunset magazine co-publisher Melvin Lane, died Feb. 19 at Stanford Hospital. She was 97.

Lane earned the unofficial title of "special assistant for sticky problems" at Stanford where she first started volunteering in the early 1960s. Over the years, she advised two deans, three presidents and four university board chairs.

"Mom did not have an ounce of schmooze or pretense in her. She was never interested in others to 'use' them. She navigated

sticky problems by working alongside people — ensuring people of differing concerns were heard and taken seriously," said her youngest daughter, Julie Lane-Gay.

Former Stanford president Gerhard Casper remembered Lane as a model of the university's values. "Joan was warm, positive, and inspiring, and had an uncanny ability to unravel difficult processes. She was truly the epitome of the Stanford spirit, and we are all the better for having known her," he said in a press release.

Born in San Francisco and raised in Berkeley, Lane graduated summa cum laude from Smith College, a small

liberal arts women's college in Massachusetts. Her time there helped shape her outlook on life, said her eldest daughter Whitney Lane. "I think when she was in college, she got really inspired seeing what everyone was doing. She saw all of the possibilities of what she can do and how she can make the world a better place," she said.

At a time when it was uncommon for women to hold professional roles, Lane was often the first woman to join the boards she served on. "For her generation, it was very unusual for women to work," Whitney Lane said. "When she started working at Stanford, and for Don Kennedy, who was the president

of the university at the time, people called me and asked, 'Is everything okay? Is your dad okay?' And I told them everything was fine and that my mom just wanted to work."

Beyond her board development and administrative skills, Lane was known for her empathy and insight. "I don't know anybody that could read a room better than she could. She didn't think of it as, 'What can this situation do for me?' Mom really cared about people. She looked for people who were having a hard time and thought about how to help them," her eldest daughter said.

Lane-Gay recalled that her mother was a confidante to

many people in positions of leadership, business and non-profits. "They called late at night for advice and support, cried on her shoulder, were flown out in their corporate jets or drove 15 hours just to talk to her," she said.

Lane's impact extended far beyond Stanford. She advised and assisted organizations including the Monterey Bay Aquarium, the League to Save Lake Tahoe (now Keep Tahoe Blue), Mills College and many others. She served on the governing boards of International House at Berkeley, the Four Winds Foundation, the San

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Local News

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Lizzy Myers

A student hangs up her backpack on the first day of kindergarten at Costano School of the Arts in East Palo Alto on Aug. 14, 2024.

Ravenswood asks voters to approve \$70 million bond measure

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Ravenswood City School District is pursuing a \$70 million bond measure to fund the construction of new classrooms, primarily at Costano School of the Arts. Measure A on the June 2 ballot aims to address the anticipated jump in enrollment after The Primary School in East Palo Alto closes this summer.

The school board voted to

file for a bond measure in late February. Jenny Varghese Bloom, who serves on the board and is also volunteering for the Measure A campaign, explained that construction plans were already set but, with more students expected, it made sense to pursue an expansion of Costano that goes beyond the existing renovation plans.

In 2022, Ravenswood passed Measure I, a \$110 million

facilities bond that passed with 72% approval. This bond measure has funded the construction of Belle Haven Elementary's new campus and upgrades to Los Robles-Ronald McNair Academy and Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School.

The board didn't anticipate having to come back to the community and ask for

See **BOND MEASURE**, page 16

Menlo Park sends Citibank's 'jarring' branch remodel back to drawing board

Commission says plans for former First Republic Bank on El Camino lacks character

By Arden Margulis

The Menlo Park Planning Commission unanimously voted to send Citibank's architect back to the drawing board after remodeling plans for a new branch at 1215 El Camino Real failed to impress. Commissioners said the building's design did not fit the city's aesthetic.

At its March 23 meeting, commissioners said the proposed remodel looked too stark and lacked character. They

asked Citibank's parent company, Citigroup, to soften the color palette, scale down the planned signage and revise the design before returning. City staff recommended approval of the plans, but commissioners said the look did not match the downtown setting.

"I don't feel like this current rendering has any character," Commissioner Katie Ferrick said. "There are plenty of examples of nearby Citibanks, like in Palo Alto, that I'd far prefer. I

wouldn't be prepared to support this in its current iteration."

Citigroup submitted its application on Feb. 23 to remodel both the interior and exterior of the one-story building at the corner of El Camino Real and Oak Grove Avenue, which was last renovated when First Republic moved in about 30 years ago. The structure itself would remain the same.

"I summarize it as we are

See **CITIBANK**, page 11

Local nonprofits strained by funding cuts and shifts in federal policy

By Hannah Bensen

Nonprofits in Silicon Valley are being squeezed by fewer resources, higher demand for services and shifting federal priorities.

This finding is the key takeaway of the Nonprofit Pulse Report, a review of how federal actions are impacting nonprofits in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. The report was created by Thrive Alliance and the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits, two advocacy organizations that aim to amplify the voice of the nonprofit sector.

Over 160 nonprofits were surveyed about how shifting federal policies have impacted their workforce, financial conditions and progress toward racial equity objectives. A variety of nonprofit sectors were represented, including human services, arts, education, environment and health. The survey was administered between Sept. 15 and Oct. 7, 2025, and the report was released on March 18.

The nonprofit sector has absorbed significant shocks in recent years, said Georgia Farooq, CEO of Thrive Alliance, in an interview. While nonprofits coordinated with philanthropic organizations and local governments during the COVID-19 pandemic, federal actions during President Donald Trump's second administration have caused material disruption to nonprofits in the area.

"Because of the confusion now and the lack of consistent information... I think institutions are trying to figure out how to protect their own interests," Farooq said. "We're looking for more of a coordinated response, especially right now as it comes to the health of the nonprofits, because we know that they are serving our frontline communities."

Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity was the most widespread source of disruption, with 63% of surveyed organizations reporting a significant direct impact. Farooq noted that some people have begun to decline services from nonprofit agencies due to immigration-related fears. As a result,

some nonprofits have had to tailor programs to provide psychological care for immigrant communities and have had to adjust how they deliver services.

Other nonprofits have suffered from an overall decline in federal funding for social services and healthcare. COVID-19-related funding for social services, including federal legislation such as the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act, has largely dried up. New federal legislation such as H.R.1, a sweeping budget and policy bill passed in summer 2025, significantly reduced funding for health care and food assistance across the country and introduced new eligibility requirements and access barriers.

'We were already squeezed during COVID.'

-GEORGIA FAROOQ,
CEO OF THRIVE ALLIANCE

As a result, nonprofits are in a weakened financial position, the report stated, and funding is not being offset by private capital or philanthropy.

"Demand for services skyrocketed. We are not able to keep pace," Farooq said. "We were already squeezed during COVID, and so it's almost compounding right now."

Arts agencies have also been impacted by attempted or realized funding cuts, the report found. President Trump signed an executive order in March 2025 intended to dismantle the Institute of Museum and Library Services, an organization that provides resources and grants to libraries and museums. Months later, a federal judge ordered an injunction that reinstated funding for the organization. In May of last year, the Trump administration also canceled at least \$27 million in arts grants that had already been approved through the National Endowment for the Arts. Some of these grants were later reinstated, while others remain canceled or in legal limbo.

See **NONPROFITS**, page 16

Cities, schools face \$20M tax hit from Genentech settlement

Supervisor Canepa calls for transparency from assessor's office

By Bay City News Service

San Mateo County Supervisor and candidate for assessor David Canepa is calling for full transparency in the county Assessor's Office as dozens of cities and schools brace for millions in revenue deductions this year after the county reached a settlement with biotech company Genentech.

The county must refund Genentech nearly \$20 million stemming from incorrect property tax assessments between 2000 and 2005. The county Assessor's Office and Genentech, which is headquartered in South San Francisco, have engaged in a long-running dispute over property tax assessments.

The county agreed to refund Genentech about \$13.7 million, plus \$6.2 million in interest if the full payment is made by October.

But dozens of cities, schools, and special districts that get a large chunk of funding from the county will have to bear the cost of the settlement, according to a letter from the Controller's Office sent last month to affected bodies.

The \$20 million will be

refunded through revenue deductions from fall tax apportionments to these entities.

"When mistakes from decades ago result in a \$20 million refund, the impact lands squarely on the budgets that serve our communities," Canepa said in a statement. "Schools, cities and special districts shouldn't be blindsided by more refunds years down the road."

The Assessor's Office said it spoke with affected cities, schools, and districts about the potential loss in revenue.

"Throughout the settlement process, the Assessor's Office worked transparently with affected taxing entities, including school districts, to communicate potential impacts to property tax revenues," the office said in an email.

The Board of Supervisors approved the stipulated judgment in December 2023 in a closed session meeting, according to the Assessor's Office.

Jim Irizarry, the assistant assessor-county clerk-recorder and assistant chief elections officer, said the Board would have known at the time of its decision that tax revenue would have to

be deducted from recipients like school districts.

But Canepa said he wouldn't have voted for it if he knew that schools would be facing a reduction in revenue.

"This is a major hit to schools, cities and special districts that rely on property tax revenue to keep services running," Canepa said. "We need full transparency from the Assessor's Office about what happened and what additional financial exposure may still be coming."

The San Mateo County Community College District, Sequoia Union High School District, and the San Mateo Union High School District are estimated to take hits of over \$1 million each, according to the letter.

The cities of San Mateo and Redwood City are estimated to be shorted over \$400,000 each and Daly City is expected to not receive nearly \$230,000. The town of Hillsborough and the cities of Burlingame, Menlo Park, Pacifica, and San Carlos are expected to be shorted more than \$100,000 each.

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District, which provides

emergency and firefighting services for Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto and some unincorporated parts of the county, is estimated to be hit with a nearly \$469,000 reduction in funding.

According to the letter, there are remaining disputes over property tax assessments with Genentech for the 2006 to 2024 tax years that have yet to be settled. Thus, it is possible that there may be more refunds to the company down the road.

Canepa is also running to become the next assessor-county clerk-recorder and chief elections officer. The current officer, Mark Church, decided to not run for re-election and his term ends next January.

"It's because of this malfeasance and because the office is not run properly," Canepa said about his bid for the seat in an interview.

Claims for tax years 2006 to 2018 are currently under review by the county Assessment Appeals Board and are expected to be resolved within one to two years. If Genentech is successful, the potential refund is expected to be \$4.5 million plus interest, according to the Controller's Office.

The outstanding claims for tax years 2019 to 2024 are also still pending. ■

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District explores renaming César Chávez Ravenswood Middle School

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Ravenswood City School District said on March 19 that it plans to change the name of César Chávez Ravenswood School in East Palo Alto. The announcement came days after a New York Times investigation detailed allegations of sexual abuse against the late labor activist.

While no decisions on the name change have been made, Superintendent Gina Sudaria stated in a press release that the district will be following the school board's policy in its process to rename the middle school.

"In the meantime, our schools and educators are encouraged to teach about the farmworker movement as a struggle that is greater than one man," Sudaria said.

One day earlier, on March 18,



Magali Gauthier

The Ravenswood Middle School District plans to change the name of César Chávez Ravenswood School in East Palo Alto.

East Palo Alto Mayor Webster Lincoln asked the district to initiate a "community-centered review process" to rename the school in light of the investigation in a letter to

the school district. He floated the idea of renaming the campus after former President Barack Obama.

"President Obama represents a figure of profound historical

significance to our community and to the nation, a barrier-breaking leader who has demonstrated an enduring commitment to equal justice, educational opportunity, and public service," Lincoln wrote to the superintendent and the board.

He clarified in his note that his request is not an attempt to erase the history of the farmworkers movement but about the importance of children learning in a space that is dedicated to a figure that reflects the values expected in community leaders: "courage, integrity and respect for every person's dignity."

The school was named César Chávez Ravenswood School following the merger of Ravenswood Middle School and César Chávez Academy in 2019. The joint name came about after community members

voiced concerns about the erasure of Chávez's legacy as a civil rights leader.

A discussion about renaming the school will be put on the agenda for the upcoming board meeting, according to the district's press release.

The district will continue to recognize the March 31 state holiday dedicated to César Chávez, which it observes on April 6, but will work with its labor unions and school board to modify the district calendar for the coming school year.

"We stand with survivors of violence, including and especially gender-based violence, which has no place in our society," Sudaria wrote. ■

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San Mateo County rethinks Chávez honors after abuse report

California leaders also announced they will introduce legislation to rename César Chávez Day to Farmworkers Day

By Michelle Iracheta

Just nine days after San Mateo County supervisors approved a resolution designating March 31 as a paid holiday for county employees in honor of César Chávez Day, Board President Noelia Corzo said the county is considering next steps following a New York Times investigation detailing sexual abuse allegations against the late labor leader.

In a statement, Corzo said she was "devastated" by the report and would work with the county's Office of Racial and Social

Justice and local labor and immigrant rights leaders to consider an appropriate response.

The resolution was approved March 10 as part of the board's consent agenda, with supervisors David Canepa, Jackie Speier, Corzo and Ray Mueller present. Supervisor Lisa Gauthier was absent.

March 31 is a federal holiday that commemorates Chávez, who cofounded the United Farm Workers union with Dolores Huerta. It was proclaimed by President Barack Obama in 2014.

On March 18, the New York Times reported that multiple

women accused Chávez of sexual misconduct, including two women who said he sexually abused them for years when they were girls. One of them, Ana Murguía, told the paper Chávez summoned her to his office for sexual encounters beginning when she was 13, "dozens of times over the next four years." Huerta, in the Times report, also said that Chávez had sexually abused her.

Reaction to the allegations of sexual abuse by Chávez has been swift, with many cities, schools and states considering how to disentangle themselves from the civil

rights figure. Celebrations honoring the union organizer have been canceled across the country. Latino activists who previously regarded him as a folk hero have come out to disavow him.

New Legislation

On March 19, California Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas and Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón said in a joint statement that the farmworkers movement "never has been about one individual." They plan to put forward legislation

to rename Cesar Chavez Day to "Farmworkers Day."

"This holiday will be a time for California to honor the past, reflect on the present and renew our collective dedication to equity and justice for farmworkers," the statement read.

California leaders said they will also work with schools and local communities to address laws and statutes related to Chávez. ■

Email Editor Michelle Iracheta at [miracheta@almanacnews.com](mailto: miracheta@almanacnews.com).

Silicon Valley families say CARE Court has failed them

By Joyce Chu / San José Spotlight

More than a year after Santa Clara County launched a new state-mandated program to treat people with severe mental illness, families claim the system has failed to help them.

When CARE Court was first proposed, Gov. Gavin Newsom heralded it as the solution to treat thousands struggling from a serious mental illness through involuntary treatment. Families breathed a sigh of relief knowing their adult children had a way to become mentally stabilized after years of struggling with a broken health care system. But the bill was changed to favor voluntary treatment and their

hopes were dashed.

"I was very angry with the Legislature, with Gov. Newsom for not having the foresight to see basic assumptions that people are going to want treatment (is) not reality," a father who put his son through the CARE Court system in San Mateo County, told San José Spotlight on condition of anonymity. "The biggest problem is there is no teeth in CARE Court. It's not everyone's right to die on the street, and that's very well what might happen to my son."

With the emphasis on voluntary treatment, and stringent requirements to be considered for the program including two periods of intensive treatment in the last 60 days in lieu of a clinician's approval, the rules

ultimately prevented CARE Court from serving the population it was meant to help, sources said.

Recently, the state expanded the program with Senate Bill 27 — effective Jan. 1 — to include individuals diagnosed with bipolar I disorder with psychosis. A spokesperson for the Santa Clara County Superior Court said they expect to see an increase of petitions filed.

In order to qualify for CARE Court, a person must be diagnosed with schizophrenia or a psychotic disorder, or have a bipolar disorder with psychotic factors. Two forms need to be submitted to the court — one by the main petitioner, which can

See CARE COURT, page 18



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East Palo Alto supports small businesses in five-year plan

Local entrepreneurs can expect streamlined licensing, retail space

By Lisa Moreno

East Palo Alto is set to roll out a streamlined version of its Economic Development Strategic Plan, in an attempt to gradually improve the local economy and the city's brand while keeping development costs low.

The City Council unanimously approved, with Vice Mayor Ruben Abrica absent, a five-year plan last week that aims to simplify business permitting, create a business incubator program, develop the local workforce and increase public programming.

City staff will immediately begin to roll out early steps, creating a business newsletter, coordinating with workforce development partners and updating the city's business permit processes.

Some of these initiatives are not new. East Palo Alto has already begun evaluating ways to license microbusinesses like street vendors through a prospective ordinance, and a city consultant has been connecting with local stakeholders over the past year to ask how they

envision economic mobility.

Based on staff recommendations, the council opted for a plan that focuses on smaller and existing projects in an attempt to keep spending low while evaluating project success.

"It focuses on foundational initiatives and achievable quick wins, using existing staff and limited consultant support," Assistant to the City Manager Denise Garcia said at a March 17 council meeting.

The second option, which would've increased the city's project list, included newer initiatives that economic consultants recommended at a January meeting. Some of the recommended projects included creating a small business guide and a comprehensive webpage where business owners can view reasons to work with East Palo Alto and research available land and building space.

Staff projected a cost of \$100,000 to \$150,000 for on-call consultant support in the selected plan, compared to up to \$400,000 annually for new employees dedicated to expanded economic projects.



Seeger Gray

The East Palo Alto City Council voted on a plan to boost the local economy and the city's brand on March 17.

In the coming years, city staff plan to present the first economic development report, incubate local businesses at the Gateway 101 Retail Center, 1771 E. Bayshore Road, and host events in underutilized public

spaces to boost the city's brand.

Consultants found in their analysis that East Palo Alto's strengths lie in its central Silicon Valley location, affordability, proximity to the Bay waterfront and self-reliance

with opportunity for economic growth and a strong youth population. Although the city faces challenges with limited retail and transit, and a lack of county

See **BUSINESSES**, page 16

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New county program cares for pets while their owners are hospitalized

By Carla Wells

San Mateo County Health and partnering organizations are providing round-the-clock care for pets whose owners require treatment for mental health, substance use or other medical conditions.

The Foster Wellness Program was launched in January and has since been offering a combination of fostering and local animal care services to clients, to eliminate the burden of finding trusted pet care while owners seek out potentially life-changing treatment.

Chief of Animal Control & Licensing Lori Morton-Feazell is the animal care liaison for the program and oversees recruiting foster caregivers, coordinating pet care, and ensuring animal welfare. Morton-Feazell said the program was made possible by a grant from San Mateo County's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), awarded to the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) department.

When clients from agencies within the BHRS system need



Courtesy San Mateo County

Miss Green Eyes was one of the first pet participants in the Foster Wellness Program.

pet care, Morton-Feazell's team ensures all aspects are arranged, from finding foster homes for the pets to providing vaccinations and vet checks for animals prior to placement.

Part of this process involves

inspecting the homes of potential foster parents and ensuring the accommodations are suitable for pets. "We have to make sure it's safe...people will be caring for somebody's pet, and that's a big responsibility.

It's kind of like having a baby," Morton-Feazell said.

Along with performing a safety check of the foster home, the Animal Control & Licensing team provides caregivers with all essential pet items, a foster handbook, and contact details for their contracted emergency veterinary hospital.

"We provide the foster home with food, bowls, beds, toys, a litter box for a cat, toys... anything like that," Morton-Feazell said.

According to Morton-Feazell, placements range from one to 90 days, depending on the type of treatment their owners are undergoing, with 90 days being the typical maximum stay at a rehabilitation facility. And while the Foster Wellness Program is in its early stages, she said it has already seen positive results.

One client completed a 90-day rehabilitation stay and found employment at a doggy day care afterwards, while her own two dogs were in care.

"She got her dogs out and the program was a success," Morton-Feazell said. "It was very rewarding."

Along with managing foster caregivers, Morton-Feazell's department partners with local pet care services, including dog walkers, the Peninsula Humane Society, The Pawington in South San Francisco, and Tyson's World of Dogs in Menlo Park for supplementary care during outpatient procedures when an overnight stay is not needed, or in emergency situations, when a foster home is not immediately available.

In the case of one participating cat, affectionately known as "Miss Green Eyes," a foster

See **PETS**, page 19

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Jury finds Meta, Google liable for teen's mental distress in landmark social media trial

By CalMatters

A Los Angeles jury has found the parent companies of YouTube and Facebook liable for a teen's mental distress in a closely-watched trial over social media addiction.

The jury on March 25 awarded \$3 million to the plaintiff, a young woman identified as KGM, and her mother, according to NPR, which noted Meta would be responsible for about 70% of that amount and that the companies could face future penalties as well. The family had accused the platforms of willfully making their products addictive and targeting teens, despite internal research showing it could damage their mental health.

The Los Angeles Superior Court decision is among the first in a wave of hundreds of suits by schools, attorneys general, and others, making personal injury claims about major tech companies' alleged recklessness.

A New Mexico jury recently



Magali Gauthier

The sign for Meta, the parent company of Facebook, is at 1 Hacker Way in Menlo Park.

found Meta liable on similar claims and the company was ordered to pay \$375 million in damages. Meta said it would appeal that decision. Meanwhile, a case is also ongoing in a federal court based in California.

"We disagree with the verdict and plan to appeal," José Castañeda, a Google spokesperson, said in a statement. "This case misunderstands YouTube, which is a responsibly

built streaming platform, not a social media site." Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Online child safety advocates, meanwhile, immediately cheered the ruling.

"For too many years, kids have suffered immeasurable harm from social media, while the owners of these tech companies have reaped billions in profits,"

John M. Bennett, Director of the advocacy group California Initiative for Technology and Democracy, said in a statement, calling the tech industry's business model "fundamentally exploitative, addicting young children in order to create life-long consumers, no matter the cost to their health or the damage to their lives."

A bellwether

The Los Angeles trial is among the earliest in a series of suits arguing that social media products were engineered to be addictive. Tech companies have long said that they can't be held legally responsible for the individual works that appear on their platforms, including from bad actors like scammers and terrorist groups.

But more recent cases like these have instead focused on proving that tech companies were aware of the dangers that their products could pose to young people, yet went ahead with targeting them anyway. Those dangers, according to plaintiffs, include addiction,

depression, and body image problems.

The cases have already produced reams of embarrassing internal documents that plaintiffs say show how executives put profits over teens' mental wellness.

One document, recently discussed during a hearing in a federal California case, included a 2016 email from Mark Zuckerberg about Facebook's live videos feature. In the email, Zuckerberg wrote the company would "need to be very good about not notifying parents / teachers" about teens' videos.

In the Los Angeles case, tech company executives, including Zuckerberg, took to the stand for questioning on their business practices. The suit initially named Snap and TikTok as defendants as well, but those companies settled the claims earlier in the trial.

If the companies continue to lose in future litigation on the same issue, they could be on the hook for billions more in damages.

See TRIAL, page 18



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CITIBANK

continued from page 5

concerned with harshness. We're looking for a design that is softer, and softer means it includes color," Commissioner Jennifer Schindler said of her colleagues' collective comments.

Commission Vice Chair Ross Silverstein said subjective judgment plays a legitimate role in the commission's process. "To some extent, that is what this commission is for," he said. "If a project doesn't pass the personal opinions of four out of seven commissioners, that reflects our duty to represent the community."

Commissioners pointed to Citibank's branch at 250 University Ave. in Palo Alto as a look they preferred to the Menlo Park proposal.

"I'm struck by the opinions of my fellow commissioners," Chair Andrew Ehrich said. "I think generally this commission does not have such strong negative opinions towards the project, and I'm inclined to sort of respect that, given that we don't often react this way."

The plans were before the commission for approval of the architectural control permit and sign review.

Rather than approving or denying the application, the



Arden Margullis

Citibank applied to remodel a former branch of First Republic Bank, but its application was sent back to the drawing board because planning commissioners said it did not fit Menlo Park's aesthetic.

commission voted to continue the item pending revisions from the applicant. Several commissioners expressed concern that the proposed white facade would appear too stark for the neighborhood. Ferrick said that the "bright white tile" would be "jarring" for that stretch of El Camino Real.

Architect Jeffrey Schmierer of global firm Gensler designed the proposal and told Planning Commission members that the rendering may make the building's exterior seem brighter than it will actually appear. Schmierer declined to comment for this article.

In addition to aesthetic concerns, commissioners had qualms about lettering on its

signs. The bank requested 24-inch-tall signs, while city guidelines recommend between 8 and 18 inches. Without a clear justification for the larger size, the commission instructed the applicant to scale it down.

Following the commissioners feedback, Schmierer said he would speak with his clients and try to address their concerns.

If approved, the 2,600-square-foot branch would include two teller stations, two private meeting rooms, two banker workstations, and employee spaces such as a lactation room, break room and IT room. The site at the corner of El Camino Real and Oak Grove Avenue previously housed a First Republic Bank branch, which shuttered in 2023



Courtesy city of Menlo Park

A rendering of the remodeled exterior of the future Citibank branch at 1215 El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

after regulators closed the bank and JPMorgan Chase acquired its assets. Chase initially considered reopening the site but never filed an application.

"Citi is deeply committed to serving our customers in the Bay Area," said Liz Bryant, who leads Citi's Northern California branch network, in a statement before the commission's decision. "We continually look for opportunities to optimize our network to align with the evolving needs of our clients and this dynamic market."

Citigroup declined to comment on the Planning Commission's decision to continue the project so revisions could be made.

Citibank is not the only bank that is expanding into Menlo Park. Rhode Island-based Citizens Private Bank opened a branch at

99 El Camino Real in Menlo Park at the beginning of March, which it said marked the bank's expansion into Silicon Valley.

"Designed to serve entrepreneurs, executives, investors, and families, the Menlo Park office reflects Citizens Private Bank's high-touch, relationship-driven approach and its commitment to delivering locally rooted banking and wealth solutions," the bank said in a press release.

Citizens' expansion follows the 2023 closure of First Republic Bank. Many of its new private banking employees previously worked for First Republic. Citizens has since opened a second Menlo Park location on Sand Hill Road. ■

Email Staff Writer Arden Margullis at amargullis@almanacnews.com.

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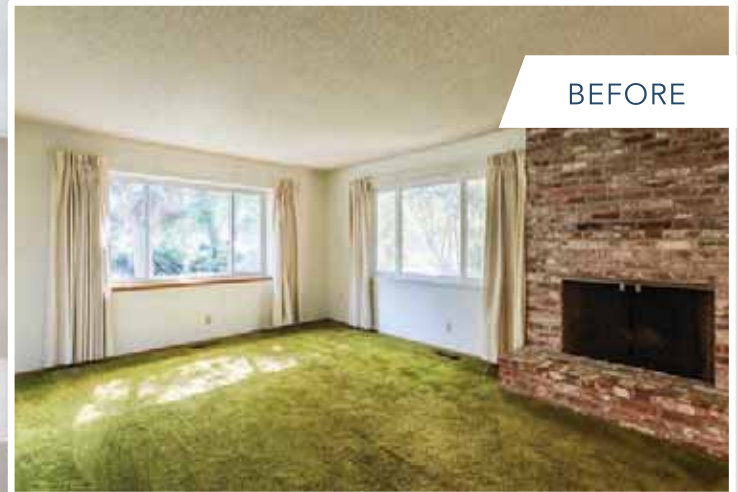
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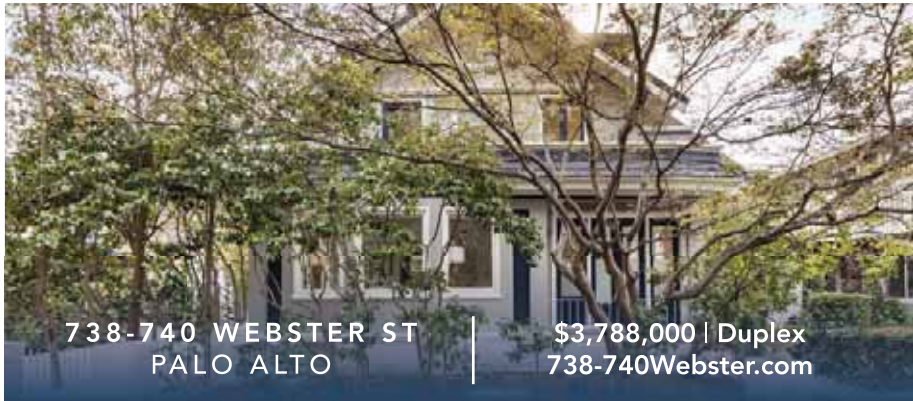
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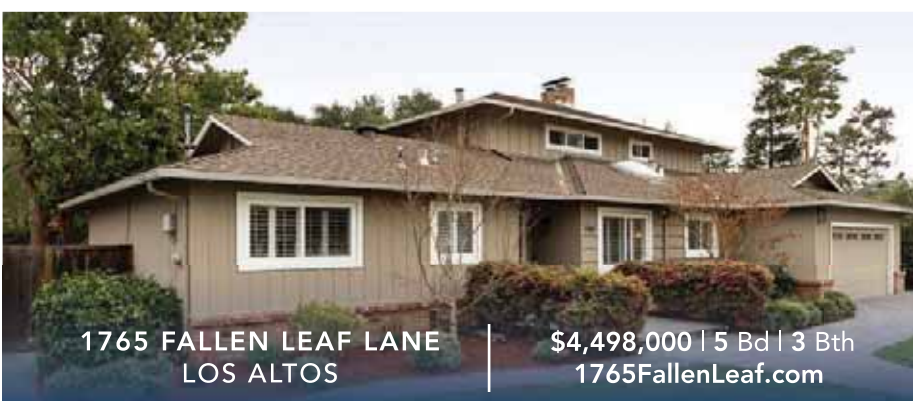
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NONPROFITS

continued from page 5

President Trump has also signed a slew of executive orders that prohibit equity-related federal funding and terminate positions and programs related to diversity and inclusion. These DEI restrictions have impacted 79% of the surveyed organizations through funding cuts that can suspend programs and increase the stress of staff, the report stated.

Coupled with the uncertainty related to these federal actions, the report found that most nonprofits reported worsening revenue related to a weakening macroeconomy. In addition, demand for services, including food assistance, has surged, and local organizations like



Seeger Gray

Demand for services has surged in recent months at nonprofits like La Comida, a Palo Alto-based nutrition program, which provides groceries and meals to seniors.

La Comida, Second Harvest and The Food Closet have been strained. Organizations that rely on federal funding

and those who serve immigrant or minority communities have been disproportionately affected.

With increased demand and reduced financial strength, some nonprofits are facing closure, Farooq said. Should that happen, individuals and families may not receive certain services from organizations that may have served specific communities in culturally appropriate ways, she said.

“You have these really wonderful small nonprofits that have built these deep relationships in the community, and suddenly, they’re not able to provide those services,” Farooq said. “Maybe you’re talking about 50 families, but that is 50 families that received really important resources, and maybe they’ll fall through the cracks.”

The report found an increased openness for nonprofit

collaboration, cost sharing and even merging. Nonprofit leaders also say they most need unrestricted funding, reduced administrative burden from partner organizations, support from philanthropic organizations and individuals.

“There’s always been this call to action around local giving, (but) I think it tends to die down,” Farooq said. “Folks are oftentimes interested in thinking about being philanthropic elsewhere, globally, but there’s so much that you can do here back home.” ■

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.

BOND MEASURE

continued from page 5

another bond measure, Bloom said.

“We’re really trying to see it as an opportunity to benefit all of our community,” she said. “We know it’s a generational ask, but I think that when you invest in your schools, you are investing in your community.”

If approved, Measure A will tax property owners an average of \$27.50 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation until June 30, 2053. The bond will need to be approved by 55% of registered voters who live in the Ravenswood district.

Last April, The Primary School, funded by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, announced it would shut down

its tuition-free private school at the end of this school year. Over 400 students will be displaced, many of whom live in East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven neighborhood in Menlo Park.

The Ravenswood district has been working with The Primary School administrators to create a smooth transition for its students, according to Bloom.

“We were considering the decline in enrollment of our school district, and we were kind of on that track for the last 10 years,” she added. “Then, with the surprising closure of The Primary School, all of a sudden there was an increase in enrollment.”

The Primary School currently operates out of a

Ravenswood-owned property that was formerly known as Brentwood Academy, which merged with Costaño in 2020, said Bloom. When the private school leaves the campus, the district plans to transition Costaño students to Brentwood classrooms while construction is going on.

Costaño’s facilities upgrade was outlined in the district’s 2015 Facilities Master Plan with the expectation that enrollment would continue to decline.

“This construction was already going to happen. We have a window of time where we could make an ask so that we’re utilizing those dollars in a way that makes the most sense,” said Bloom, who added that Measure A funds would ensure a cost-efficient and continuous

construction process.

Up until a few years ago, many of Ravenswood’s schools had not been significantly renovated since the 1950s, she added. The makeover at Costaño will mark the district’s fourth recent construction project. Students at Ravenswood’s upgraded campuses are now learning in modernized classrooms with upgraded ventilation systems, technology, safety systems, green spaces and energy-efficient infrastructure.

The Silicon Valley Taxpayer Association is opposing Measure A, arguing that a school district with declining student performance should not be building new classrooms.

“This literally is the worst school district I have ever come across,” said Mark Hinkle, president of the SVTA.

Hinkle said that for the 2024-25 school year, 87.9% of Ravenswood students scored below grade level in English and 92.8% scored below grade level in math, according to data he cited from the Education Data Partnership.

“Why are we building new buildings for students that can’t read and can’t do math?” said Hinkle. “When you reward

bad behavior, you get more bad behavior.”

Historically, Ravenswood has primarily served economically disadvantaged students and English learners. Last school year, 91.8% of students identified as low income and 55.6% of students were English learners, according to the California Department of Education.

Bloom explained that the bond measure is an investment in the future of the community and the generations to come. She invites local residents to come visit Ravenswood’s newly renovated campuses to see the impact that they have on students.

“All of those campuses are a testament to our community saying yes to these measures, and we really hope that they see that we are investing back into the community by using their dollars well,” Bloom said.

Bloom said a Measure A committee has not been formed but is in the works. Individuals interested in volunteering for the campaign can contact her at jennyvarghesebloom@gmail.com. ■

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



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Desarrollando líderes dentro de la comunidad

BUSINESSES

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and state resources, council members recommended leaning on the city’s cultural identity to boost investment.

“We want to strengthen EPA’s identity and better highlight East Palo Alto’s story, specifically moving to shift perceptions and attract and retain businesses and visitors,” HR&A consultant Judith Taylor said at a Jan. 6 council meeting.

City staff said initiatives are

not set in stone and council members have the flexibility to change goals and their investment levels to the plan at any time. Councilmember Mark Dinan expressed an interest in hiring employees dedicated to economic development in the future.

“I’m happy to support option A, go with the staff recommendation, but I think long term consultants can only go so far in a city like East Palo Alto,” he said. ■

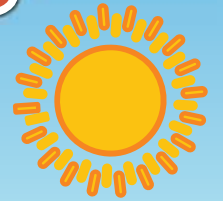
Email Staff Writer Lisa Moreno at lmoreno@almanacnews.com.



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CARE COURT

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be a family member, someone who lives with the recipient or a first responder. A second form is completed by a clinician who has seen or attempted to see the individual in the last 60 days.

If these requirements are met, the individual will meet with a caseworker and have court hearings to come up with an agreement for treatment, which can include housing. If needed, judges can order treatment, but that has rarely happened statewide. After one year of care, individuals may graduate from the program.

But it's not that simple.

Suraj, a father who asked to withhold his name for privacy reasons, said these rules don't work for people like his son, who cannot even be evaluated by a mental health professional because he has locked himself in his apartment for the past five months.

In the rare moments he does leave his house, he drives aimlessly in his Tesla. He runs from Suraj and his wife when he sees them nearby. He refuses to answer the door. His extreme paranoia has caused him to believe people are out to get him, Suraj told San José Spotlight.

In 2023, his 36-year old son was diagnosed with bipolar disorder with psychosis. Prior to this, he was a director for multiple psychiatric practices and received his masters from Columbia University.

The downward spiral began when his son lost his startup business during COVID-19,



Magali Gauthier

After Gov. Gavin Newsom's mental health law, CARE Court, was changed to voluntary treatment, families said the help they hoped for never happened.

coupled with a divorce, Suraj said. His son was seeing a private psychiatrist, but when Suraj tried to petition his son for CARE Court, the psychiatrist refused to sign the paperwork, stating that she no longer had a relationship with the patient. The psychiatrist offered to write a letter instead, according to a text seen by San José Spotlight.

The judge rejected Suraj's petition because he did not have the required form, according to a court letter reviewed by this news outlet.

"The judge has to have more liberty to enforce the CARE Court system even with a doctor's letter," Suraj said. "We are at a rock and a hard place where we are not able to help our son. We are very, very desperate."

Since December 2024 when the county began the program, Santa Clara County Superior Court has received 63 petitions

for CARE Court, according to court data. Thirty-four cases were dismissed for failing to meet the requirements, among other reasons. In the last 15 months, six individuals agreed to voluntary treatment, and there have been no court-ordered involuntary treatments.

"CARE Court is one tool among many. The number of people who go through that process is not, and has never been, the sole measure of a county's performance," County Executive CEO James Williams previously said.

A flawed system

Statewide, 2,421 petitions have been filed from late 2023 to July 2025. Out of those petitions, 528 people entered into treatment agreements and judges mandated 14 involuntary court-ordered plans, according to a CalMatters analysis.

"The CARE Act recognizes

that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to helping people with untreated or undertreated psychotic disorders toward recovery," Stephanie Welch, deputy secretary of Behavioral Health at the California Health and Human Services Agency said. "CARE Court is an unprecedented approach that connects eligible Californians with mental health treatment, stabilizing medication and housing support overseen by a civil court process."

In lieu of mandated treatment, some people in Santa Clara County are waiting for their family members to commit a crime — which would allow them to get treatment inside jail, or go before a judge in a separate mental health court that replaces jail time with treatment and judicial supervision. Santa Clara County was one of the first in the nation to create a behavioral health court under Superior Court Judge Stephen Manley in 1999.

Monica Porter Gilbert, associate director at Disability Rights California, a group that pushed for voluntary treatment, said CARE Court is not working.

"People enrolled in CARE Court are placed on the same waitlists for services as anyone seeking services on their

own, outside of the court," Gilbert told San José Spotlight. "Legislative analysis conducted this past summer concluded that 'the CARE model ends up being a very expensive way to coordinate (but not directly provide) important services.'"

Gilbert points to an annual report on CARE Court published in July 2025 showing 56% of participants in eight counties did not receive mental health treatment, in part due to administrative delays, service unavailability and lack of coordination across systems.

The best way forward, Gilbert said, is to meet people where they are at through mobile crisis response teams, hotlines that provide support and comprehensive services.

A single mom in San Jose, who asked not to be named for privacy concerns, has hope CARE Court may be a solution for her adult son. She said her son has finally agreed to get treatment, and he will have his CARE Court appointment later this month — though he may at any point choose to discontinue the program.

"I see how it's helping me. I see how it's helped me to handle my son, and I see how my son even understands where I'm coming from," she told San José Spotlight. ■

TRIAL

continued from page 10

More cases to come

Already, the first signs are emerging of major financial penalties for tech companies facing litigation.

In the recently decided New Mexico case, brought by the state's attorney general, a jury found Meta liable on all counts for "unfair and deceptive" practices under New Mexico law. The Los Angeles trial decision may increase pressure on tech companies to settle future cases

and to change business practices in the future.

"Today, a jury saw the truth and held Meta and Google accountable for designing products that addict and harm children," the attorneys leading the parallel California-based federal case against the tech companies said in a March 25 statement. "Top tech executives took the stand, and their own internal documents were put before a jury, revealing that company leadership knew their platforms were hurting kids and repeatedly chose profits over children's safety." ■



CITY ADVISORY BODY CURRENT VACANCIES

The City has openings on several commissions and committees! Help examine issues of community concern and provide guidance to the City Council.

CURRENT ADVISORY BODY VACANCIES

- Complete Streets – 2
- Environmental Quality – 2
- Housing – 1
- Library – 2
- Parks and Recreation – 1
- Planning – 2

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- Apply by 5 p.m., Fri., April 3
- Menlo Park resident
- Over 18 years of age
- Committed to attending scheduled meetings

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- Email city.clerk@menlopark.gov
- Call 650-330-6620

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PETS

continued from page 9

caregiver wasn't available, so she was offered a 30-day protection hold at the Peninsula Humane Society through the program, which allowed her to board without being adopted. After that stay was completed, Miss Green Eyes was placed in a foster home while her owner continued to receive mental health treatment.

Pet owners who participate in the Foster Wellness Program must be residents of San Mateo County and clients of BHRS, a division of San Mateo County Health that provides services for uninsured residents or those on Medi-Cal.

Management Analyst for the MHSA, Chandrika Zager, manages cases for the BHRS and connects clients, who typically need high levels of care, to the foster program when pet services are needed.

"The goal is to help people get the care they need without that barrier of pet care getting in the way. And over time, the hope is really to support

recovery and housing stability, while keeping people connected to their pets," Zager said.

Zager also spoke to the positive feedback the program has received so far. "From the client side we're hearing a lot of relief knowing that their pet is safe while they're in treatment. From the foster caregivers, we've heard how meaningful it was to be part of something that supports both the person and their animal," she said.

"At the end of the day it's helping people move forward with treatment...because we do hear from clients and community members that this is a real barrier for folks and sometimes they just don't seek treatment or they decline it because they need somebody to care for their animals," Zager said.

The Foster Wellness Program is currently recruiting volunteers to foster pets in San Mateo, San Francisco, Alameda and Santa Clara counties. To inquire about becoming a foster caregiver, email fosteringwellness@smc.gov.org. ■

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sequoia High School Spring Concert

Sequoia High School will be hosting its Spring Music Concert at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, featuring the band, orchestra, choir, jazz and more. Admission is free with a \$10 suggested donation. Preconcert food will be available for purchase.

The concert at Carrington Hall, 1201 Brewster Ave. in Redwood City, will feature compositions by Randall Standridge, Frank Ticheli, Edvard Grieg, Pinkzebra, and more.

Ladera Community Church seeks Easter service singers

In preparation for Easter on April 5, Ladera Community Church is looking for community members who know one of the choral parts for the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. All vocal parts are needed.

The church will be hosting a warm-up and rehearsal before the service. Additional rehearsals will be on Thursday evenings. For details, contact Choir Director Eric Kujawsky at maestroek@sbcglobal.net.

County Mosquito and Vector Control District seeking Portola Valley board member

The town of Portola Valley is seeking applications from town residents to serve on the board of trustees for the San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District. Applicants must be Portola Valley residents and registered voters.

The vector control district is an independent government agency that aims to protect the public health of the San Mateo County community by managing mosquitoes, rodents, yellow jackets, ticks and more.

The board of trustees consists of 21 members, one from each city or town and one at-large representative for the county. Members are responsible for setting policy and finance decisions for the district and meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the SMCVCD office at 1351 Rollins Road in Burlingame.

Applications will close on April 13 and applicants will be interviewed by the Portola Valley Town Council, which will make an appointment at a future council meeting. For more information visit tinyurl.com/PVSMCMVCD.

—Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Public Notices

VIRSONO HEARING CENTER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-303286

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

1.) VIRSONO HEARING CENTER, located at 1165B O'Brien Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s): EARLENS HEARING CENTER, INC
1165B O'Brien Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025

State of Incorporation/Organization: Delaware

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/03/2020.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 18, 2026.

(ALM Mar 27, Apr 3, 10 and 17, 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)

KEN MCCOY CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-303297

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

1.) KEN MCCOY CONSULTING, located at 2320 Cheshire Way, Redwood City, CA 94061.
Registered owner(s): KENNETH F. MCCOY
2320 Cheshire Way
Redwood City, CA 94061

State of Incorporation/Organization: California

This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 18, 2026.

(ALM Mar 27, Apr 3, 10 and 17, 2026)

THE ARETE METHOD
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-302987

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

1.) THE ARATE 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)

PENINSULA DIAGNOSTIC AND AMBULATORY CENTER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-303232

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

1.) PENINSULA DIAGNOSTIC AND AMBULATORY CENTER, located at 91 WESTBOROUGH BLVD #1010, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080.
Registered owner(s): PENINSULA DIALYSIS ACCESS CENTER, LLC
91 WESTBOROUGH BLVD #1010
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business

name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 11, 2026.

(ALM Mar 20, 27, Apr 3 and 10, 2026)

JDG REGISTRATION SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-303170

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

1.) JDG REGISTRATION SERVICES, located at 648 EL CAMINO REAL STE E, REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063.

Registered owner(s): JDG REGISTRATION SERVICE, LLC
648 EL CAMINO REAL STE E
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94063

State of Incorporation/Organization: CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 04, 2026.

(ALM Mar 20, 27, Apr 3 and 10, 2026)

SORAYAMI
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-303234

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

1.) SORAYAMI, located at 620 Fox Court East, Redwood City, CA, 94061.

Registered owner(s): SORAYA AMIRIAN
620 Fox Court East
Redwood City, CA, 94061

This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 11, 2026.

(ALM Mar 20, 27, Apr 3 and 10, 2026)

THE GUILD THEATRE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: M-303271

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

1.) THE GUILD THEATRE, located at 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s): PENINSULA ARTS GUILD
905 El Camino Real
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 10/12/2017.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 16, 2026.

(ALM Mar 27, Apr 3, 10 and 17, 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)

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

Case No.: 26CIV01360

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: C Terrigal Burn filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names

as follows:
C TERRIGAL BURN to CHRISTOPHER TERRIGAL BURN
CHRISTOPHER TERRIGAL BURN to CHRISTOPHER TERRIGAL BURN
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 4/28/26, 9:00AM, Redwood City of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
ALMANAC
Date: 2/27/26
S Mariah
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Mar 20, 27, Apr 3 and 10, 2026)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
SUSAN RUN SHENG NI
Case No.: 26-PRO-00299
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of SUSAN RUN SHENG NI. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Perla Ni in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.
The Petition for Probate requests that: Perla Ni be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on April 13 2026 at 9:00 a m in Dept 13 of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner: Arthur Swid Weil, Esq
Law Office Arthur S Weil
671 Oak Grove Ave Ste K
Menlo Park, CA 94025
650-322-4244
(ALM Mar 20, 27 and Apr 3, 2026)

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

JOAN LANE

continued from page 1

Francisco Foundation and her alma mater Smith College, as well as numerous Stanford advisory committees and councils.

"I don't know her secret to being able to do all that. I think that she was just really genuinely interested in others," Whitney Lane reflected.

Even with her national and university commitments, Lane, who lived in Atherton and Menlo Park, was deeply rooted in the Midpeninsula. "My mom cared so much about the community around her — the grocery store, the library, the parks, the fire department, her neighbors. She loved Menlo Park — Kepler's, Draeger's, Sharon Heights," said Lane-Gay.

The Almanac published a profile in 1999 titled "Joan Lane: Never a spectator" and said that her schedule could "exhaust most hardy souls."

Lane was 77 at the time.

Lane and her late husband Mel, who died in 2007, were both active philanthropists. Stanford described her giving philosophy simply as "follow the need."

Whitney Lane said her mother often directed funds toward causes others might overlook. "She would see where the needs were a lot of the time. She would see that there was a need for operating expenses or something a little less glamorous than what somebody who wanted more public recognition would fund," she said.

Lane supported the local civil rights movement and campaigned for her friend Pete McCloskey, who represented San Mateo County in Congress from 1967 to 1983. She often went door-to-door, stuffed envelopes for candidates and school bonds, and recruited her daughters to join in.

Even with her busy life, Lane made time to mentor and teach

her children.

"When I was 12 and Julie was 9, she sat us down and taught us how to write a résumé, balance a checkbook and make a budget. We didn't learn how to do make-up, we learned how to phone bank — I can only imagine what people thought when I would call in my little, squeaky teenage voice," Whitney Lane said. "When I was struggling with reading, I remember that my mom really encouraged me. And I really feel like she gave me the love of reading with her constant support — she was a really good mom."

Lane remained engaged and caring well into her later years. "She was really remarkable in just the way she navigated being old. She had dementia for the last four or five years of her life, and even then, she just was always really interested in other people," Whitney said. "I've been thinking about what I am going to say at her memorial



Courtesy Linda Cicero / Stanford News Service

Joan Lane, a volunteer who made her mark on Stanford by caring for others, died at the age of 97 on Feb. 19.

service and it's really hard to not overuse the words 'amazing' or 'maverick.'"

Lane continued to work at Stanford, though in a reduced capacity, into her 90s. "I sort of joke that, when she had dementia, I finally felt like I could keep up with her," Whitney added.

A memorial recital will be held Wednesday, April 22, at Stanford Memorial Church from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m., followed by a community celebration at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton. ■

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



Eleanor Tilden Gardner

90 years old

Eleanor "Ellie" Whittier Tilden Gardner, a fourth-generation San Franciscan and a beloved presence in the Portola Valley community, passed away on March 14, 2026. Born in San Francisco to Heber Voorman Tilden and Eleanor Whittier Weir Tilden, Ellie spent her childhood in Woodside, where she developed a lifelong love of horses, the outdoors, and painting. She attended Sacred Heart Schools and Castilleja before graduating from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

After college, Ellie returned to the Bay Area, where she met William John Gardner. They married at Stanford Memorial Church and settled in Palo Alto before moving to Portola Valley in 1967, where they raised their three children.

A gifted artist and generous teacher, Ellie taught painting to adults and children for more than 60 years. She was also a proud member of the Junior League and Peninsula Volunteers. She was an active member of the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club for 45 years and shared her talents widely as Flower Coordinator at Christ Episcopal Church, leader of the Woodside Art Show, and Chair of the Portola Valley Cultural Arts Committee. For the past 16 years, she enriched life at The Sequoias with monthly art exhibits, classes, and floral arrangements.

Ellie is survived by her children Scott (Ann Marie), Mark, and Lynn (Randy), and her grandchildren Wesley, William, John, and Samantha. She is preceded in death by her husband, John, and her brother Heber.

PAID OBITUARY

BETSY NASH

continued from page 1

the city's climate action policies, electrifying buildings to phase out natural gas usage and REACH codes, which are local ordinances that require higher standards for energy efficiency and environmental benefits.

"Beyond just the global impact, there is a real benefit to individuals and your indoor air quality," Nash said.

As council member, Nash represented Menlo Park on the board of Peninsula Clean Energy, a provider of clean, renewable energy. "(It's) a really impactful organization. It's extremely well run, and does just amazing things for our residents," she said.

Nash said she is also proud of efforts to improve pedestrian and bike safety, particularly along Middle Avenue and near schools.

Challenges and reflections

Nash's tenure includes some turbulent years in Menlo Park, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the aftermath of lockdowns. She served as mayor in 2022 as the city worked to rebuild its economy and restore community connections.

"Those were some really difficult years. I'd say that you really develop a camaraderie on the council and high-level staff," Nash said.

Coming from a career in the private sector, Nash said her time on the council taught her patience with the slower pace of government. "When I was first going in, I certainly was very optimistic about the amount of change that could

happen. Coming from the private sector, it's different from the government, which is much more deliberate, and a whole different working experience," she said.

'It's been a real challenge, and also a pleasure, to represent the people of Menlo Park.'

MAYOR BETSY NASH

Looking back, Nash said one thing she would have done differently is push for more housing earlier in her tenure.

"We now know that we need much more housing. I would say if we were to look at some of the development projects that we saw initially, we would be trying to get even more housing," she said.

2026 Election starts to take shape

Two other City Council seats also are up for reelection in November: District 2, represented by Drew Combs and District 1, represented by Cecilia Taylor.

Combs said he plans to decide with his family over spring break whether he will seek reelection. Taylor did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

One candidate, newcomer Charlotte Reed, has announced her intention to run for Nash's District 4 seat.

Nash said she does not plan to endorse a candidate but hopes voters choose someone who can thoughtfully weigh the complexities of city governance.

"There's many rules, there's

many factors to consider when doing this. So someone who is really thoughtful, who will do what is best for the city and not be swayed, is important," Nash said.

She encouraged prospective candidates to talk with current council members and consider joining a city commission first. The city is currently seeking applicants for six commissions. The deadline to apply is April 3.

After leaving office, Nash said she plans to remain active in the community.

"It's been a real challenge, and also a pleasure, to represent the people of Menlo Park," she said. "I would encourage all our residents to get involved, meet your neighbors, be patient and persistent, and make a difference."

What do you want to know about candidates for Menlo Park City Council?

Three seats on the Menlo Park City Council will be up for election on Nov. 3. When it's time to cast your vote, what do you want to know about each candidate and the issues facing the city? Help shape future coverage of this important race by emailing Arden Margulis at amargulis@almanacnews.com. ■

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AI could cause a jobs Armageddon. We can't let it happen

By Jerry McNerney

GUEST OPINION

Not counting the pandemic, the U.S. job market last year sank to its lowest level since the Great Recession. The nation added only 181,000 jobs in 2025, down from 1.46 million in 2024.

Anemic employment numbers are continuing in 2026, with the U.S. economy shedding 92,000 jobs in February.

Many economists agree that President Trump's tariffs and immigration policies, along with persistently high interest rates, are partially to blame, but there is increasing concern that the rapid rise of artificial intelligence is also starting to harm the employment sector.

The situation promises to worsen, and the problem is: Companies using AI to replace workers is not a bug. It's a feature.

In fact, the potential for job losses due to AI is a significant driver of the stock market. Businesses and investors euphemistically call it "labor savings" or "reducing labor costs" — because having fewer workers theoretically makes companies more profitable and a better investment.

Goldman Sachs predicts that companies will spend more than \$500 billion this year on capital expenditures for artificial intelligence and computer data centers, in part because of the potential to reduce labor costs — the single-largest expense for most businesses.

Artificial intelligence, to be sure, has tremendous potential to benefit our society, hastening advancements in health care, scientific research and clean energy. AI might even cure some forms of cancer in the next decade.

But it could also put millions of people out of work. Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei, who recently gained fame for his principled stand against the Pentagon's demand to use Claude for autonomous weapons and domestic mass surveillance, is predicting that AI could displace 50% of entry-level white-collar jobs in the next five years.

For many investors and businesses, that would be a lot of "labor savings". For the U.S. economy — and the people who will lose their jobs — it would be a major disaster.

If Amodei's and similar predictions come true, about 10 million to 12 million U.S. workers could become jobless in the next half-decade, more than doubling the U.S. unemployment rate, potentially sending it above 10% — even higher than it was during the Great Recession.

Massive job losses, in turn, would have a cascading effect on our economy and society. Young workers who took on student loans expecting white-collar careers would face serious default risk, potentially triggering a consumer credit crunch. Consumer spending would also tumble, with restaurants, travel, entertainment, and retail all facing reduced demand, potentially causing even more job cuts.

That would put us on the road to a significant economic contraction and another recession. Just counting the loss of entry-level white-collar jobs alone, and assuming an average salary of \$60,000—\$80,000 for those positions, AI could cause roughly \$720 billion to \$960 billion in lost wages annually — equivalent to 3% to 4% of U.S. GDP.

Widespread unemployment can also lead to social unrest. Plus, there are concerns about

long-term unemployment, since workers who can't get entry-level job experience are unlikely to ever have professional white-collar careers.

This may sound like a "sky-is-falling", overly pessimistic scenario. And some argue that the threat of job displacement is overblown, accusing companies of "AI washing" — blaming recent job cuts on AI when they're actually due to other factors.

But there are warning signs that job loss due to AI is already happening. In addition to the dismal jobs numbers in the past 14 months, postings for entry-level jobs in the U.S. plummeted 35% between 2023 and 2025.

And workers are increasingly worried. Employee concern about job loss caused by AI surged from 28% in 2024 to 40% in 2026.

Anthropic predicts that AI will cause the biggest job losses in management, business and finance, office administration, computer science, engineering and architecture, social sciences, the legal profession, and arts and media.

So what can we do about the potential jobs Armageddon? Unfortunately, it appears that the Trump administration is not inclined to put any guardrails on AI. Also, Anthropic appears to be the only major AI company concerned about job losses.

That means California must step up. In the Legislature this year, I have a bill, SB 947, that would bar companies from relying on AI to fire or discipline workers.

It's an important first step. But it's increasingly clear that we have more to do — perhaps by rewarding companies that hire and keep workers and use AI to improve their workers' productivity and job satisfaction, while preventing businesses from replacing people with machines and sending our economy into a tailspin. ■

Editor's note: State Senator Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) authored the AI in Government Act while serving in Congress. He is also chair of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee and member of the Privacy, Digital Technologies, and Consumer Protection Committee.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Higher garbage rates won't solve the real problem

Editor,

Menlo Park residents have, or will soon receive, a large postcard from the city of Menlo Park explaining its desire to increase the cost of services for trash, recycling, and compost pickups for residents and commercial enterprises. A proposed schedule of rates for the next five years is included, as is a description of how to protest the proposed rates if one wishes to do so. (Oddly, protests must be written and submitted in person to the city. I guess they don't like email or text messages.)

I understand that rates increase over time, as costs of equipment rise, fair wages for employees living in an expensive metro area increase and space for waste disposal becomes more difficult to find. I also understand that

increasing rates might, in some cases, cause people to rethink their consumption habits.

What I find to be lacking is any explanation about what the city is doing to decrease waste. The rate increases are most likely based on forecasts of historic data related to waste container volumes. For residents, those are the bins we place outside our homes once a week, with no distinction between full bins or almost empty bins, waste that is properly sorted into the correct containers, or the effort required at the waste facilities to process the contents of the bins.

Further, the city makes no mention of how it, along with other government bodies, can work with industry to reduce packaging, increase the life span of durable products, incentivize the reuse of usable goods and generally decrease the inputs into the waste system. Since the 1970s a mantra of the green movement has been to "reduce, reuse, and recycle." The order of these three things is important,

but often lost. Recycling has become the default, rather than reduction or reuse. Most environmental studies show that recycling is not going well in the U.S., and fortunately foreign partners have woken up and are refusing to play the dirty recycling game where we Americans shipped our waste to them for processing, not by automated, safe systems, but by humans, often children, who work without adequate safety protections or means of dealing with toxic materials.

A more informed mail piece from the city would have acknowledged the problem of solid waste as something to be tackled further upstream, where products are made and how people use them, and eventually, dispose of them. And to be fair, perhaps they are thinking about that. But there's nothing in the communication referenced above to suggest anything other than business as usual, which is an opportunity lost.

Steve Taffee
Menlo Park

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 2345 Yale St., 1st floor, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Questions? Email editor@AlmanacNews.com, or call 650-223-6537.

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PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

A room of one's own

Palo Alto's Cubberley studios offer subsidized workspace and a collaborative environment for artists

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

Before she had a studio at Cubberley Artist Studio Program, multimedia artist Martha Sakellariou made do with whatever space she could find — wherever there was room while raising her young children.

"I worked around the house in any open surface I could find," she said.

The arrangement was workable, but far from ideal. Without a dedicated space, materials had to be packed away and set up again each day.

Now, her days look very different. Inside a former classroom at Palo Alto's Cubberley Community Center, Sakellariou has space to spread out, experiment and work uninterrupted.

For many artists, that kind of dedicated workspace is hard to find. Securing an affordable, quiet and well-lit studio remains one of the biggest challenges working artists face, which helps explain the demand for Palo Alto's Cubberley Artist Studio Program (CASP), a city-run initiative that provides subsidized studios to local artists.

The city of Palo Alto launched the program shortly after repurposing the Cubberley High School campus into the Cubberley Community Center in 1990, a broader transformation that included converting 22 classrooms into rent-subsidized art studios. Artists can work in the studios for up to four years — an unusually long residency compared with many programs that last weeks or months — in spaces ranging from 360 to 960 square feet at below-market rates. Several studios are also reserved for shorter-term use.

Built-in community

For Sakellariou, the benefits go far beyond square footage.



Seeger Gray

Artist Martha Sakellariou stands for a portrait in her studio at Cubberley Community Center in Palo Alto on March 20, 2026. In addition to providing a dedicated workspace, the Cubberley residency program offers a community, Sakellariou said.

"The community is precious to me; it is my 'medium' and source of inspiration," Sakellariou said, describing the daily interactions and informal exchanges that shape her work. "Having a studio in a public space like Cubberley acts like a living laboratory — the big advantage is that I get real-time interactions, access and input that I don't think I could easily and informally get in a private setting."

That collaborative environment is by design. Artists are selected every four years by a panel of local arts professionals based on artistic merit, commitment to an active practice, and exhibition history. The most recent call, in 2022, drew about 80

applicants from across the Bay Area. The city is expected to issue its next call for artists later this spring.

Denise Laxen di Zazzo, artist studio program coordinator, described the process as "highly competitive."

As part of the program, artists agree to participate in two open studio events, inviting the public to tour the spaces and meet the artists. Outside of those events, they are free to use the studios as they wish, with 24-hour access.

Space to create

For painter Sang-ah Choi, the program has been transformative in practical ways.



Seeger Gray

Works of art stored in Martha Sakellariou's studio at Cubberley Community Center.

See **A ROOM**, page 24

A ROOM

continued from page 23

“The most significant change has been the ability to work at a larger scale and with greater continuity,” she said. “Being able to remain in the same studio for an extended period removed the ongoing pressure of constantly searching for workspace and made it possible to focus more fully on the work itself.”

Choi, who struggled with space constraints while working from home, said the studio allows her to lay out large works and experiment with scale and composition in preparation for exhibitions, while the secure, round-the-clock access supports a flexible schedule. Working from home was difficult due to space constraints.

Others echo that sentiment. Woodworker Darryl Dieckman said the studio provides something he simply couldn't replicate as an apartment dweller: room to build, access power tools and connect with other artists.

“I would have very little to no ability to pursue my work without this opportunity,” he said.

Dieckman said being part of a creative community also was a major draw. After completing an intensive woodworking program at the Krenov School in Fort Bragg, he was eager to continue working alongside other artists. He said the program's open studio events are less about sales and more about connection.

“It's a great way to talk to people interested in woodworking and share knowledge about opportunities in the Bay Area,” he said.

Interdisciplinary artist Nasim Moghadam, who works in photography, sound and



Seeger Gray

A section of a work of art by Sang-ah Choi is seen in her studio, which has given her the space to experiment with larger scale works, she said.

video, said the studio was essential in preparing for a recent solo exhibition.

“I was in the studio nearly 18 hours a day for several weeks,” she said. “It's where thinking, experimentation and production continuously unfold.”

Nasim Moghadam, an interdisciplinary artist who works in photography, sound and video, is finishing her second residency at Cubberley. She enjoyed a short-term residency in 2021 and decided to apply for a longer term in 2022. She said studio was crucial in helping her to prepare for a recent solo exhibition at SF Camerawork.

“I was in the studio nearly 18 hours a day for several weeks,” she said. “The studio is central to my creative rhythm, it's where thinking, experimentation and production continuously unfold.”

She also highlighted the value of peer interaction. “There is a natural exchange of ideas, from technical advice to conceptual dialogue to simple encouragement,” she said. “Sometimes it's an informal



Seeger Gray

Interdisciplinary artist Nasim Moghadam sits for a portrait in her studio at Cubberley Community Center in Palo Alto on March 18.

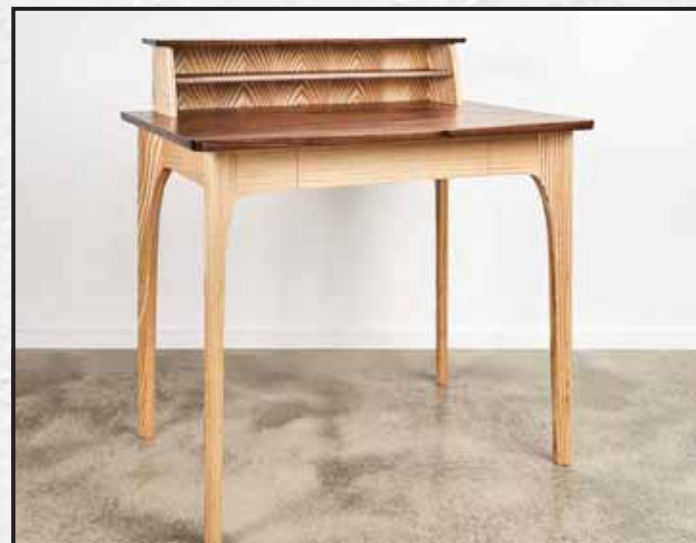
hallway conversation; other times it develops into deeper critique and reflection. Being surrounded by diverse practices creates a motivating and supportive atmosphere.”

Former resident Ann MacMillan, now an instructor at the Palo Alto Art Center, said having a dedicated studio made artmaking “simple and straightforward” and allowed



Courtesy Darryl Dieckman

Woodworker Darryl Dieckman is a Cubberley resident artist.



Courtesy Darryl Dieckman

Darryl Dieckman creates wood furniture. He said that the Cubberley open studio events offer a chance to connect with community members and share his woodworking knowledge.



Seeger Gray

Painter Sang-ah Choi, seen here in her studio at Cubberley, said that having the space long-term has allowed more of a focus on her work.



Seeger Gray

Works of art by interdisciplinary artist Nasim Moghadam are seen in her studio at Cubberley. She described the studio as “central to my creative rhythm.”

her to work more quickly and at a larger scale.

Looking ahead

The combination of affordable space and a built-in artistic community makes CASP a rare and valuable resource — one that supports both working artists and the broader cultural life of Palo Alto.

Sakellariou, who is nearing the end of her residency and will soon need to find a new workspace, said the prospect of leaving underscores how important the program has been.

“As far as I know, this is the only initiative and studio program like this here, and it is truly a lifeline — a gift to this area. It helps both artists and the wider community, and I genuinely hope to see it grow bigger and stronger,” she said.

Whether the program can do that may depend on decisions now facing city leaders. CASP's future is tied to broader plans to renovate the Cubberley campus, which the Palo Alto City Council has identified as a funding priority

for 2026. While no final decisions have been made, Laxen di Zazzo said arts and cultural programs — including CASP — remain central to those discussions.

“The city recognizes the value of the artist studios to the campus and the broader community,” she said.

The Cubberley Community Center is located at 4000 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/CubberleyResidencies.

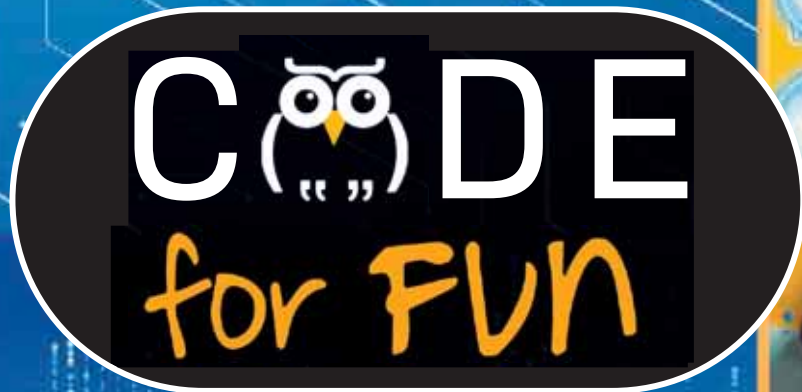
For more information about the Cubberley Artist Studio Program, email denise.laxen.dizazzo@paloalto.gov. ■

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

Spring 2026 Open Studios

Tour working studios, meet local artists and view new works in progress during the next Cubberley Open Studios on Saturday, April 25, 1-5 p.m. The event will feature about 20 CASP artists. Admission is free.

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Food & Drink

10 spots
for fish
sandwiches
on the
Peninsula

Seeking seafood sandwiches?

By Edwina Dueñas

Fish sandwiches have been making waves in the Bay Area. At the start of the year, San Leandro-based Chinese Bakery & Deli went viral for its \$3.50 fish filet bun. With a crispy fried white fish filet and kewpie mayo served on a freshly baked bun, the sandwich alone has been drawing hours-long lines in an otherwise quiet strip mall. Meanwhile, limited-time fish sandwich offerings at fast-casual chains have also upped the number of seafood-focused options.

Luckily, many restaurants across the Peninsula offer their own variations of a fish sandwich to reel in diners year-round. Here are 10 to try.

Fish filet sandwich, Birdie's at Mariners Point, Foster City

Located at the Mariner's Point Golf Center in Foster City, Birdie's food truck offers a fish sandwich inspired by McDonald's. Owner Jeremy Cheng describes it as a "homemade, grown-up version" of the fast-food favorite made with hand-breaded cod, American cheese and tartar sauce on a Martin's potato roll.

The sandwich first gained a following when it was offered at Winner Winner, the now closed fried chicken spot at Hillsdale Shopping Center. Cheng also operates Birdie's at Stanford Golf, though the site will close in May due to the clubhouse's impending teardown and renovation.

Both locations are open to the public, no golf clubs needed.

Birdie's at Mariners Point, 2401 E. 3rd Ave., Foster City; 650-573-7888, Instagram: @birdies_mp. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Fried snapper sandwich, Flavas Jamaican Grill, South San Francisco

Amid its menu of hearty jerk chicken, oxtail and rib plates, Flavas Jamaican Grill also serves up a fried snapper sandwich. A popular fish used in traditional Jamaican escovitch recipes, Flavas' snapper sandwich features a crispy filet with fresh veggies and tartar sauce,

From left: A salmon sandwich from Gigi's in Burlingame. Courtesy Gigi's. Birdie's food truck offers a fish sandwich inspired by McDonald's, made with hand-breaded cod, American cheese and tartar sauce on a Martin's potato roll. Courtesy Birdie's.

served on a roll with fries or a salad. Other sandwich offerings include a jerk wrap and jerk cheeseburger.

Flavas Jamaican Grill, 200 Grand Ave., South San Francisco; 650-741-6268, Instagram: @flavasjamaicangrillsf. Open Tuesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 8 p.m.

Grilled fish sandwich, Alice's Restaurant, Woodside

This general store-turned-restaurant has been a pit stop for motorists along Highway 84 since the start of the 20th century. Alice's prides itself on a scratch-made, locally sourced menu, from microbrews to desserts.

Alice's grilled fish sandwich includes locally fresh-caught cod, lettuce, tomato and onion and comes with a side of chipotle aioli plus housemade potato chips. The sandwich is available daily on the lunch menu.

Alice's Restaurant, 17288 Skyline Blvd., Woodside; 650-851-0303; Instagram: @aliceswoodside. Open Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Captain Hook, Gigi's, Burlingame

Known for hefty sandwiches piled high with deli cuts, veggies and sauces, Gigi's is an eatery built around community, said owner Teresa Gee. One of Gigi's seafood offerings is the Captain Hook, a sandwich of textural contrasts with freshly baked crab cakes, zesty arugula and crunchy potato chips on a soft French roll.

The sandwich started as a weekly Saturday special but soon became a daily menu item thanks to its popularity. A seasonal salmon sandwich is also available on Fridays through Easter.

Gigi's Cafe, 111 Anza Blvd., Suite 111, Burlingame; 650-344-3355, Instagram: @gigiscafeburlingame. Open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

West Coast fish sandwich, Brisbane Lunch Truck, Brisbane

Brisbane Lunch Truck takes a local first, gourmet attitude to comfort food. Its fish sandwich includes grilled, dry-rubbed Alaskan cod with fresh lime gremolata and citrus slaw.

Owner Kristi Yawata infuses Japanese flavors into her dishes where possible, and all entrees come with a side of scratch-made umami potato chips and a freshly baked cookie. As a nonmobile food trailer, the roadside eatery is located at Brisbane Community Park with a patio dining area.

Brisbane Lunch Truck, 250 Visitacion Ave., Brisbane; 415-660-6320, Instagram: @brisbanelunchtruck. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Spicy tuna banh mi, Dinosaurs, Pacifica

Local Vietnamese banh mi chain Dinosaurs can be found in San Francisco, the East Bay and on the coast in Pacifica. The sole seafood option features chunk light tuna tossed with spicy mayo, plus classic banh mi fixings of pickled carrots and daikon, cucumber, cilantro, jalapeños and mayo on a French baguette. Fresh spring rolls and specialty drinks like Vietnamese iced coffee and Thai iced tea are also available.

Dinosaurs, 1116 Palmetto Ave., Pacifica; 650-735-5851. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Beer-battered salmon sliders, Godfather's Burger Lounge, Belmont

This "The Godfather"-themed burger restaurant has been operating from its corner spot along El Camino Real in Belmont since 2009. While burgers are their specialty, the restaurant offers several chicken, seafood and vegetarian options as well as a sliders menu.

Its beer-battered salmon burger sliders



Courtesy Godfather's Burger Lounge

Godfather's beer-battered salmon burger sliders include fried Wild Alaskan salmon with greens tossed in basil aioli, tomato, red onion and homemade tartar-dill sauce.

See **FISH**, page 27

Menlo Park restaurant is added to Michelin Guide

Korean-Taiwanese fine-dining restaurant Yeobo, Darling opened less than a year ago

By Adrienne Mitchel

Yeobo, Darling, a Korean Taiwanese fine-dining restaurant in downtown Menlo Park, was added to the Michelin Guide Wednesday morning.

The 50-seat minimalistic restaurant opened in June as the newest venture by married chefs Meichih and Michael Kim, who founded the now closed Michelin-starred Maum in Palo Alto and Bao Bei in Los Altos. It offers a succinct menu divided into canapes, appetizers and mains, as well as soju cocktails, wine and dessert.

The Michelin Guide specifically draws attention to Yeobo, Darling's bite-sized potato "jeon" with Santa Barbara uni and prosciutto (\$28 each), its lu rou lasagna (\$34), wagyu kalbi with

housemade banchan (\$76) and soft serve (\$14).

Yeobo, Darling was one of 12 California restaurants added to the guide Wednesday, March 25, and the only newly added restaurant located along the Peninsula. It joins other Menlo Park restaurants Eylan, Flea Street, Madera and Camper in the Michelin Guide.

Yeobo, Darling and the other 11 California restaurants just added to the guide have the potential to earn Bib Gourmand or Michelin Star awards at the annual Michelin Guide Ceremony later this year. The ceremony date has not yet been announced.

"We are deeply honored by this recognition from the Michelin Guide as it acknowledges not just the thought and work Meichih and I have put in to Yeobo, Darling, but the thoughtfulness, care, and

hard work of our entire team," Michael Kim said in an emailed statement. "We are also grateful to Menlo Park and the broader Peninsula for embracing us. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without the enthusiastic support we've received from our diners."

Joining the Michelin Guide means anonymous Michelin inspectors determined the chef uses "quality ingredients that are well cooked," according to Michael Ellis, the international director of the Michelin Guide books. Restaurants in the Michelin Guide can also be awarded a Bib Gourmand, a recognition created in 1997 to award restaurants that serve good food at moderate prices, or a star, which "indicates a truly gastronomic experience," Ellis said.

Yeobo, Darling, 827 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park; Instagram: @yeobodarlingrestaurant. Open Tuesday to Thursday from 5-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 5-9:30 p.m. ■

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



Veronica Weber

Chefs Michael and Meichih Kim opened Yeobo, Darling in Menlo Park less than a year ago and recently had their restaurant added to the Michelin Guide.

FISH

continued from page 26

include fried Wild Alaskan salmon with greens tossed in basil aioli, tomato, red onion, and homemade tartar-dill sauce. Hungry for more? Sliders can be ordered in sets of two or three sandwiches. Godfather's also offers a full-size grilled salmon burger topped with crispy onion straws.

Godfather's Burger Lounge, 1500 El Camino Real, Belmont; 650-637-9257; Instagram: @godfathersburger. Open Sunday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Tuna melt panini, The Toss, San Carlos

The Toss is a neighborhood salad restaurant in San Carlos turning 10 years old this year. The eatery was created around the design-your-own salad concept

and features several house salads.

Sandwiches, such as the tuna melt panini, were added to the menu later on, but have now become a draw for customers, according to owner Tracy Everett. The sandwich comes on freshly baked rosemary focaccia with albacore tuna salad, plus melted Swiss cheese and crunchy lettuce. Order a cup of housemade soup to round out your meal.

The Toss, 677 Laurel St., San Carlos; 650-486-1479, Instagram: @thetosscc. Open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fish burger, The Bay Fish & Chips, Sunnyvale

The Bay Fish & Chips is a classic fry shop that has been a fixture in Sunnyvale's Civic Square Shopping Center since 1989. Its fish burger is served with mayo and shredded lettuce on a sesame seed bun. Several combinations of

seafood and fries are also available for fish and chip cravings, including shrimp, scallops, calamari, clams and oysters.

The Bay Fish & Chips, 2042 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale; 408-245-0988. Open Monday to Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 6 p.m.

Bang Bang Spicy Shrimp po'boy, Nola, Palo Alto

Nola offers a taste of the Big Easy in the heart of downtown Palo Alto. The two-level restaurant boasts a sizable menu of New Orleans-inspired appetizers, small plates and classic entrees such as jambalaya and étouffée, plus a selection of po' boy sandwiches.

Its Bang Bang Spicy Shrimp po'boy includes crispy shrimp battered in Crystal hot sauce and cornmeal, topped with remoulade and served fully dressed with lettuce, tomato and pickles.

Nola, 535 Ramona St., Palo Alto; 650-328-2722, Instagram: @nola-paloalto. Open Tuesday to Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. (bar until 11 p.m.), Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. (bar until 1 a.m.), Saturday

from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. (bar until 1 a.m.) and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (bar until 10 p.m.) ■

Email Contributing Writer
Edwina Dueñas at
eduenas3@protonmail.com.

Employment

ENGINEERING

Robinhood Markets, Inc. has an opening in Menlo Park, CA for Oracle Technical Engineer (9746674): Prtnerg wth bsns stkehldrs & Engng tms to tnsfrm bsns & autmte prcs to imrve clse cyle tms. Minimum Requirements for Position: Master's Degree in Computer Science or foreign equivalent or related field with six years of experience in job offered or related field. Education or experience must include: 1. Oracle Integration Cloud applications 2. Oracle Visual Builder Cloud Studio 3. Oracle Fusion Cloud Applications 4. Oracle Cloud Infrastructure 5. SQL/PLSQL, Java, Groovy, Python or Shell scripting skills. Tlcmgt prmttd. Salary Rnge: \$152,110 - \$178,250/ year. Bckground checks req. See bnfts at <https://careers.robinhood.com/benefits>. Email resume with job title & job code to rhijobs@robinhood.com

ENGINEERING

Snowflake Inc has mltp positions avail in Menlo Park, CA for the ff. Tlcmgt prmttd. Successful candidate's starting sal will be dtmnd based on permissible, non-discriminatory fctrs such as skills, exp, & geo lctn. This role is also elgbl for a cmptve bnfts pckge that incld: medical, dental, vision, life, & disability insrnce; 401(k) ret plan; FSA & HSA; at least 12 paid holidays; PTO; parental leave; ee asst program; & other co bnfts. To apply, send rsme & trnscrip w/ job title & Ref# to resume@snowflake.com. EOE. Senior Software Engineer (Ref#9047078) Dsgn & implmnt scalble dstrbrtd systms for Snowflake's srvc's layr. \$214000- 327700/yr. Software Engineer (Ref#9345963) Dsgn, dvlp, and suprt a petabyte-scle cloud dtbse tht is hghly paralel & fault-tolernt. \$187574 - 230000/yr. Software Engineer (Ref#9741184-SEMPBS0) Dsgn & dvlp features. Undrstdn custmr rqmts & meet businss goals. \$135699 - 230000/yr. Senior Cloud Support Engineer-Data Platform (Ref#7137780) Prvde email, web & phon suport to snowflake custmrs & prtntns utlze snowflake envrnmnt, cnectors, 3rd prtly prtnt software & tools to investigate issues. \$154835-195500/yr. Software Engineer (Ref#9765736-SEMM0) Dsgn and dvlp features. Undrstdn cstmr rqmts & meet businss goals. \$161637 - 276000/yr. Software Engineer (Ref#9695907) Drve impctfl Intiatv's for the data sharing & colabrtnn featurs. Dvlop & scale java-basd bckend srvc's & APIs to intgrate UI Features & spport extrnl dvloprs. \$161637 - 220800/yr.

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