

# The Almanac

NONPROFIT LOCAL NEWS FOR THE MIDPENINSULA

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## Speech therapist's dog wows Woodside Elementary

In and out of the classroom, 'facility dog' Brandy is a hit with kids, staff

By Sydney Feldman

When Jennifer Mitchell left her Woodside Elementary office on a sunny morning in June, students immediately flocked to her. Most of them don't work directly with Mitchell, the school's speech therapist, but they were very interested in the dog at her feet.

Brandy, a mid-sized Labrador-golden retriever mix, is everyone's favorite addition to campus. Trained as a service dog, she assists Mitchell with her speech therapy students at Woodside Elementary. Although Mitchell only sees around 55 of the school's almost 400 students, Brandy has had an outsized role in making campus a happier place to be.

"When she walks around campus, you watch everyone's cortisol levels drop," Jennifer Parker, a middle school science teacher, said of the stress hormone. "Physically, people take

a deep breath and look at her, and that is something unlike anything I've ever seen."

Mitchell first encountered a teacher using a dog while she was doing contract work with the Hillsborough City School District. Mitchell spent several summers at the schools' special education program, and said the dog had a powerful effect on the students. At the time, Mitchell already had two pet dogs at home and was unsure about having a third. Several years later, when one of them died, she decided to take the plunge and get a specially trained dog of her own.

While a service dog aids one individual, Mitchell wanted a facility dog, an animal that could serve the needs of students at Woodside Elementary. Getting approved was a lengthy process.

Mitchell first applied to become a handler in 2023 with

See **THERAPY DOG**, page 18



Anna Hoch-Kenney

Jennifer Mitchell, a speech and language therapist and facility dog handler at Woodside Elementary, takes the school facility dog, Brandy, for a walk around the school in Woodside on June 10.

## Change of plans: Research campus to leave Menlo Park headquarters to make way for more housing

Parkline project at SRI's site adds 10-story offices and more single-family homes to redevelopment application

By Arden Margulis

Menlo Park's third-largest employer could leave the city, making way for a significant expansion of new housing on its redeveloped campus.

Newly filed documents outline dramatic changes in the Parkline development at 333 Ravenswood Ave., the research campus SRI International has occupied since 1947.

Lane Partners, a Menlo Park-based developer that's been working on the redevelopment of the 64-acre campus since

2018, submitted a revised application to the city in May that calls for taller buildings, less office space and nearly 400 units of for-sale housing in addition to the already planned 800 rental units.

The city previously approved a development agreement allowing Parkline to add more housing to the project with an expedited review but capped office and research space at 925,000 square feet. Lane Partners' initial proposal, submitted in October 2022, included almost 1.4 million square feet of office and research space, a number

that has dropped significantly in response to residents' concerns.

The newly submitted plans shrink office space even further, down to 900,000 square feet, after SRI officials decided to move all research and development activity off-site. Previously, SRI planned to maintain three existing buildings on the campus.

According to the application, SRI will relocate from the campus but is interested in occupying one of the newly built buildings on the redeveloped site.

SRI was founded in 1946 at another site in Menlo Park

by Stanford University. Then known as Stanford Research Institute, it is responsible for major technological innovations over the ensuing decades, including developing the computer mouse and the Siri personal assistant, familiar to users of Apple products. In the 1970s, it was renamed SRI International after parting ways with Stanford. It currently has 582 employees in Menlo Park, making it the city's third-largest employer, after Meta and Snowflake.

SRI did not immediately respond to a request for

comment on its plans to leave its longtime headquarters. Menlo Park resident Mark Murray, Lane Partner's lead on the project, said that, while he didn't know SRI's plans, the company may be interested in staying in the area.

"Having existing buildings there before was actually a pretty big design challenge," Murray said in an interview. Without having to keep those three SRI buildings, developers had more of a "blank canvas" to work with, he said.

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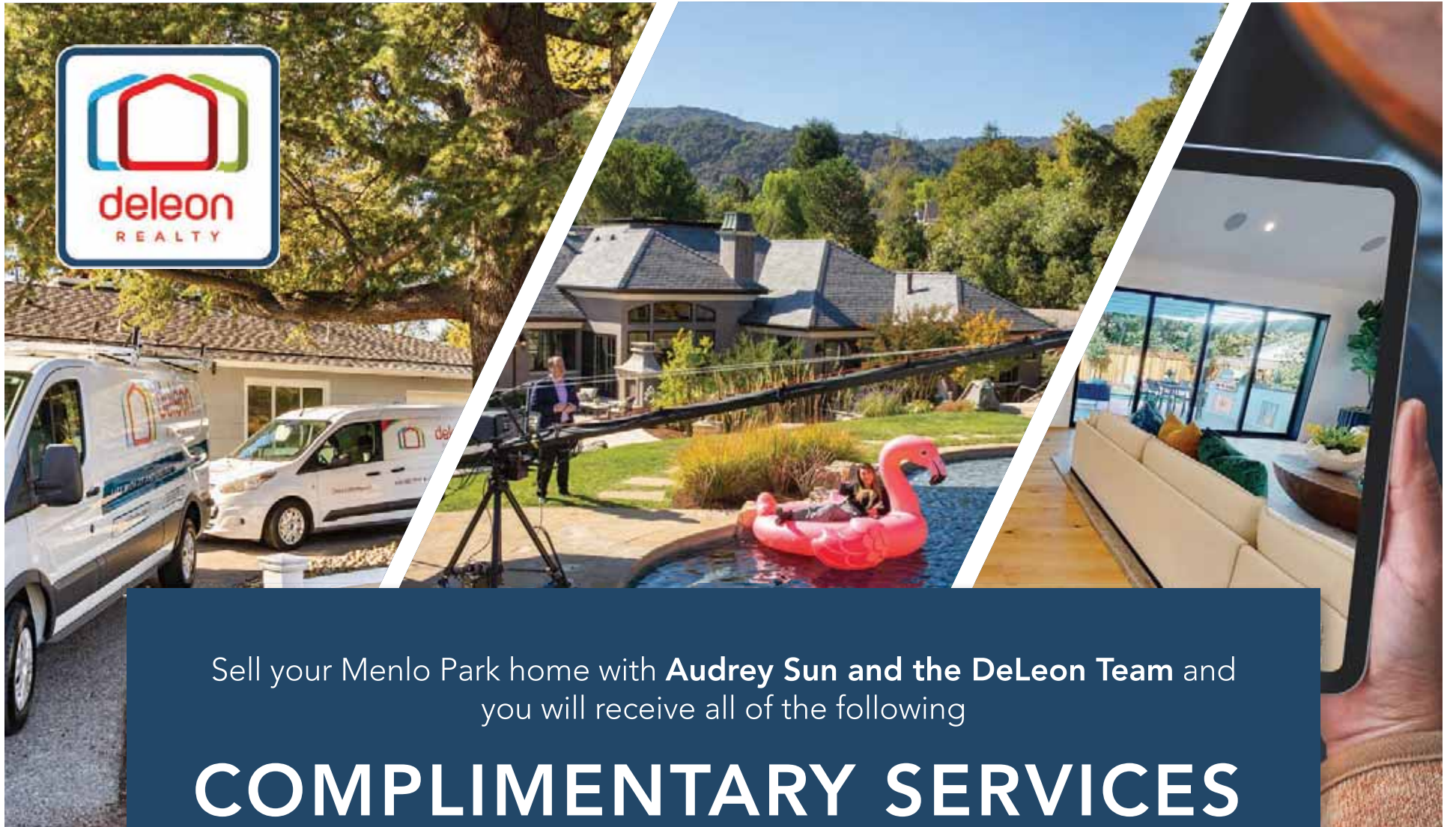
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# Aging with *Dignity*

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## Meet Marie.

At 72, she's a proud grandmother who treasures staying close to her family. This spring, as she celebrated her birthday through video calls, laughter, and messages from loved ones around the world, she reflected on how much her independence means to her. But living alone had started to feel harder—preparing balanced meals was tiring, arranging safe transportation felt stressful, and she worried about becoming isolated.

That's when Marie connected with PVI.

Today, one of her favorite parts of the week is visiting the Adult Activity Center at Little House, where she takes classes, shares laughter, and enjoys meaningful conversations with friends. Nutritious meals are delivered to her door, and with RIDE PVI, she can travel safely to appointments, run errands, and stay connected to her community.

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# Local News

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Seeger Gray

Students walk to class at the start of the school day at Belle Haven Elementary in Menlo Park on Jan. 6.

## Ravenswood credits its transformation to community's faith in its school district

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

For generations, public schools in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood were in dire need of renovations. Roofs leaked when it rained, and heaters broke in the winter. These days, Ravenswood City School District campuses boast newly constructed buildings and fields, and are covered in greenery.

Over the last decade, Ravenswood successfully

passed four bond measures totalling over \$200 million that have funded the renovation of three of its schools, with another underway. The key to winning votes is "building community trust," said Superintendent Gina Sudaria.

Ravenswood has seen an overwhelmingly positive response to bond measures on election ballots in the past decade. Starting in 2016, Measure H received 87% voter approval and the most recent,

Measure A on the June 2 ballot, won with nearly 70% in semi-official results. Both needed 55% approval to pass.

District officials said asking the community for money again and again is nerve-racking, but try to ask for no more than is necessary and make sure the promised improvements are evident. In the past four years, the district has been able to modernize and rebuild three of its four campuses.

See **RAVENSWOOD**, page 12

## Menlo Park council looks to axe child care, pool hours as deficit looms

Members push for more cuts to make up for \$1.8M shortfall

By Arden Margulis

The Menlo Park City Council is pushing for more cuts to the city's budget after staff suggested only \$700,000 in service reductions.

At its June 9 meeting, the City Council largely supported city staff's recommendations and backed cutting pool hours to save an additional \$400,000. However, those reductions would only shrink the anticipated budget deficit down to \$1.8 million out of the city's \$90.5 million budget for fiscal year 2026-27, which starts on July 1.

The council asked staff to consider reducing or eliminating Menlo Children's Center, the city's child care program, and identifying other ways to cut expenses without firing personnel. While city staff does not have enough time to consider extensive reductions before its June 23 meeting, the council said it wants further discussions on measures to reduce deficits to take place throughout the year. "A \$700,000 reduction is less than a 1% cut across the board. If we are supposed to be making hard choices, that would be a 5% or 10% reduction," Councilmember Jeff Schmidt said at the June 9 meeting.

The state's new budget

proposal may offer Menlo Park a potential reprieve from more serious cutbacks. California's proposal includes almost \$77 million for San Mateo County cities and the county government for in-lieu vehicle license fee (VLF) payments following vigorous lobbying by local officials. However, that represents only 40% of the \$119 million the cities and county say they are owed.

The city would not say how much of that \$77 million it might receive from the state, but spokesperson Kendra Calvert said the sum would be available 72 hours before the council's June 23 meeting, when it's required under state law to release its staff report.

At the June 9 meeting, the City Council supported reductions that mainly affect the library and community services department and public works.

To save \$270,000, the City Council supported reducing contracts and temporary employee hours, which would reduce the frequency of events and programs like the "Library Adventure" scavenger hunt, according to Library and Community Services Director Nick Szegda.

See **DEFICIT**, page 7

## Iranian hackers claim access to Cal Water customer data, ability to shut off service

By Arden Margulis

An Iranian hacking group claimed it infiltrated California Water Service's systems, obtaining customer data and boasting that it had the ability to turn off water service in response to U.S. forces allegedly attacking a reservoir in Iran.

Cal Water said it had no evidence of any network being compromised.

The water provider serves 2 million people statewide, across 23 districts that include Menlo Park, Atherton, Los Altos, San Mateo and Livermore. It is part of the publicly traded California Water Service Group, which has

customers in five states.

The cybersecurity group Dataminr reported that the Handala Hack Team claimed to have breached Cal Water's systems on June 11 and released a 5-gigabyte sample of data the hackers said they obtained.

Dataminr said that the sample included customer data including names, service addresses, phone numbers, account numbers and payment history. Handala also appeared to have breached a system used for GPS tracking of Cal Water crews in at least seven Cal Water districts, including San Mateo.

"Our investigation remains ongoing, but our preliminary

findings indicate that there are no known operational disruptions to our water and wastewater systems, including the billing platform," Cal Water spokesperson Yvonne Kingman said in a statement.

In a public blog post on June 11, the Handala Hack Team said the hack was retribution for a recent U.S. military operation. "Only two days ago, (President Donald Trump) destroyed the water sources of the oppressed people of Sirik with multimillion-dollar rockets, inflicting forced thirst and suffering in 50-degree (Celsius) heat."

The group said the attack was a warning and claimed it had

the capability to shut off water service. "We could have easily cut off the water to American cities just as your foolish president did, but our path and our school are different," it wrote.

However, some cybersecurity experts said that there is no evidence that Handala can turn off water service and said the group has a history of overstating its capabilities.

"The boast about choosing to spare the water supply reads as the psychological operation itself," Sean Malone, chief information security officer at BeyondTrust told Security, an industry publication.

"Iranian threat actors are

known to overstate their impact," Dataminr spokesperson Jeff Gordon told this news organization. Gordon said that Handala claimed it had authenticated access to facilities in San Mateo, Bakersfield and Visalia.

Dataminr advised that Handala, which is suspected to be affiliated with the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence, sometimes escalates attacks, including through data destruction, after an initial claim. In April, several federal agencies warned that Iranian groups were targeting U.S. utilities and water suppliers. ■

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

# Midpeninsula school districts plan for phone-free classrooms in the fall

## Sequoia Union High School District debates phone use during break periods

By Jennifer Yoshikoshi

Local schools across the Midpeninsula are turning classrooms into phone-free zones over growing concerns about social media and cell phone addictions that can lead to harmful mental health impacts on students.

In 2024, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the Phone-Free School Act, requiring schools to implement a policy to limit or prohibit the use of smartphones during instruction by July 2026. As the deadline approaches, Menlo Park City School District recently adopted a policy and Sequoia Union High School District is set to adopt a policy for the next school year.

Neighboring school districts, including Portola Valley, Woodside, Ravenswood and Las Lomas, have already implemented their own phone-free policies.

### High schools plan for partial phone ban

Sequoia Union High School District is expected to adopt a partial ban by the end of the month. During a June 10 board meeting, the Board of Trustees agreed on a proposed policy that would only ban cell phones during instructional periods for the 2026-27 school year, rather than a bell-to-bell, which would prohibit phone use during lunch and passing periods.

Despite a district-wide survey showing that a majority of parents and students prefer some access to cell phones during school hours, multiple people spoke at the recent board meeting opposing the partial ban.



Magali Gauthier

A student looks at a phone before slipping it into a pouch at the start of the school day.

Cheryl Westmont, co-chair of the Peninsula chapter of Mothers Against Media Addiction (MAMA), said the district's survey results were not conclusive and shared her concerns about the rise in anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation caused by excessive smartphone use.

According to a board presentation in May, only 3.5% of the district's parents responded to the survey. A little over 37% of survey respondents said they think the existing policy is effective and about 31% said it needs improvement.

A follow-up survey of about 1,500 parents and 1,700 students found support for restricting phone use only during instruction. Staff, however, favor banning phones for the full school day.

Trustee Maria Cruz said she doesn't support an all-out ban because students won't be able to contact their family members during emergencies. The policy

also lacks details about consequences for using phones during school hours, she added.

"There's a lot of logistics that we have to think about before we go to the all-day ban for kids. I'm not saying kids are not addicted, I think they are, but some kids also utilize them as tools," Cruz said.

Dr. Elizabeth Nadiv, a pediatrician and mother of a rising freshman at Carlmont High School, urged the board to adopt a full cell phone restriction. She cited scientific reports showing reduced attention and cognitive performance from just the presence of a phone, even if it's powered off and stored in a pocket or a backpack. Nadiv said research shows that the more students think about their phones, the lower their recall accuracy and academic performance.

"An instruction-only ban that leaves phones accessible during passing periods and lunch guarantees this cognitive drain is persistent through the entire

school day," Nadiv said.

Dr. Jacob Ballon, a Stanford University psychiatrist, added that studies have shown "adolescents at school who are not in possession of their phone have increased social interaction."

While a handful of parents attempted to encourage the board to implement a full phone ban, Associate Superintendent Bonnie Hansen continued to support the district staff's recommendation for a partial ban. She explained that the times between classes are short. Lunch is 30 minutes and passing periods are just five minutes.

Although the district has not adopted an official policy, individual campuses such as Woodside High School have had cell phone-limiting rules since 2024. The school requires students to leave their phones in "pockets" during class but they are allowed to access them during brunch and lunch.

Trustee Sathvik Nori and Mary Beth Thompson were the only board members to support a bell-to-bell ban. Thompson said she thinks a full ban would help students learn how to self-regulate, while a partial restriction would allow them to feed into the addiction during passing periods and lunch.

"Bell-to-bell is that scaffold that actually allows students to experience what it's like to work on these social skills that have really been lacking," she said.

When the board meets on June 17 to take a final vote on the cell phone policy, it will include a couple of modifications: another parent survey will

See **PHONES**, page 17

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### All Five hosts open house

All Five, a preschool in Menlo Park, is hosting a 10th-anniversary open house to celebrate a decade of equitable early learning, from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 11. The school invites the community along with prospective, current and alumni families to join the event.

The open house will feature games, snacks, music and campus tours where guests can meet teachers and learn more about the program.

For more information visit [tinyurl.com/AllFiveOpenHouse](http://tinyurl.com/AllFiveOpenHouse).

### Willow Road affordable housing waitlist opens

MidPen Housing is accepting applications for one-bedroom affordable housing units at Willow Terrace, located at 1121 Willow Road in Menlo Park, until 5 p.m. on July 10.

Amenities include on-site laundry, free-way access, nearby public transportation and updated kitchens. Willow Terrace is also in close proximity to restaurants, retail, grocery stores and schools.

Applications may be submitted electronically, by mail or in person at the property management office at 2358 University Ave. in East Palo Alto.

For more information on how to apply, visit [midpen-housing.org/property/willow-terrace/](http://midpen-housing.org/property/willow-terrace/). For updated information on the available units, call 650-852-1519 or email [willowterrace@midpen-housing.org](mailto:willowterrace@midpen-housing.org).

### Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Park docent training

The Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Park are welcoming nature enthusiasts to join its naturalist docent training cohort in August. The organization is looking for volunteers who are available to share the

history of the parks through school programs, guided hikes and public education.

The training will allow docents to learn about local plants, wildlife, ecology and history. The cohort will also receive hands-on training and mentorship. No experience is necessary. For more information email [fhwp2961@gmail.com](mailto:fhwp2961@gmail.com).

### Menlo Park student biking practice

Menlo Park Safe Routes to School will be hosting a parent-child bicycle ride for incoming sixth graders at Hillview Middle School at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 15. This event gives students and families a chance to practice their new bicycle commute from their home neighborhoods to campus.

Starting points will vary by neighborhoods. For more information visit [tinyurl.com/HillviewBikeRide](http://tinyurl.com/HillviewBikeRide). ■

— Jennifer Yoshikoshi

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# Peninsula homeowners try to cash in on World Cup visitors

Thousands of listing compete for soccer fans as Levi's Stadium hosts games

By Angela Swartz

A six-bedroom, 4.5-bath home built in 2019 in Woodside markets itself on Airbnb as the "Ultimate World Cup HQ," complete with a fireplace, alfresco dining area, barbecue and space for 11 guests. The property was listed at \$11,241 for a minimum five-night stay. More modest is a one-bedroom guesthouse with a private hot tub in Mountain View, also listed on Airbnb at \$1,414 for a four-night minimum stay.

Although the two properties offer different experiences, they shared one thing in common in the days leading up to FIFA Men's World Cup matches at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara: Both were still available.

For some Peninsula homeowners, the World Cup represented an opportunity to generate extra income by renting out spare rooms, guest houses and entire homes to visiting soccer fans. But while the tournament is drawing visitors to the Bay Area, some local listings still had availability in the days leading up to matches, suggesting the payoff may be smaller than many hosts expected.

"My impression is that Mountain View may not be

the first place that comes to mind for many World Cup visitors coming to the Bay Area," said Mahsa, an Airbnb host in Mountain View who declined to share her last name. She has been an Airbnb host since 2021 after a home remodel. "I assume many tourists may be looking first at larger cities or more landmark-based locations, depending on their travel plans, transportation and where the specific ... events they are attending are located."

Mahsa said she uses Airbnb's Smart Pricing tool, which automatically adjusts rates based on market demand. Despite the World Cup, she said, "I didn't notice much difference from our typical summer rates."

The tournament is being played across 16 cities in the United States, Canada and Mexico, giving visitors a wide range of destinations and lodging options.

The Wall Street Journal pointed out that although hosts around the country prepared for an influx of guests in tournament cities during the games, rising airfare costs from soaring jet fuel prices, expensive ticket prices, visa issues and the fact that the tournament is sprawled across three countries. Locally, SFGATE reported that entire

rows of seats were empty at Levi's Stadium.

Still, the tournament appears to be giving local hosts a boost on game days.

There are 5,086 short-term rental listings in the greater San Jose market, which includes Mountain View, Menlo Park, Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto and Stanford, according to according to short-term rental diagnostics company AirDNA, which tracks Airbnb, Vrbo, Expedia, Booking.com and other rental platforms. Despite that level of competition, hosts in the market saw a notable increase in demand during the opening match.

**'I didn't notice much difference from our typical summer rates.'**

MAHSA, AIRBNB HOST  
IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

Bram Gallagher, AirDNA's director of economics and forecasting, said hosts in the market saw a 20% increase in revenue during the first World Cup match between Qatar and Switzerland at Levi's Stadium on June 13, while occupancy reached 93%.

"A 20% lift in revenue is nothing to sneeze at," Gallagher said. "And in this market, particularly when we're talking about one of the highest revenue weekends of the year. ... I'm really interested

to see what the lift is between the games as well. We're not going to have data on that just yet."

The World Cup has generated considerable excitement among short-term rental operators because it is the first time the U.S. has hosted the men's tournament since platforms like Airbnb, Vrbo and Booking.com became mainstream.

In the months leading up to the tournament, Airbnb encouraged homeowners to list properties in World Cup cities and offered \$750 to new hosts in any of the 16 World Cup venues, including the greater Bay Area.

The company also cited a Deloitte study estimating that Bay Area hosts could earn roughly \$450 to \$500 per night and about \$3,000 on average over the course of the event. The same study ranked the San Francisco Bay Area as the second-strongest FIFA 2026 short-term rental market after Los Angeles.

"It's a generational opportunity for short-term rental hosts," said Jeremy Layton, a marketing lead with landlord insurance company Steadily.

"The World Cup was a talk of the (short-term rental) industry for several months leading up to it," he said. "It's a big deal. You really get this massive influx of tourism."

Layton said demand is likely stronger in some cities hosting matches featuring powerhouse teams such as Argentina, Brazil, Germany, France and England. Because the tournament is being

played in multiple cities and countries, visitors have a wide range of destinations to choose from.

He also noted that local Bay Area regulations can make short-term rentals more difficult to operate than in some other World Cup host regions. Rules vary significantly across the Peninsula and South Bay, with different permit systems, taxes and restrictions from city to city.

For example, in Redwood City, guest houses, cottages, in-law units, accessory dwelling units and junior ADUs permitted after January 2020 cannot be used as short-term rentals, according to the city website. Palo Alto and Mountain View require a business license from each city's finance department.

For homeowners considering listing their properties during major events, hosting can involve more work than simply posting a listing online.

"It is not just listing a space online," Mahsa said in an email. "Hosts need to think through cleaning, guest communication, supplies, check-in logistics, maintenance, reviews and occasional last-minute issues. Hosts also need to have a very reliable way to stay reachable for guests, especially around check-in time or if something unexpected comes up. It can be a helpful source of income, but it is definitely not completely passive." ■

Angela Swartz is a  
Contributing Writer.

## DEFICIT

continued from page 5

The City Council also supported eliminating a \$105,000 contract that supported communications related to the Safe Routes to School program.

The City Council directed staff to eliminate or reduce several contracts that support weeding and maintenance on city streets and medians. To save a combined \$211,000, the city is set to reduce contracts that support weeding and landscaping by 20% in city-owned medians.

The City Council also supported eliminating a \$43,000 contract that maintains decorative string lights on trees downtown. Without the contract, when the lights burn out they will not be repaired.

The only item where the City Council differed from city staff's recommendation was eliminating a contract that put up lights on Menlo Park's holiday tree in Fremont Park and at the Belle Haven Community Campus. While city staff initially suggested holding an event in place of the longstanding "tree-lighting celebration,"

the City Council said it would prefer to keep the trees lit and instead end the annual holiday tree-lighting celebration since the largest expense associated with the event is city staff time. Szegda told the council that for the Fremont Park event downtown, city staffers spend around 250 hours planning it and 87 hours on the day of the event. The Belle Haven celebration is less involved and requires 40 to 50 hours of planning and 60 hours on the day of the event.

The City Council directed staff to do more research on the actual cost of the event to determine whether eliminating or reducing it could fund lighting the holiday trees in Fremont Park and at the Belle Haven Community Campus.

The City Council also directed staff to review eliminating a \$400,000 subsidy to the city's pool operator, Team Sheper, that keeps both the Burgess and Belle Haven pools open for more hours.

The City Council is set to vote on the city's budget on June 23. ■

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

## TOWN OF WOODSIDE 2955 WOODSIDE ROAD WOODSIDE, CA 94062

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEARBY GIVEN THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF WOODSIDE will hold a hybrid public hearing allowing for the option to attend by teleconference/video conference or in person in Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 6:00 PM, to consider:

**301 Olive Hill Lane**

**Peter Mason, Mason Architects**

Presentation, review, and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a Variance for a proposal to demolish an existing pool located within the required side setbacks, and to construct/install a new pool, pool equipment, and an emergency generator located within the required side setback, along with additional associated site improvements.

This application is Categorically Exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15303(e), new construction of small structures including appurtenant structures and swimming pools.

**1 Montelena Lane**

**Rebekah Whitter**

Planning Commission review to determine General Plan conformance of a proposal to abandon one existing 80-foot-wide Conservation Easement adjacent to Woodside Road to allow future construction of an Accessory Dwelling Unit(s). If the proposal is determined to be in conformance with the General Plan, the Town Council will review the proposal to abandon the easement at a later date to be determined.

The project is Categorically Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15303(e), which includes accessory structures; and Public Resources Code Section 21080, which applies to ministerial approvals.

All interested parties are invited to submit written comments to [jpaping@woodsideca.gov](mailto:jpaping@woodsideca.gov) and/or attend in person or virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736> and give testimony.



## Rachel Crawford Valentine

October 24, 1935 – May 20, 2026

Rachel passed away peacefully on May 20th at the age of ninety. Deeply loved by her family, she will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Born Rachel Crawford in Emporia, Kansas in 1935, Rachel graduated from Emporia State University in 1957 with a bachelor's degree in Education. Following graduation, she put her creative talents to work as the continuity writer for the local radio station, KVOE – "The Voice of Emporia". Ready for a new adventure, she journeyed to Southern California to pursue her passion for teaching. There she met the love of her life, Donald, and they married at Wayfarers Chapel in Rancho Palos Verdes in 1961. The following year they moved north, eventually settling in Woodside, California.

Whether in Woodside or traveling the world, Rachel embraced life's vibrant experiences. At home and among friends, she played tennis and loved bridge. She and her friend Marian started a Fairchild Semiconductor ladies bridge group, which continued for over 40 years. A prolific reader, she shared her joy of books with family and friends – Anthony Trollope was a favorite author.

Rachel and Donald shared a passion for the symphony, opera, and musical theater. She delighted in her time at the Woodside Atherton Garden Club, Menlo Country Club, The Stock Farm, and The Estancia Club. Needlepoint was her favorite creative activity. Her incredible work continues to grace the homes of her children and grandchildren. When each grandchild was born, she designed and created an individual piece. She also organized a needlepoint group that completed a large-scale piece depicting iconic images of the Stanford University campus that is displayed at the official residence of Stanford's president.

A consummate hostess, Rachel made her home a hub of hospitality. She threw wonderful dinner parties and was a dazzling cook who delighted in trying bold, spicy foods. She would never serve a guest the same meal twice and always had room for any of her children's friends who found themselves with nowhere to go for Thanksgiving. Her Julia Child cookbook is lovingly worn and spattered.

She is preceded by her beloved husband of 58 years, Donald. She is survived by her children, Christian, Mark, and Hilary, and their families. To her seven grandchildren, she was Grandmother.

The Valentine family wishes to extend their deep gratitude to Rachel's devoted and loving caregivers, most importantly Katie, who was an indefatigably attentive and compassionate companion for over nine years, allowing Rachel to live with joy and dignity during her later years.

Rachel will be long remembered for her wonderful smile, quick wit, vibrant passion, and kind heart.

Private family arrangements are being held.

PAID OBITUARY

## Menlo Park revamps its burglar alarm registration program

By Sydney Feldman

Beginning July 1, the Menlo Park Police Department is reintroducing its Alarm Response Program, which requires all Menlo Park residential and commercial alarm systems to be registered and renewed annually.

The program aims to improve emergency response efficiency, reduce false alarm calls and ensure officers have accurate contact information during emergencies, according to a city-issued press release.

Starting Aug. 1, the city will increase fees for false alarm calls. While the first false alarm remains free, the second will

cost \$88, and the fee for each additional false call increases by \$25 up to the seventh for a final price of \$213. High-risk alarms, which typically involve commercial incidents such as bank heists or armed robberies, will be subject to a \$370 charge on the second false alarm.

The department is partnering with third-party vendor Turbo Data to manage registration. Nicole Acker, the police department's internal services manager, said the streamlined system will make it easier for residents to register and submit payments. The department previously processed registrations manually, which led to delays and administrative

issues. The new portal also allows officers dispatched to investigate an alarm to see the name and contact information of the registrant who will meet them onsite.

To enroll, users will create a profile on getaPERMIT — the same platform the city uses for overnight parking permits — which will ask each residence or business to list three people who can be present in emergency situations. Permits cost \$50 each year. Find more information on [menlopark.gov/alarms](http://menlopark.gov/alarms). ■

Email Editorial Intern Sydney Feldman at [sfeldman@almanacnews.com](mailto:sfeldman@almanacnews.com).

## San Mateo County's unofficial results show Camacho winning superintendent of schools race

By Thomas Hughes / Bay City News Service

Héctor Camacho appears to have won a closely contested race for San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools, after the latest batch of votes was processed Monday afternoon, June 15.

Results from the San Mateo County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder & Chief Elections Officer show Camacho with a lead over opponent Chelsea Bonini of nearly 12,000 votes, with no more outstanding ballots left to process.

As of Monday, Camacho led the unofficial results with 86,428 votes, or about 53.7% of those cast, to Bonini's 74,517 votes or 46.3%.

Any ballots that were mailed by election day and arrive by Tuesday will still be counted and there were about 1,000 challenged ballots that need to be reviewed. The results will be certified by July 2.

With only two candidates in the race, the winner will be declared without needing a runoff in the general election, which occurs if no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote.

Camacho is the current executive director of Equity, Social Justice, and Inclusion at the San Mateo County Office of Education.

He said his campaign focused on supporting early literacy programs, teacher retention and expanding college and career preparation programs.

"This campaign has always been about children and the communities that surround them," Camacho said in a statement.



Courtesy San Mateo County Office of Education via Bay City News  
**Héctor Camacho**

"People from every corner of San Mateo County came together around a simple belief: every child deserves the opportunity to thrive. I am profoundly grateful to the volunteers, families, educators, students, and neighbors who placed their trust in me. I carry that trust with humility, and I will work every day to honor it," he said.

Bonini is a member of the San Mateo County Office of Education Board of Trustees, a teacher and attorney who received the endorsements of the California Teachers Association and state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond.

She did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Camacho trailed slightly in the contest on election night, but later updates pushed him ahead point by point.

"The election may be ending, but the work is just beginning," Camacho said. "At a time when public education faces both extraordinary opportunities

and significant challenges, our responsibility is to move forward together, ensuring every child is seen, supported, and prepared for whatever path they choose."

San Mateo County has 23 independent school districts. The superintendent of schools oversees the San Mateo County Office of Education, which approves each district's budget and ensures schools are complying with state and federal requirements.

The superintendent also oversees special education programs, among other duties. They serve a 4-year term.

Camacho will take over from outgoing Superintendent of Schools Marco Chavez, who was appointed to the role last February following the retirement of Nancy Magee.

Magee died in April after battling cancer, according to U.S. Rep. Kevin Mullin, D-San Mateo.

Both Magee and Mullin endorsed Camacho, as did four of the five current members of the county Board of Supervisors, multiple labor organizations and local teachers' chapters, California Working Families Party and others.

Camacho holds a master's degree in education from Stanford University.

He served for over a decade on the San Mateo County Board of Education, and represented South San Francisco, San Bruno, and portions of Daly City, according to his campaign website.

He was previously a teacher and served as an advisory or administrator at Saint Francis High School, Columbia Middle School and schools in Sequoia Union High School District. ■



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# Stanford graduates urged to be optimistic, seek justice in clashing ceremonies

Google CEO Sundar Pichai and pro-Palestinian activist Mahmoud Khalil headline two commencement events

By Gennady Sheyner

Wacky walks, customized gowns and euphoric cheers marked Stanford University's commencement ceremony on June 14, where more than 5,000 graduates marked major life milestones and where attendees had a chance to hear from two speakers, both immigrants, who in many ways epitomize the current moment in America's history.

One was Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google, AI enthusiast and prominent member of the tech elite class who had front row seats at President Donald Trump's

inauguration in January 2025. The other was Mahmoud Khalil, a Columbia University graduate and pro-Palestinian activist who last year became the face of Trump's deportation effort when he was forced to spend 104 days at an ICE detention center in Louisiana.

Pichai took the stage at Stanford's formal ceremony, where he delivered the keynote address and urged graduates to remain optimistic, pursue ambitious challenges and embrace their passions. Khalil spoke at the "People's Commencement," a smaller student-led ceremony where speakers urged hundreds of attendees to follow their

convictions and to speak out in the face of injustice.

The two ceremonies highlighted the two sides of Stanford, which is both an engine of technological innovation and a scene of heated debates over social justice, whether domestically or in Gaza and West Bank. On the main stage, the Google CEO offered graduates a sunny message about following their dreams. On the smaller stage, a banner with the words "ICE Spies with Google AI" flapped in the wind.

The events also reflected two different views of Stanford. For Pichai, the university represented an entry into the technology world where he now occupies a critical role. He said that before he came to Stanford, he didn't have much access to computers. He was elated to arrive at the university and see "rows and rows of computers that I can use any time I want."

President Jonathan Levin similarly spoke in glowing terms about the role of Stanford, where the campus has felt "open and expansive, an environment of discovery and collisions and new perspectives."

"Universities are designed to bring together people with a vast array of expertise and different ways of looking at, and thinking about the world," Levin said. "This is the great power of the university."

Despite his status as one of the major players in the quickly expanding field of artificial intelligence, Pichai steered largely clear of mentioning the topic, aside from a quip about his own name containing the initials AI. Perhaps mindful of the strong — and mostly negative — reaction that other AI evangelists have received in recent commencement ceremonies, the Google CEO talked about his upbringing in Chennai, India, his arrival to the United States in the early-Internet days of 1990s and the positive impact that technology has had on his family.

Pichai offered a simple message to the graduates: stay optimistic. He told a story about the day he arrived in California, where he expected to see lush forests but was instead confronted with a brown landscape. His host at the time said that they prefer to see it as "golden," a shift in perspective from which Pichai drew inspiration.

"The world is going through a lot — global conflicts, economic



Andrew Brodhead/Stanford University

Google and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai addresses graduates at Stanford University's commencement ceremony on June 14.

anxiety, a rewiring of technology, information overload, and all at a past pace," Pichai said. "It's easy to look at the news of the day and think we're living in uniquely challenging times."

"For me, it's helpful to remember that each generation faced hardships in its own ways. We don't get to choose the world we graduate into, but we do get to choose how we frame our circumstances."

He also urged the graduates to gravitate toward difficult projects. He recalled his own journey at Google, including his experience on the small team that developed the Chrome browser.

"Working on hard things taught me a lot," he said. "It typically attracts other great and optimistic people, and even if you miss meeting the high goals you set, you will still achieve something great."

"So, if you have a choice to work on something hard, say yes."

As per tradition, the Stanford commencement featured plenty of signs, props and goofy outfits. Some graduates held up enlarged ID cards with their future occupations while others wore Storm Trooper helmets, lucha libre masks or inflatable rubber ducks around their cardinal-red sashes.

But if the formal ceremony was intentionally goofy, the informal one near the corner of El Camino Real and Galvez Street was purposefully somber. Hundreds of visitors, many still wearing their caps and gowns, came to the "People's Commencement," where the lectern was decorated with a Palestinian flag, where proceedings kicked off with an acknowledgement that the university sits on the ancestral Muwekma Ohlone land, and where speakers offered somewhat less sanguine views on university culture.

Here, visitors heard from Dr. Mohammed Subeh, an emergency physician who recalled his harrowing trip to treat patients in Gaza, and from Eva Jones, a Stanford teaching assistant who leads a group called Tech for Liberation, which opposes

the deployment of emergent technology for surveillance and military use.

Subeh recalled the persistent sound of drones, any of which could drop a bomb at any time. He was told they were precise, AI-guided weapons, but this was "far from reality." He recalled "bunker buster" bombs that destroyed a nearby tent encampments; mule-drawn carriages bringing in Palestinian bodies; and children with gruesome injuries.

In recent years, the society has witnessed "moving goalposts of what atrocities are now acceptable," said Subeh. Residents routinely turn a blind eye to injustice.

"Today, it's important to realize that you're not defined by your Stanford pedigree, or the job you hold, or the family you come from, or how much money you have in your bank account," he said. "You're defined by your principles, and the clarity and conviction with which you stand up against oppression, injustice, dehumanization — especially when it's uncomfortable, difficult and risk-laden."

Few epitomize the risks of speaking out more than Mahmoud Khalil, who was targeted for deportation by the Trump administration and who remains in legal limbo. Even though a district judge freed him from detention last year, an appeals court in January reversed that ruling.

Khalil said that he had once believed that universities were "places where difficult conversations can happen — places where truth mattered, places where conscience mattered."

"But how I was wrong," Khalil said. "I learned in these three years that those values are often celebrated in theory and punished in practice, especially when it comes to Palestine."

Khalil graduated from Columbia University last year but did not attend his commencement ceremony because he was detained by ICE. As his

## Marion Farrell Moreno

April 6, 1924 – January 12, 2026

Marion Farrell Moreno, née Marion Georgette Thompson, died peacefully at home in Menlo Park, California, on January 12, 2026, at the age of 101.

Marion was born in San Francisco, California, on April 6, 1924, to Ruth and Walter Thompson. In 1943, she married Jack Dempsey Farrell, with whom she had three children: David Farrell, Thomas Patrick Farrell, and Nancy Ann Freitas. Marion was a dedicated home-



maker and loving mother, raising her family in the Menlo Park home that she and Jack built together in 1955. She remained in that beloved family home for the rest of her life.

After Jack's death in 1988, Marion later married Halcott "Hal" Cadwallader Moreno in 1991. Hal moved into Marion's Menlo Park home, and the two shared two decades of marriage until Hal's death in 2011. Together, Marion and Hal enjoyed an active and joyful life filled with travel, friends, family gatherings, parties, and music concerts, especially jazz. Their adventures included 55 cruises around the world, creating a treasury of memories with those who knew and loved them.

Marion is survived by her sons, David Farrell and his wife Julie, and Thomas Patrick Farrell and his wife Laurie; and by her son-in-law, Robert Freitas, husband of Marion's late daughter, Nancy Ann Freitas, who died in 2024 at the age of 70. Marion was preceded in death by her parents, Ruth and Walter Thompson; her brothers, Edward Thompson and Richard Thompson; her husbands, Jack Dempsey Farrell and Halcott Cadwallader Moreno; and her daughter, Nancy Ann Freitas.

Marion's funeral was held on January 22, 2026, and was attended by many dozens of family members and friends. A full Catholic Mass was celebrated at St. Raymond's Church in Menlo Park, followed by a graveside service at Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery in Los Altos, California.

Marion will be remembered for her devotion to family, her gracious hospitality, her love of music and travel, and the warmth and constancy she brought to the lives of family and friends across more than a century of life.

PAID OBITUARY



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## Martha Jacqueline Enthoven

July 29, 1966 – June 2, 2026

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Martha Jacqueline Enthoven, age 59, on June 2, 2026, of pancreatic cancer.

Martha lived a life rich in love, family, friendship, travel, curiosity, and conversations about the endless array of things that struck her fancy. She was a beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, and aunt—and a dear and inspiring friend to many.

Martha was born in Washington, DC on July 29, 1966 to Rosemary (Fenech) and Alain Charles Enthoven. She subsequently moved with her family to Santa Monica and then to Atherton, California in 1973, where she spent her formative years in a bustling family home on McCormick Lane. She attended Menlo-Atherton High School, Northfield Mount Hermon School and graduated from Georgetown University in the School of Foreign Service in 1989.

In the years to come, Martha would exercise formidable organizational, motivational, and diplomatic skills, early on as a manager for EF (Education First), a global cultural exchange company, and more recently as a life coach.

While at Georgetown, Martha spent her junior year abroad in the United Kingdom studying at St. Hugh's College, Oxford. This was the same college where her paternal grandparents met in the 1920s. Six decades later, it was serendipitously in an Oxford library that Martha met her husband, Daniel Diehl Stid. Martha and Daniel married in Atherton on July 14, 1990. In their 35 years together, they raised four children: Noah, Sophia, Charlotte, and Isabelle.

Motherhood was Martha's most profound calling. She nurtured the unique qualities and dispositions of the four children she cared for so dearly with endless patience, good humor, disarming candor, and—above all else—unconditional love. Whether the family was living in Crawfordsville, Indiana, or Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Boston or Washington, Martha led her household on one grand adventure after another. Her zest for life is reflected in wonderfully different ways in each of her children, and her spirit will live on through them.

In addition to her immediate family, Martha is survived by her parents Alain and Rosemary, her sister Eleanor (William) Hasse, her brothers Andrew (Glory), Nick (Ann) and Dan (Elizabeth) Enthoven, and her sister-in-law Tucker Enthoven and numerous nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her brother Richard.

Martha's deep and abiding connections to her parents and siblings were something to behold. For Martha and Daniel alike, Alain and Rosemary have always been not only wonderful friends, but also inspiring exemplars of how to flourish as a married couple while rearing a large family. And Martha never had more fun than when she and her siblings and their boisterous families were eating and drinking, laughing, skiing, boating, or road-tripping together, or at a spontaneous gathering at our family home.

Martha had another wonderful gift, that of friendship. She leaves behind dear friends and deep connections with extended family members all across the country and indeed around the world. All the conversations, sojourns, and companionship she shared with them—and the attentive care she provided when they most needed help—will remain a lasting part of her legacy.

There will be two memorial services for Martha:

A memorial service followed by a reception will be held at 2 pm on Friday, June 26, 2026 at New Community Church, 1100 Middle Avenue, Menlo Park, California, 94025.

A memorial service followed by a reception will be held at 2 pm on Friday, July 10, 2026 at the Chevy Chase Club, 6100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland, 20815.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Martha's memory to Mainsprings, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that strives "to end generational poverty in rural Tanzania by providing children and families with transformative education, training in restorative agriculture, and caring support." Martha was a longtime supporter and an on-the-ground volunteer for this organization.

PAID OBITUARY

## Mountain lion captured in Redwood City neighborhood

By Bay City News Service

A young mountain lion that wandered into a Redwood City yard on June 15 was successfully captured and released in an open space area in the Santa Cruz Mountains, authorities said.

Redwood City police lifted an alert that was sent at about 11 a.m. for a neighborhood around the 1800 block of Madison Avenue, for residents to keep their pets indoors.

Using drones, police and California Fish and Wildlife officials were able to safely track and then tranquilize the young female mountain lion, estimated to be 1 to 2 years old. The big cat was fitted with a GPS-tracking collar for a UC Santa Cruz study and is being moved to an open space in the Santa Cruz mountains, said Krysten Kellum, a spokesperson for the state wildlife agency.

"This appears to be a no-harm, no-foul situation where a mountain lion has left nearby suitable

habitat and wandered into a populated area," Kellum said.

The agency's response was to first assess the situation and the mountain lion's health before tranquilizing it and moving it. The big cats avoid populated areas and are very wary of humans but sometimes make their way into cities, Kellum said.

"They will typically return to suitable habitat on their own but on occasion need CDFW's intervention to get back to that open space," Kellum said. ■

### RAVENSWOOD

continued from page 5

#### Transforming aging classrooms

The start of the district's transformation began with the 2015 Facilities Master Plan, a blueprint that mapped out a multiyear process to evaluate Ravenswood's campuses and identify improvements for stronger educational programs and safer schools.

But the estimated total for renovations was costly, adding up to over \$332 million, with an expectation that inflation would increase costs in the following years. District officials knew they had to act quickly.

Many of Ravenswood's facilities had not been renovated since the 1950s, said Assistant Superintendent Will Eger. Campuses were riddled with chain link fences, blacktops were cracked, buildings lacked ventilation and play areas would get flooded by rain, he said.

Sudaria described the old classrooms as "uninspiring," requiring teachers to put in a lot of work to transform their spaces into a joyful learning environment.

Voters in 2016 passed Ravenswood's first bond, Measure H for \$26 million, which largely funded the "Safe, Warm, and Dry" project to replace roofs and locks at all sites, according to Eger.

In 2018, nearly 70% of voters approved a \$70 million bond with Measure S, primarily the renovation of Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School. Another \$110 million bond passed in 2022 with 71% approval and earlier this month, a \$70 million bond was approved in the June primary.

Construction on the middle school campus began in March 2022 and was completed in less than two years, with students returning to new classrooms in January 2024.

This school year, Los Robles-Ronald McNair Academy reopened in November 2025 and

two months later, Belle Haven Elementary School welcomed students back to its entirely rebuilt campus in January 2026.

The district has brought in about \$5.5 million in annual revenue from leasing seven of its properties. According to Eger, this translates to more than \$3,000 per student, closing the funding gap between Ravenswood and the rest of San Mateo County schools.

Its current lease sites include two future affordable housing developments, which will offer teacher housing at the former Flood School site and the district office at 2120 Euclid Ave. in East Palo Alto. Other sites are leased to childcare providers such as All Five, Kidango and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative-backed private school, The Primary School, which is shuttering this summer.

#### Building trust and community

Former Ravenswood school board member Sharifa Wilson said when the people of East Palo Alto are asked what word they would use to describe their city, "they say family."

"It's a community that supports one another, that puts its arms around one another, and so the idea of going out and asking for money to do this for our children was something that I felt was going to be very successful, and was proven correct," said Wilson, who also served on the East Palo Alto City Council for 12 years.

Eger explained that people had wanted to see changes in the school district for a long time, but there wasn't enough trust in the school board and district leadership to pull it off.

Sudaria, who joined the district as interim superintendent in 2018, said an alignment between the board and district leadership is necessary to prioritize and strategize the level of improvements Ravenswood has been able to achieve.

"When Gina (Sudaria) says 'This is the right thing to do,' people listen, and all that positivity is a snowball effect," said Eger. This level of confidence in the district comes from Sudaria's years of experience and presence in the community, he added.

Financial transparency and clarity are necessary to build the trust, Sudaria added.

"The community wants what's best for its kids, and that's why we also want to do our due diligence of being very fiscally responsible," she said. "Will (Eger) and the team have done a great job making sure that our dollars go exactly to what we say it's going to do and move quickly...and complete projects, if not close to budget, some of them under budget."

Trust also comes from consistently interacting with local residents and driving change in schools that are accessible to the greater community, Sudaria said. This includes building affordable housing, hosting community events for the Super Bowl and World Cup on Los Robles' new field and allowing everyone to benefit from district improvements.

Across the district's new campuses, Sudaria said she can feel a stronger sense of pride from students and staff.

New campuses are fitted with new technology, building have large windows for natural lighting and new green spaces enable outdoor learning. Los Robles Ronald McNair Academy's new campus, with over 100 trees of 25 unique species, was even recognized as California's first accredited arboretum on a K-12 campus.

"It is extremely rewarding and fulfilling to see that the kids have these nice, clean, bright environments to work in," said Wilson. "It's like shining a big light onto something that was dark and dreary." ■

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



## Spacious Contemporary Home With Marvelous Bay Views

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Perched on an elevated corner lot, this spacious contemporary residence is filled with natural light and showcases marvelous Bay views. Skylights and oversized windows illuminate the dramatic two-story entry foyer, creating a bright and airy atmosphere that enhances the home's open-concept design. Expansive views serve as a stunning backdrop to the living room, primary suite, and wraparound outdoor decks, seamlessly blending indoor and outdoor living. The well designed kitchen, complete with an informal eating area, opens to both the family room and formal dining room, offering an ideal layout for everyday living and effortless entertaining. The flexible floor plan provides excellent separation of space. Two bedrooms on the main level share a hall bathroom, while upstairs, the luxurious primary suite serves as a private sanctuary. Connected by an elevated walkway, it is thoughtfully separated from the guest suite and dedicated office area. Move-in ready and located in a highly sought-after community with access to the excellent Las Lomas School District, the Ladera Recreation Center, the Ladera Country Shopping Center, and Stanford University—all in close proximity—this home presents an outstanding lifestyle opportunity!



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**CAMPUS**

*continued from page 1*

**Townhouses, condos and single-family homes**

A major change in the revised plans calls for increasing the number of housing units from 800 to 1,082. Rather than adding apartments, the new units are townhouses and single-family homes for sale, Murray said.

In total, the project now proposes 108 townhouses and 220 single-family homes, which includes 98 houses on small lots. The plans for 754 for-rent multifamily units are unchanged.

Across all categories of housing, 15% of the units will be set aside at below-market rate. Lane Partners is giving 1.6 acres of land to a yet-to-be-chosen affordable housing developer to build an estimated 154 below-market-rate units, which was already a part of the plan. Murray said Lane Partners is close to finalizing a decision on the affordable housing developer.

**10-story offices plus a 'retail village'**

The old plans called for a "campus amenity building"

offering fitness and conference rooms to office space tenants and food and beverage service to the public, Murray said.

"We really moved away from that. We heard throughout the process that people wanted more of true-blue, organic retail amenities, so we created this retail village, which will be over 40,000 square feet," he said. "We're anticipating that it will be service-oriented, so food and beverage, fitness and things like that."

Other so-called community benefits would expand as well. Under Menlo Park's rules, the project is now required to include over 19 acres of open space, 9 acres of which must be publicly accessible. Lane Partner's revised proposal has nearly 27 acres of open space, with more than 13 acres accessible to the public.

Of that, Lane Partners will give the city 2.7 acres for recreational uses. Murray said that the location and shape of that parcel was modified to accommodate a potential regulation-size soccer or lacrosse field, which city residents said they wanted.

To make room for all of this new development, the commercial space on the SRI campus will get taller and denser. The



Rendering courtesy Lane Partners

Lane Partners is amending its plans for Parkline to include more housing and retail at 333 Ravenswood Ave. in Menlo Park, the longtime home of SRI International.

office buildings, located near the center of the site, will be as tall as 10 stories, or 150 feet high. The multifamily buildings will range from three to six stories (40 to 70 feet). On the previous plans, building heights maxed out at 110 feet.

The offices will share 1,800 parking spaces in two garages. Multifamily housing residents are allotted approximately 1.25 spaces per unit. The townhomes and single-family homes will have two spaces each, plus visitor parking. The affordable housing building is projected

to have one parking space for every two housing units and one visitor parking space every three units.

**Getting approved**

Murray said that Lane Partners is hoping that the city will be able to review and approve the updated plans within the next 12 months. The goal is to begin demolition before the end of 2027.

"I think the city's very aligned with us to move this forward as quickly as possible because they want to see not just the units

approved, but actually built," Murray said.


Menlo Park's expectations for new housing construction were recently dealt a blow from the recent pause of Willow Village in the Belle Haven neighborhood, Meta's \$3.5 billion project with 1.6 million square feet of office space and 1,730 new residential units, plus community benefits like a grocery store. Meta shelved the project on May 1, citing market conditions and its own changing needs.

"Things are improving in the commercial real estate development industry, but it's still very challenging," Murray said. He said that Lane Partners developed the amended plans with financing in mind to ensure that the project can come to fruition.

"The goal is to not only get approved but have something that really works. So we will get our approvals, move to building permits, move to demolition, and hopefully deliver a lot of this housing in the near future," he said.

As of June 17, the city had yet to post information online about the revised plans on the Parkline project's page. ■

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



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- Extreme stress and trauma for pets, often causing them to run away
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- Increased demand on emergency services, pulling resources away from other critical calls

*Stay Safe this 4<sup>th</sup> of July and  
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# Employment

## TECHNOLOGY

Robinhood Markets, Inc. has an opening in Menlo Park, CA for Senior Product Designer (PDMPI5): Execute the technical design of high-priority digital product features, managing the full lifecycle from problem definition and user research through to high-fidelity prototyping and final implementation. Tlcmgt prmttd. Minimum Requirements for Position: Bachelor's degree in Design, Graphic Design, Interaction Design, Human-Computer Interaction or a related field (or foreign equivalent) and five years of progressively responsible experience in the job offered or related occupation. Alternatively, a Master's degree in Design, Graphic Design, Interaction Design, Human-Computer Interaction or a related field (or foreign equivalent) and 3 years of experience in the job offered or related occupation are acceptable. Education or experience must include: 1) Figma and Sketch 2) Advanced prototyping tools 3) Design systems platforms 4) Accessibility and inclusive design standards 5) Qualitative and quantitative research tools 6) Data analysis and experimentation tools 7) Cross-platform design frameworks Salary Rnge: \$186,763 - \$195,000/yr. Background checks req. See bnfits at <https://careers.robinhood.com/benefits>. Apply here: [https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/robinhood/jobs/7960697?t=gh\\_src=&gh\\_jid=7960697](https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/robinhood/jobs/7960697?t=gh_src=&gh_jid=7960697) and indicate job code PDMPI5 in your application.

## ENGINEERING

Robinhood Markets, Inc. has an opening in Menlo Park, CA for Software Engineer (SWE4BMP14): Build, test, and release product-facing features with stringent correctness and scalability requirements. Tlcmgt prmttd. Minimum Requirements for Position: Master's degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Software Engineering or a related field (or foreign equivalent) and 1 year of experience in the job offered or related occupation. Education or experience must include: Java, Kotlin, GoLang, Python, or Scala; Backend service frameworks; RESTful APIs; PostgreSQL, MySQL, Redis, or DynamoDB; Distributed systems; Logging and monitoring tools; and Automated testing frameworks. Salary Rnge: \$161,637 - \$195,000/yr. Background checks req. See bnfits at <https://careers.robinhood.com/benefits>. Apply here: [https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/robinhood/jobs/7975507?t=gh\\_src=&gh\\_jid=7975507](https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/robinhood/jobs/7975507?t=gh_src=&gh_jid=7975507) and indicate job code SWE4BMP14 in your application.

## ENGINEERING

Robinhood Markets, Inc. has an opening in Menlo Park, CA for Software Engineer (SWE4AMP14): Build, test, and release product-facing features with stringent correctness and scalability requirements. Tlcmgt prmttd. Minimum Requirements for Position: Bachelor's degree (or foreign equivalent) in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Software Engineering or a related field and 3 years of experience in the job offered or related occupation. Education and/or experience must include: Java, Kotlin, GoLang, Python, or Scala; Backend service frameworks; RESTful APIs; PostgreSQL, MySQL, Redis, or DynamoDB; Distributed systems; Logging and monitoring tools; and Automated testing frameworks. Salary Rnge: \$161,637 - \$195,000/yr. Background checks req. See bnfits at <https://careers.robinhood.com/benefits>. Apply here: [https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/robinhood/jobs/7975480?t=gh\\_src=&gh\\_jid=7975480](https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/robinhood/jobs/7975480?t=gh_src=&gh_jid=7975480) and indicate job code SWE4AMP14 in your application.

## ENGINEERING

Robinhood Markets, Inc. has an opening in Menlo Park, CA for Software Engineer (SWE4BMP13): Design, develop, and maintain backend services and APIs using established patterns and technologies. Tlcmgt prmttd. Minimum Requirements for Position: Bachelor's in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Software Engineering or a related field (or foreign equivalent) and 1 year of experience in the job offered or related occupation. Education or experience must include: 1) Java or Python 2) Backend service frameworks 3) RESTful APIs 4) Relational databases 5) Unit testing frameworks 6) Logging and monitoring tools 7) Version control systems. Salary Rnge: \$135,699 - \$150,000/yr. Background checks req. See bnfits at <https://careers.robinhood.com/benefits>. Apply here: [https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/robinhood/jobs/7975516?t=gh\\_src=&gh\\_jid=7975516](https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/robinhood/jobs/7975516?t=gh_src=&gh_jid=7975516) and indicate job code SWE4BMP13 in your application.

## ENGINEERING

Robinhood Markets, Inc. has an opening in Menlo Park, CA for Software Engineer (SWE4AMP14) Design, develop, and execute test plans, test cases, and test strategies for user-facing mobile (iOS/Android) and web applications. Tlcmgt prmttd. Minimum Requirements for Position: Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Software Engineering, Applied Mathematics or a related field and three years of experience in the job offered or related occupation. Education or experience must include: Mobile application testing; Web application testing; Manual and automated testing; Appium, Selenium, or Playwright; API testing (RESTful services); Python or Java; and Defect tracking and test management tools. Salary Rnge: \$161,637 - \$178,000/yr. Background checks req. See bnfits at <https://careers.robinhood.com/benefits>. Apply here: [https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/robinhood/jobs/7975549?t=gh\\_src=&gh\\_jid=7975549](https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/robinhood/jobs/7975549?t=gh_src=&gh_jid=7975549) and indicate job code SWE4AMP14 in your application.

## ENGINEERING

Robinhood Markets, Inc. has an opening in Menlo Park, CA for Senior Software Engineer (AIMLMP15) Design, develop, and maintain complex machine learning models and AI-powered services that support core product features and decision-making systems. Tlcmgt prmttd. Minimum Requirements for Position: Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Software Engineer or a related field (or foreign equivalent) and 5 years of progressively responsible experience in the job offered or related occupation. Alternatively, a Master's degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Software Engineer or a related field (or foreign equivalent) and 3 years of experience in the job offered or related occupation is acceptable. Education or experience must include: Python, Java, Scala, or GoLang; Machine learning frameworks; Data processing and feature engineering frameworks; Supervised and unsupervised learning techniques; ML pipeline and deployment tools; Model monitoring and observability tools; and Testing and artifact versioning tools. Salary Rnge: \$213,512 - \$245,000/yr. Background checks req. See bnfits at <https://careers.robinhood.com/benefits>. Apply here: [https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/robinhood/jobs/7975563?t=gh\\_src=&gh\\_jid=7975563](https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/robinhood/jobs/7975563?t=gh_src=&gh_jid=7975563) and indicate job code AIMLMP15 in your application.

## ENGINEERING

Robinhood Markets, Inc. has an opening in Menlo Park, CA for Senior Software Engineer (SWE4BMP15): Design, develop, and maintain complex backend services, APIs, and data models that power core product functionality. Tlcmgt prmttd. Minimum Requirements for Position: Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Software Engineering or a related field (or foreign equivalent) and 5 years of progressively responsible post-baccalaureate experience in the job offered or related occupation. Alternatively, Master's degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Software Engineering or related field (or foreign equivalent) and 3 years of experience in the job offered or related occupation. Education or experience must include: 1) Java, Kotlin, GoLang, Python, or Scala 2) Backend service frameworks 3) RESTful and RPC APIs 4) PostgreSQL, MySQL, Redis, or DynamoDB 5) Distributed systems frameworks 6) Observability tools including logs, metrics, and traces 7) Automated testing frameworks. Salary Rnge: \$213,512 - \$230,000/yr. Background checks req. See bnfits at <https://careers.robinhood.com/benefits>. Apply here: [https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/robinhood/jobs/7975519?t=gh\\_src=&gh\\_jid=7975519](https://job-boards.greenhouse.io/robinhood/jobs/7975519?t=gh_src=&gh_jid=7975519) and indicate job code SWE4BMP15 in your application.

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# Public Notices

COLLECTABLE PASTIMES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-303891

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) COLLECTABLE PASTIMES, located at 870 Coleman Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025.  
Registered owner(s):  
RILEY SEAN GORODSKY  
870 Coleman Ave  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/15/26.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 18, 2026.  
(ALM Jun 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2026)

UBS REALTY ADVISORS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-303901

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) UBS REALTY ADVISORS, located at 274 Redwood Shores Parkway #408, Redwood City, CA 94065.  
Registered owner(s):  
ERIC H. WASSMANN  
274 Redwood Shores Parkway #408  
Redwood City, CA 94065  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 19, 2026.  
(ALM May 29, Jun 5, 12 and 19, 2026)

BAND OF CEOS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-304036

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) BAND OF CEOS, located at 358 Albion Avenue, Woodside, CA 94062.  
Registered owner(s):  
JOHN FRANCIS MARONEY  
358 Albion Avenue  
Woodside, CA 94062  
KERMIT POPE  
358 Albion Avenue  
Woodside, CA 94062  
This business is conducted by: an Unincorporated Assoc. Other Than a Partnership.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2012.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 03, 2026.  
(ALM Jun 12, 19, 26 and Jul 3, 2026)

THE WAY APOTHECARY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-303872

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) THE WAY APOTHECARY, located at 14 Blue Jay Way, Redwood City, CA 94062.  
Registered owner(s):  
NIGHT RAIN AROMATICS, LLC  
14 Blue Jay Way  
Redwood City, CA 94062  
State of Incorporation/Organization: DE  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 15, 2026.  
(ALM May 29, Jun 5, 12 and 19, 2026)

PJD ENTERPRISES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-303952

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) PJD ENTERPRISES, located at 215 W Oakwood Blvd, Redwood City, CA 94061.  
Registered owner(s):  
PAUL DEMERS  
215 W Oakwood Blvd  
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 May 27, 2026.  
(ALM Jun 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2026)

ZETINO TREE SERVICE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-304142

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) ZETINO TREE SERVICE, located at 983 GARDEN ST, E PALO ALTO CA 94303.  
Registered owner(s):  
NEFTALI JACINTO ZETINO  
983 Garden St  
E Palo Alto CA 94303  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
Registrant has begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/11/2026.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 11, 2026.  
(ALM Jun 19, 26, Jul 3 and 10, 2026)

PEBBLE & PULSE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO.: M-304030

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) PEBBLE & PULSE, located at 50 Woodside Plaza #447, Redwood City, CA 94061. Mailing Address: 1401 21st Street, Ste R Sacramento, CA 95811  
Registered owner(s):  
PEBBLE & PULSE LLC  
1401 21st Street, Ste R  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
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 June 02, 2026.  
(ALM Jun 19, 26, Jul 3 and 10, 2026)

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

Case No.: 26-CIV-03681  
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
Petitioner: Sally S. Lee filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
SALLY S. LEE to SALLY SHIMADA-LEE  
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: 07/15/26, 9:00AM, Civil Department of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo County 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: 05/25/26  
Stephanie G. Garratt  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Jun 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2026)

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

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**The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 p.m.**

# San Mateo County supervisors OK \$10M to launch childcare programs

By Alise Maripuu / Bay City News Service

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved \$10 million to support two pilot programs aimed at expanding access to childcare.

“This is a very exciting day for all of us,” said Supervisor Jackie Speier at the June 9 board meeting. “Lack of affordable, accessible childcare is hurting San

Mateo County in ways we can no longer ignore.”

The San Mateo County Childcare Central Initiative includes two programs — a navigation portal to serve as a one-stop shop for families seeking childcare and a multi-source payment model to share childcare costs.

The SMC Childcare Hub will be a public-facing platform designed to be a single point of access for families looking for childcare options. It will begin with a

three-year term and will be operated by Tootris, LLC a San Diego-based company that runs similar platforms in other jurisdictions.

The second program, known as the SMC TriShare Pilot Program, is a model that splits the cost of childcare between the county, an employer, and the employee. Its aim is to make childcare options more affordable for working families with incomes that exceed eligibility thresholds for state subsidies, yet do not make enough to

afford available childcare options.

“We recognize that families need support in both finding childcare and paying for it,” said Deputy County Executive Rocio Kiryczun in a presentation at the meeting. “We know that childcare costs continue to rise, and it’s impacting not only low-income families but all families.”

The TriShare program could serve an estimated 1,200 children, Speier said.

Of the \$10 million, the Board of Supervisors approved to allocate about \$8.9 million for the TriShare pilot program. The rest was allocated for the Childcare Hub.

The board approved the allocations unanimously.

“I’m pleased to support this initiative and look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on families throughout San Mateo County,” said Supervisor Lisa Gauthier. ■

## PHONES

continued from page 6

be conducted in the fall and the board will revisit the policy in December.

### Menlo Park students to keep mobile devices out of sight

Menlo Park City School District’s school board voted unanimously to approve its phone-free policy at its June 4 meeting. The district will add signage throughout its campuses that reads, “Cell phones OFF, Learning ON. Student devices must be off and away, all day.”

MPCSD’s policy extends to smartwatches and

other wearable communication devices.

The policy will apply to all students throughout school hours and during school-sponsored events such as field trips and dances, according to the district.

During a school board presentation in May, survey results from Hillview Middle School staff showed that 79% reported phones were harmful to school safety, 84% saw phones as interfering with peer interactions and 81% said that mobile devices were somewhat distracting.

The district’s survey also reported that 71% of its staff across all campuses were

consistently enforcing the no-phone rule. Data showed that middle school staffers have more difficulties with enforcement.

With a specific board policy on prohibiting mobile devices, the district hopes to be able “to ease the burden of enforcement at Hillview and district-wide,” according to the May presentation.

MPCSD staff expect a “seamless transition” to the newly implemented policy as various versions of the no-phone rule have already been in place in student handbooks since 2014.

Other districts, such as Las Lomas Elementary School District, have always

had a phone-free policy, said Superintendent Erik Burmeister. “‘Off and away, bell to bell’ is essentially the standard, he added.

The district recently adapted the language of its phone policy to adhere to state requirements on June 10.

Ravenswood City School District implemented a new mobile device policy at the start of the 2025-26 school year, prohibiting the use of cell phones, smartwatches and other social devices during school hours, extracurricular and afterschool programs. The district also offered “safe phones” with basic features and

strict limits at little to no cost for families. ■

Email Staff Writer

Jennifer Yoshikoshi at

[jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com](mailto:jyoshikoshi@almanacnews.com).

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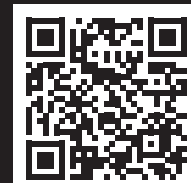
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## THERAPY DOG

continued from page 1

Canine Companions, an organization that trains and places dogs. Before applying she talked to Woodside's superintendent, who wrote her a letter of endorsement. She sent the letter with a "massive" application packet that included pictures of her backyard, the height of her fence and a record of who came into her house. Then came two phone interviews and an in-person visit at Canine Companions' Santa Rosa headquarters 10 months later.

Meanwhile, Brandy was undertaking a similarly intensive training process. After living with a volunteer called a breeder caretaker for the first eight weeks of her life, Brandy spent 18 months with a Canine Companions "trained puppy raiser" who taught Brandy basic behaviors before she entered formal instruction.

"They have this big ceremony, the dogs wear little gowns and they walk across the stage," Mitchell said. "It is a really beautiful celebration, but it's like you've had this animal in your house for 18 months and you then give it back to go work in service."

Following her graduation Brandy spent nine months in professional training with a group of other dogs where she learned over 40 commands plus how to work with wheelchairs, among other skills.

Mitchell and Brandy finally met last November when Mitchell returned to Santa Rosa for Canine Companions' two-week residential training program, where she lived in a dorm



Left: Brandy, Woodside Elementary School's speech therapy dog, gets showered with attention while on a walk. Right: A Woodside Elementary School student demonstrates an exercise with help from Brandy, who holds a bucket for his completed flash cards.



Photos by Anna Hoch-Kenney

and received daily instruction. On the last day, Mitchell walked across the same stage Brandy had and Brandy's puppy raiser handed off the leash to her.

"It was one of those experiences where you think, pinch me, this is the coolest thing that's happened," Mitchell said. "I mean it was just unbelievable."

The following Monday, Brandy began working. "She was ready to go," Mitchell said.

Brandy took to Woodside Elementary's students immediately. When she first walked into the speech classroom, one student said she instantly showered him and his friends with kisses.

To help students practice difficult words, Brandy can hold an orange pail in her mouth while students read flashcards and deposit them in the bucket after saying the word successfully.

"It gives them something to do where they are practicing actively," Mitchell said. "She's not correcting them, but they

get a chance to practice something in a very low-threatening way before they come back and perform it for me."

Students also participate in what Mitchell called "animal related engagement," where they play games to refine their motor skills.

Beyond targeted activities, Brandy also offers students physical and emotional support. If a student has an orthopedic impairment, Brandy can help with removing a jacket by tugging on one sleeve until the student's arm is free.

Students can also use a second leash to "walk" Brandy to class with Mitchell if they feel nervous about going themselves. Mitchell said in addition to quelling their anxiety, the students enjoy showing Brandy to their classmates.

"She's famous now. If the kids are moving from their classroom to music and they're walking by us, you'll often hear,

'Brandy!'" Mitchell said, imitating students' excited shouts. "The whole campus is very excited about her."

Parker said Brandy lightens the mood in IEP, or Individualized Education Program, meetings. She said that sometimes parents will cry, and Brandy will quickly move to comfort them. During meetings, Parker said she will also periodically check in with people by brushing against their legs under the table.

"You can watch her under the table while also seeing the people's faces as she's making her rounds," Parker said. "And when she does it, I mean, it's incredible."

Teachers and staff members witnessed Brandy's capabilities during a board meeting when Jennifer Pedersen, the middle school principal, demonstrated something called a cover, which Mitchell described as one of Brandy's "superpowers." To do it, Brandy lies on top of a person

and the pressure of her body helps them feel more emotionally grounded.

"So for those kids who come in and ... they have a lot of nervous energy," Mitchell said, "she does a cover and then they're like, 'I'm ready to work.'"

Pedersen said that staff members at the meeting were very impressed with the demonstration. "She's here for the kids, but she has also won over the staff, which is so special," Pedersen said.

Mitchell, Parker, and Pedersen, among other staff members and students, agree Brandy's influence has been positive and far reaching.

"This is the most magical thing I think I've done in speech therapy. I'm on my 27th year and I thought, I should have started with the dog," Mitchell said. ■

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## OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

**Rachel Crawford Valentine**, 90, a Woodside resident who worked for a radio station in her hometown of Emporia, Kansas, before heading west to pursue teaching, was a prolific reader who played tennis, loved bridge and had a passion for the symphony, opera and musical theater. Skilled in needlepoint, she was also a dazzling cook who never served a guest the same meal twice. She died May 20.

**Marion Farrell Moreno**, 101, who raised three children with her husband, Jack, in the Menlo Park house they built in 1955, and lived there for the rest of her life. After Jack's death, she married Halcott Moreno and enjoyed a life filled with travel, friends, family gatherings and music concerts, especially jazz, and took 55 cruises around the world. She died Jan. 12.

**Eleanor "Lee" Herz Swent**, 101, an author, historian, teacher and world traveler who taught English in Oakland's Chinatown and was senior research interviewer/editor at the Regional Oral History Office at U.C. Berkeley and director of the "Western Mining in the Twentieth Century" series of oral histories. She wrote her first book after living in Tayoltita, Mexico, where she learned to speak Spanish, ride a mule and cook

on a wood stove while her husband worked at San Luis silver mine. She died on May 24.

**Martha Jacqueline Enthoven**, 59, who grew up in Atherton and was a manager for EF (Education First), a global cultural exchange company, and as a life coach, lived a life rich in love, family, friendship, travel, curiosity and conversations about the endless array of things that struck her fancy. Whether her family was living in Crawfordsville, Indiana, or Kuala Lumpur, Boston or Washington, she led her household on one grand adventure after another. She died June 2.

**Demetrios P. Kanellakos**, 93, was born in Greece and immigrated to America to pursue his studies, earning a doctorate in electrical engineering and moved to Palo Alto to work as a radio physicist at Stanford Research Institute, then in the aerospace industry, and who also taught at San Jose State University. He taught Transcendental Meditation, was a regular member of any Greek Orthodox Church that was close to home and relished Greek mythology, philosophy, music and dance. He died June 12.

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

## GRADUATES

continued from page 10

classmates walked across the stage, he was behind bars, on a bunk in an ICE detention center, he said.

"It's because my alma mater, Columbia University, the same as most universities, as your university as well, chose to throw their students, faculty, communities under the bus," Khalil said, prompting a "Shame" chant from the crowd.

Khalil linked his campaign to support of Palestine to prior efforts to advance civil rights, peace and labor rights. The movement to oppose Israel's actions in Palestine has become so successful, he said, that the federal government began to target him.

"They had to bring the president of United States to crush this movement, and they did not succeed," Khalil said.

He criticized universities that punish students who speak out and called out Stanford Five, a group of students who are facing criminal charges for allegedly vandalizing a university office during a pro-Palestine protest in 2024. He also encouraged graduates not to listen to those who advise them to be patient, sit down and wait their turn.

History remembers the people who stood up, Khalil said, particularly when standing up came at a personal cost.

"The people who wrote history were never the people who adapted themselves to injustice — they were the people who challenged it," Khalil said. "What good is the education if it teaches us how to succeed and not how to care? What good is knowledge if we lack the courage to act from it?" ■

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# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## PUPPET

## POWER!

### Summer Puppetry Festival returns to Menlo Park

#### LIBRARY HOSTS FESTIVAL WITH PERFORMANCES, WORKSHOPS AND TALKS THROUGH AUG. 26

By Karla Kane

From marionettes to Muppets, puppetry comes in many forms and styles. Menlo Park Library is again celebrating all things puppet with its annual Summer Puppetry Festival, running through Aug. 26, with events at both library branches. The fest includes live performances, special workshops and talks, a documentary screening and even a Zoom call with a puppet legend.

“Puppetry is special, one, because you’re witnessing something come alive, and there is a really special synergy that happens between audience and performer, where there’s this shared imagination that happens and everyone’s agreeing to this same imaginative space,” said Risa Lenore Anderson Dye, the artistic director of the Berkeley-based Possibly Puppets.

Dye, who works under the name Risa Lenore, will be at the Belle Haven Library on Aug. 23, presenting her original show “Save the Day for Snail.” Dye often uses upcycled and recycled materials to create her handmade puppets, so they’re all one of a kind.

“I am materials-led in my puppetry. I tend not to be stuck to one form” she said. She’s also not a hidden puppeteer — rather, she remains visible as part of the show, guiding the audience along.

“Save the Day for Snail” tells the tale of Gladys, the titular snail, who needs the help of her neighbors to find a new shell when hers blows away. The story, best suited for kids ages 3 to 9, explores how communities deal with climate catastrophes and is highly interactive for the audience, Dye said.

“I have them make sound effects, I have them make the wind, I have them be puppeteers.”

With Big Tech company Meta also headquartered in Menlo Park, Dye said it was especially meaningful to have a festival celebrating a physical, literally hands-on art form like puppetry there as well.

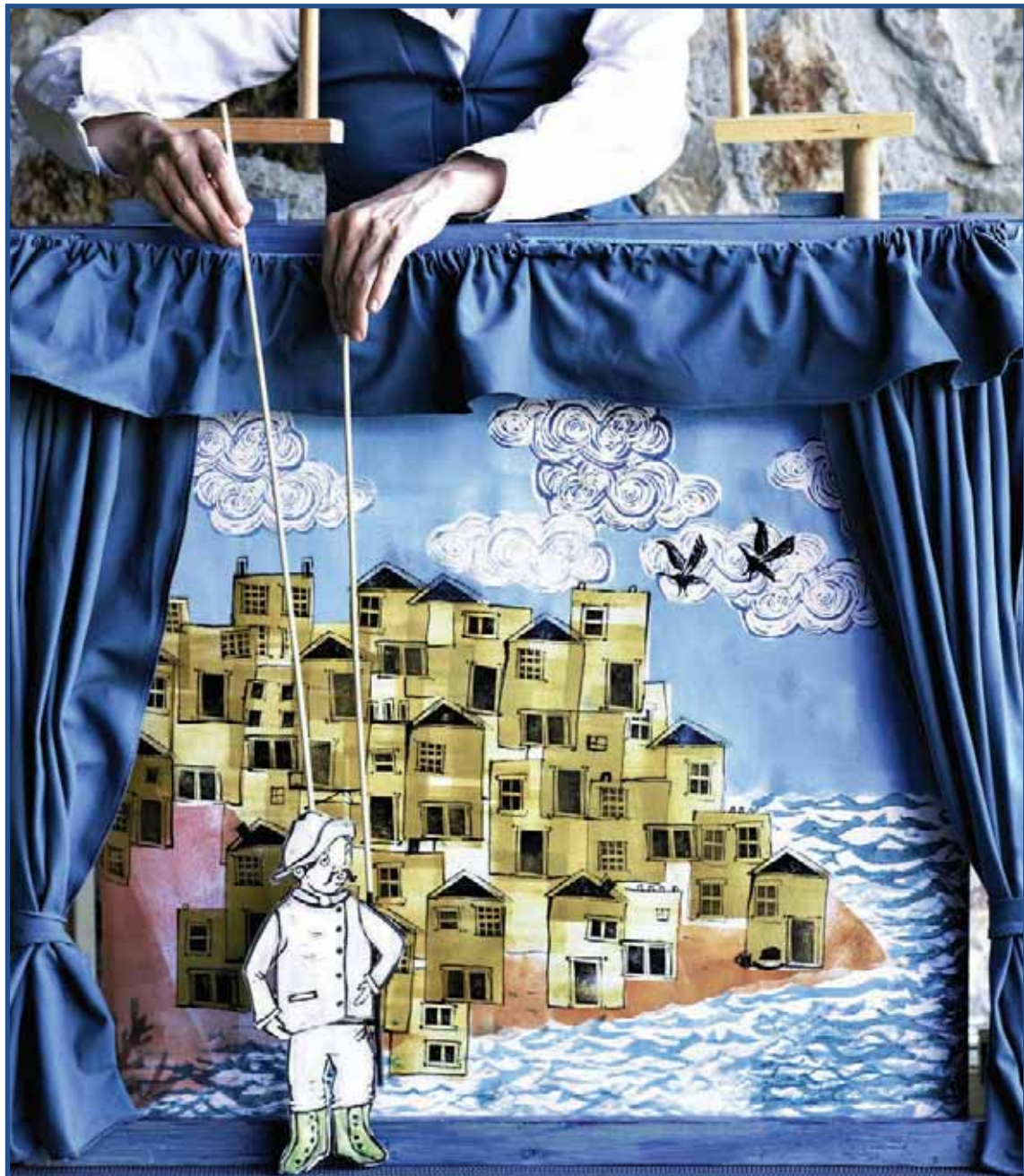
“I think that’s a lovely contrast,” she said.

The development of Possibly Puppets is the result of years of experience.

“I was always making costumes, I was dancing, I was involved in experimental theater and I was also always creating my own art,” she said. She’d also been active in early childhood education through storytelling, art and movement.

“At some point I had the wonderful realization that it all ... fit under the umbrella of puppetry,” she said.

If anyone has the opportunity to try puppetry, “they should,” she said. “It’s tactile. As a medium it



Courtesy Possibly Puppets

Berkeley-based Possibly Puppets works with a variety of styles and materials.

really allows us to engage in the handmade, and explore three-dimensional objects with our whole bodies and whole minds. It’s a very meaningful practice in this day and age when we’re so two-dimensional. And if you add stories, it’s a fourth dimension.”

Attendees can try their hands at creating shadow puppets at a workshop led by Linda Janklow of Peopleologie at the Belle Haven Library on July 18.

Shadow puppets can be found in many cultures around the world, Janklow said, and her workshop, recommended for ages 8 and up, mostly takes inspiration from Indonesian tradition. Participants will make characters using upcycled card stock with simple moving parts. To activate the shadows, all that’s needed is a light source, be it the sun, an oil lamp or a flashlight.

Janklow has been leading community workshops for many years and said that she continually sees a dip in students’ abilities to

work with their hands, which she attributes to the shift to computer and screen-based education and activities. The relatively simple act of making a shadow puppet — in particular, drawing a face or figure in profile — can be a welcome challenge these days.

“Just putting pencil to paper has become a bigger lesson than I ever planned it to be,” she said. “The opportunities to just play around are gone.”

Ancient techniques such as shadow puppets, Janklow noted, can be considered the beginning of projected images, and puppets continue to inspire wonder and joy.

“I think play and entertainment, drama, is something embedded in us,” she said of puppetry’s enduring appeal. “I think it’s the other self. Historically, I think it’s about storytelling. It’s almost always a teaching tool.”

Janklow called herself “a child of Shari Lewis times,” referring to the late, iconic, award-winning

creator and ventriloquist of the adorably sassy puppet Lamb Chop, who started out on the children’s TV show “Captain Kangaroo” in 1956 and whose legacy lives on thanks to her daughter Mallory Lewis, Lamb Chop’s current puppeteer.

Lewis and Lamb Chop are actually part of this year’s puppetry festival as well (apologies if “The Song That Doesn’t End” is now running through your brain). They’ll be taking part in a Zoom call with the Menlo Park Library on Aug. 12. And the festival will conclude with a screening of the documentary “Shari and Lamb Chop” at the library Aug. 26.

During the virtual meeting, they’re looking forward to answering any questions folks may have.

“Lamb Chop and I are an open book ... Or maybe two open books,” Lewis told this news organization in an email interview.

See PUPPET, page 21



Courtesy Scott Lasky

In "The Cottage," Sylvia (Kate McGrath, far right), inadvertently disrupts a day of quiet canoodling in the country with Beau (Steve Allhoff, far left), after revealing their love to their spouses and friends, including, from left, Clarke (Brandon Silberstein), Richard (Lysander Abadia) and Dierdre (Natalie To).

## Review: Private lives become very public in romantic tangle of 'The Cottage'

Palo Alto Players stage new take on old-style farce

By Michael J. Vaughn

In writing a Noel Coward farce equipped with a more modern freedom of expression, Sandy Rustin created in her 2013 play a comedy that's probably more accurate in the way that British people probably actually talked in the 1920s. The result is an intriguing fusion that brings to mind other great farces: "A Flea in Her Ear," "The Marriage of Figaro," "The Importance of Being Earnest."

She also manages to sneak in some thoughts about self-identity and feminism. The Palo Alto Players' production is immaculate, and brings out all the fun and wit inherent in Rustin's text.

The story begins with a pair of lovers, Beau and Sylvia (Steve Allhoff and Kate McGrath), basking in a glorious

morning-after at a cottage in the country.

Unfortunately, Sylvia has set off a bit of a time bomb. She and Beau are married to other people, but she has declared her love for Beau and sent it off to the world through a pair of well-placed telegrams. This immediately brings to their little love nest every single visitor they would least like to see.

The rest of the morning is spent with family and frenemies tossing hand-grenade revelations but maintaining British civility throughout. (An illicit affair or five is no reason to deny a cup of tea or a compliment regarding Beau's Chinese robe.)

Under director Katie O'Bryan Champlin, the chaos is beautifully targeted and laughter-inducing. I especially enjoyed the brothers Beau and Clarke

(Brandon Silberstein), who have developed this weird way of fighting, emphasizing their points with slaps to the chest followed by faceoffs involving kabuki-style posturing. Silberstein seems to have no limits at all, apparently modeling his terrified screeches on some giant parrot from Madagascar.

The wild cards are Dierdre and Richard (Natalie To and Lysander Abadia), who are married or recently divorced as Schrodinger's cat is dead or alive. To plays Dierdre as a very enjoyable loose cannon, who gets schnoekered and deploys such a rough series of semi-conscious gymnastics that concussion protocols might come into play.

Playing a naval deserter who has hidden his true identity

See **REVIEW**, page 21

# Worth a Look

## Cory Doctorow

Artificial Intelligence seems to dominate a lot of conversations (and Bay Area billboards) these days, and while author Cory Doctorow doesn't have a moral objection to using the technology, he does see an awful lot of overhype — and danger —

surrounding it. He discusses his book "The Reverse Centaur's Guide to Life After AI," with journalist Angie Coiro at Kepler's Books. A "reverse centaur," Kepler's event listing states, "is a person who is forced by technology to work at an inhuman pace." In the book, Doctorow explores "both how we found ourselves in this dire situation and how we can get through it, to a life 'after' AI in which the tools work for us, not the other way around."

June 21, 4 p.m., Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; \$11.49-\$34.59; eventbrite.com.



Courtesy Macmillan Publishers

Author Cory Doctorow discusses AI at Kepler's Books on June 21.

## Juneteenth Jubilee

EPACENTER hosts a Juneteenth celebration featuring a cocktail reception, dinner and outdoor live performances by Smooth Jazz Alley and Descendant: The Legends of Funk, featuring current members of Sly and the Family Stone and Graham Central Station. "Come dressed to impress and celebrate Juneteenth under the stars in East Palo Alto at Jubilee, an evening filled with music, food and Black joy," EPACENTER's event listing states.

June 19, 6-10 p.m., EPACENTER, 1950 Bay Road, East Palo Alto; \$28.52 for concert only / \$81.88 for dinner and premium seating at concert (other ticket options also available); eventbrite.com.

## 'The Last Dance'

After nearly 60 years, Peninsula Lively Arts will be closing its doors on June 30. To say farewell, the company is holding three dance performances, called "The Last Dance," June 20-21 at its San Mateo studio. The show will feature pieces from the company's history, performed by its dancers, as well as guest artists with whom the company has collaborated. But "The Last Dance" will not be the end of the story. Some company leaders, including Peninsula Lively Arts Artistic Director Gregory Amato, along with some faculty and students, will be taking their first steps as a new nonprofit organization called Peninsula Ballet Arts that will launch in July. Read more about the new company at [almanacnews.com/arts-culture](http://almanacnews.com/arts-culture).

June 20, 2 and 7 p.m., and June 21 at Peninsula Lively Arts studio, 1880 S. Grant St., San Mateo. \$25 youth and seniors/\$35 adults; [peninsulalivelyarts.org/the-last-dance](http://peninsulalivelyarts.org/the-last-dance).

## Buckethead

Buckethead, the theatrical guitarist with an extensive discography, does indeed perform with a bucket on his head, representing a character "raised by chickens" with a mission in life "to alert the world to the ongoing chicken holocaust in fast-food joints around the globe," according to the event listing from the Guild, where he'll play on June 24. Over the course of his career so far, Buckethead has released more than 700 genre-spanning studio recordings and has collaborated with many other artists.

June 24, 8 p.m., The Guild Theatre, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; \$61-\$154; [guildtheatre.com](http://guildtheatre.com).

## PUPPET

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Part of what has made Lamb Chop so popular for so many years, Lewis said, is that she's "a very pure and authentic character. It is her authenticity that has made her so beloved, and keeps her in the forefront of people's hearts."

Growing up, "Lamb Chop was always a wonderful sister to me. She never told on me when I was a kid. I could tell her secrets and she wouldn't tell mom. She continues to be my best friend and partner in crime," she said.

Lamb Chop has had a busy career, and in 1993 even testified before congress to advocate for strengthening the provisions of the Children's Television Act of 1990, according to Shari Lewis' obituary in the New York Times. When asked, via email, if she had any message for our readers, Lamb Chop replied, "Vote Blue. That is all."

Michael Schupbach grew up in Palo Alto, encouraged by his parents to watch educational children's programming, including "Sesame Street" and "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" on KQED.

"Mister Rogers (Neighborhood) did an episode where they pulled the camera back and showed the television studio itself. And I remember seeing adults milling about and working. There were the camera guys, the live musician, and all the people working together behind the scenes. That was my first realization that working in this medium was a job that you could go out and get," he told this news organization in an email.

Schupbach has indeed gone on to have a successful career in creative design, with a résumé including "Sesame Street," "Avenue Q," and "Ms. Rachel." Thanks to his work, he's well acquainted with perhaps the best-known puppets of all, The Muppets.

Schupbach kicked off the festival with a talk on "The Science and Psychology of Muppet Design" at the library on June 15, discussing the tools and tricks designers use to build puppet characters that are emotionally resonant, including the impact of color, shape, material and performance choices. At the event, he emphasized how effective puppet design helps create a connection between a character and an audience, finding the sweet spot between realism and fantasy.

"These characters can emote and create empathy with their viewers," he said, noting details such as the way Muppet-style puppets are often designed to be slightly cross-eyed, giving the impression they're focusing on the camera or audience.

"This talk and the festival have been a nice trip down memory



Courtesy Mallory Lewis

Lamb Chop and Mallory Lewis will have a virtual event as part of Menlo Park's Summery Puppetry Festival on Aug. 12.

lane," he said via email. "These days, much of my work is in animatronics, robotics and tech-heavy character work. A lot of the same skills that go into making a puppet feel alive also apply to designing robots and theme park experiences. It's been fun researching the lecture on how many of the skills I learned working at the Muppets apply to making robots come to life."

In his view, part of why puppetry remains compelling is because it can be used to subvert audience's expectations of what "puppet" can mean.

"If you look at 'The Mandalorian,' or 'Project Hail Mary,' or 'Avenue Q,' all of them are using the same simple techniques that can be taught to just about anyone. But each show is applying them in new and interesting ways," he said.

In terms of favorite characters, he said it's usually whatever he's currently working on.

"What excites me now is building systems that allow a creature, robot, or interactive environment to respond to an audience in believable and emotionally engaging ways," he said. "And to do that, you don't have to be emotionally invested, but it helps. And frankly, if I am getting paid to bring to life a creature, effect, or character for TV that has never existed before, the goal is to be fully invested. It's one of the best gigs in the world, and I try to enjoy it as much as possible."

He does have especially fond memories of his time on "Sesame Street," though, working with some of the same folks he idealized as a KQED-loving young Palo Altan, such as Carroll Spinney of Big Bird fame. Now, when he wears his crew hoodie with the year of his first season on it, people often stop him and remark about their own memories of watching the show at that time.

"It's nice to have done this long enough to see your audience grow up," he said.

Other events in the Summer Puppetry Festival include a performance by Pop and Go Puppets June 28, a show by The Puppet Company July 9, an interactive presentation by The Fratello

Marionettes July 26 and a performance from Puppet Art Theater July 30. ■

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Summer Puppetry Festival, June 15-Aug. 26, presented by the Menlo Park Library (800 Alma St. and 100 Terminal Ave.), check online for schedule and locations; free; [menlopark.gov/News-articles/City-news/20260508Menlo-Park-hosts-9th-Annual-Summer-Puppetry-Festival](http://menlopark.gov/News-articles/City-news/20260508Menlo-Park-hosts-9th-Annual-Summer-Puppetry-Festival).

Note: This story has been updated from a previous version posted before the festival began.

## REVIEW

continued from page 20

for a number of years, Abadia goes to great extremes to bare his soul (and a lot more) to his former lover. Michelle Skinner, meanwhile, seems to relish her role as the pampered Marjorie, using her well-along pregnancy to command service from everyone else.

The show includes some divine gagwork (assault trombone, anyone?), but the ultimate is a running gag regarding cigarettes, perhaps the most extensive running gag I've ever witnessed. This owes a lot to props designer Kevin Davies, who obviously scoured every antique store in North America for novelty cigarette lighters.

Ironically, the couple who at first seemed so daring, Beau and Sylvia, turns out to be the calm center that most comedies require. The pivot point is Sylvia, who takes a remarkable interior journey for a single morning's work. McGrath does a superb job of taking her character from smitten kitten to suddenly independent female, realizing along the way that the orthodox world of coupling followed by infidelity may not be her cup of tea.

The half-sung posh accents

are a bit dense at first, but seem to clear as the spectators' ears and actors' lips warm up. Jenny Garcia's 1920s period costumes are fabulous, especially Sylvia's elegant cream-colored coat. The current Broadway production of the show was directed by Jason Alexander (yes, George Costanza).

I hope you don't mind, but I've held back on quite a few specifics, because I don't want to give away any of the production's juicy plot twists and gags. Some of the best laughs, in fact, come from one of the characters simply recounting the story thus far. (One might want to bring a whiteboard to track who, precisely, is sleeping with whom.) In return, I guarantee laughs, and the kind of laughter derived from wit and cleverness, which is somehow more nutritious and stimulating. ■

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Palo Alto Players present "The Cottage" through June 28, at the Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets are \$35-\$60. For more information, visit [paplayers.org](http://paplayers.org) or call 650-329-0891.

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# Food & Drink



Contemporary Mexican restaurant Alisios opens at Menlo Park's Springline development

# ¡Salud!

Story by Adrienne Mitchel  
Photos by Seeger Gray

Burma Food Group opened the first restaurant at Springline. On June 11, it debuted a new concept at the Menlo Park development, the final addition to a now full list of restaurant tenants.

"It's funny because we were the first one, and now we are the last one," said Humberto Galeano, bar director at Burma Food Group.

Located next to Barebottle Brewing, Alisios is a contemporary Mexican restaurant and bar from the team behind Burmese restaurants such as Burma Superstar, Burma Love, Teakwood and Kayah. Executive chef Carlos Villegas and sous chef Renee Gomez developed a menu that draws on flavors from Oaxaca and Baja, with many recipes from Villegas' family.

"The birria is my grandmother's recipe, and most of the stuff, like the salsa macha,

is my mom's recipe," Villegas said. "I can only do so much without their knowledge,

because their knowledge has been passed down for generations."

The Alisios space was originally planned to be Mirame, but the deal was terminated,

said Burma Food Group founder Desmond Tan. About five months after the termination, Presidio Bay Ventures, which owns Springline, approached the Burma Food Group asking if it was interested in opening a Mexican restaurant in its place.

"We knew what the public might say about a Burmese food group opening a Mexican restaurant," Tan said. "So we learned a lot about Mexico, Mexico culture and history, and wanted to make sure that the food is authentic."

Tan hired Villegas, who grew up in Tijuana, to spearhead Alisios' menu. Villegas' previous experience includes The Ritz-Carlton, Marriott Marquis, Palisades Hospitality Group and now-closed Lira under celebrity chef Tucker Ricchio.

"Growing up cooking with my grandma and my mom, they taught me everything that I know about Mexican cuisine," Villegas said. "The stuff that I grew up with, I



Above: Bar director Humberto Galeano mixes a drink during the friends and family dinner at Alisios before its opening. Top: The Beef & Desert main course at Alisios in Menlo Park on June 9.



**Above:** A server takes orders at the friends and family dinner at Alisios. **Below from left:** Queso Fundido, Corn 3 Ways, and Oaxacan Chocolate dessert.

wanted to bring it over here.”

Some of Villegas’ favorite dishes on the menu are the smoked oyster, served on an edible shell made from squid ink and topped with warm poblano cream, Oaxaca cheese foam and citrus oil (\$19.75 for three); a torchon of hamachi and shrimp served with three kinds of aguachile — squid ink, green serrano citrus and smoked red chili (\$23.75); duck breast with black mole, corn ash and seasonal vegetables (\$41.75); and dry-aged prime flap steak with roasted cactus salsa, mezcal veal reduction and corn puree (\$41.75).

Villegas also created the dessert menu, noting that the sweet corn cake is his wife Andrea’s recipe. The cake is accompanied by huitlacoche and cinnamon whipped cream, corn crumble, lime meringue and piloncillo sugar caramel (\$14.75).

Villegas’ favorite cocktail on the menu is the elote old fashioned, made from grilled corn-infused bourbon, corn liqueur and bitters (\$18).

“The elote old fashioned is one of the best things I’ve tried,” he said. “Old fashioned is my drink,

but the elote old-fashioned, I’m addicted to it. They’re gonna have to cut me off.”

Burma Food Group bar director Galeano, who grew up in Honduras, said creating Alisios’ bar program felt very natural, as Honduras and Mexico share a similar food culture.

“I’ve been in this position for about three years, and to make a menu for Burma Love, at the beginning was a little tricky,” he said. “Now when I come to Alisios, this is my comfort zone. I feel good mixing pineapple, passion fruit, tamarind, watermelon, so I incorporate all those flavors into the margaritas.”

Galeano said some of his favorite cocktails include the pineapple margarita, made with mezcal, pineapple, agave, lime, chili tincture, chile de arbol and a lava salt rim (\$16, or \$12 for the nonalcoholic version), and the Lassi & Agave, a Burmese- and Mexican-inspired clarified cocktail made with blanco tequila, cardamom gin, mango eau-de-vie, yogurt, coconut milk, lime and mango olio (\$22).

In addition to cocktails, Alisios offers Mexican beer on tap, Mexican wines from

**Alisios Mexican Cocina**, 550E Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park; 650-399-3799, Instagram: @alisiosrestaurant. Open Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Happy hour is Monday to Friday from 3-6 p.m. Brunch is Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Valle de Guadalupe and Parras Valley, and whiskey, tequila and mezcal flights, served alongside housemade ancho chili tuile. Nonalcoholic options include nonalcoholic margaritas, horchata, jamaica, Mexican Coke and Sprite, fresh-squeezed juices and cafe de olla.

The interior design of Alisios highlights different facets of Mexican culture, operations manager Punky Huynh noted. A mix of Mexican and Moroccan handmade tiles is a nod to the influence of the Moors in Spain and consequently Mexico. A bookshelf full of Mexican literature, medicinal guides and more represents how Mexico has impacted other parts of the world. A large mural



The Bird & Ash main course.

showcases a girl celebrating her Quinceanera amid a backdrop of agave, cactus, corn, vanilla and a sun with the Mayan calendar. Tan said he snuck an homage to Burma in the mural with the way the girl is dancing. “Look at her fingers. In Southeast Asia, they use their fingers to communicate when they dance,” he said.

Alisios is notably one of two debut concepts located at Springline alongside Bubbelah, with all other eateries already existing in San Francisco. Tan said that the Burma Food Group shares a similar goal with Presidio Bay Ventures: to

“make Menlo Park vibrant.” “This is not just a boring, sleepy town,” he said. ■

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

Dig into food news. Follow the Peninsula Foodist on Instagram @peninsulafoodist and subscribe to the newsletter at AlmanacNews.com/peninsula-foodist to get insights on the latest openings and closings, learn what the Foodist is excited about eating, read exclusive interviews and keep up on the trends affecting local restaurants.



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Atherton  
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