

THE CAMPBELL

2023 Business of the Year

thecampbellpress.com



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YOUR #1 COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION SOURCE!

FEBRUARY 2026

FREE

C.W.C.C. Crab and Pasta Fundraiser

By Roberta C. Howe, CWCC past President



School District (CUHSD) schools-Branham, Del Mar, Leigh, Prospect, Westmont and Boynton Continuation. Last year CWCC was able to award \$50,000.00 in academic scholarships and \$3,000.00 in music awards. The majority of this money came from the Crab and Pasta Fundraising Dinner,



are given to the students, and interviews are then set up with them. CWCC looks closely at students who are interested in attending higher education, but not necessarily the 4.0 students who are already receiving financial assistance.

honored at a dinner held in May. Once they have proven their enrollment status they receive their financial award.



along with several generous private donations and \$10,000.00 from the C W C C Scholarship Endowment Fund. This fund was established by members of CWCC in the mid-1980's, with a vision of

CWCC is interested in students who may be the first in the family to attend college, or perhaps they wish to attend community college to get an associate's degree in fields like Veterinary Technician, X-ray Technician, Auto Mechanics or attend Culinary School.



If you are interested in more information or making a donation of any size to either our yearly Scholarship Fund or the C W C C Scholarship

Many local residents have loved attending the County Woman's Club of Campbell's (CWCC) Annual Fundraiser for the past 28 years. They know that it benefits "scholarships" but, what exactly?

The primary focus of CWCC has been to raise money to provide academic scholarships and music awards (and in the past, art awards too) to students attending the six Campbell Union High

creating a long-term investment that would pay dividends annually towards scholarships.

Each spring, the CWCC Scholarship Committee receives recommendations from the guidance counselors at the six high schools. Applications



After the interviews are complete, the CWCC Scholarship Committee chooses the recipients, and they are

Endowment Fund, please feel free to reach out to CWCC at: cwcc1905@gmail.com.



PICTURE OF THE MONTH



CAMPBELL SKATEPARK RENOVATION BEGINS MARCH 2026

CREDIT: CHRISTINA O'CONNOR

Just a Little Bit of History

By Susan Blake, Campbell Historic Preservation Board

The January mystery photo was taken of a bronze plaque attached to a rock at the base of the giant Redwood tree on the corner of Campbell Ave. and Winchester Blvd. at the Civic Center. The plaque says 'This Redwood replanted May 11, 1966 from tree planted by President Teddy Roosevelt May 11, 1903 on the site of the original Campbell Union High School.'



Here is the mystery photo for February. Can you figure out what it is and where it is located

WORD OF THE MONTH

“MALFEASANCE”

[Mal-fezz-unce]

NOUN

Wrongdoing.
Especially by a public official.

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HAPPENINGS

Campbell Museum March 2026 Happenings

Spring 2026 is shaping up to be a busy and exciting season at the Campbell Museums! From public programs and special events to exhibits and facilities updates, there's a lot in bloom. Stay tuned for fresh ways to connect with local history!

Visit us at the Campbell Historical Museum and the Ainsley House and discover the stories that shaped our community. The Ainsley House reopens on Friday, March 6, and we look forward to welcoming you back.

Both museums are open Friday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please note that we occasionally host school field trips at the Campbell Historical Museum on Friday mornings; on those days, the museum will open to the public at 12 p.m.

History Happy Hour at the Ainsley House

Come learn, inquire, and enjoy! Sip a drink, explore fascinating stories from the Valley's past, and connect with history in a relaxed, fun atmosphere.

- Friday, March 13: Mary Brown in California

- Educator, author, and researcher Tonya McQuade shares the remarkable story of Mary Brown, who forged an unexpected new life after the execution of her abolitionist husband, John Brown. Mary's journey led her all the way to California, where she spent her later years in Saratoga.

- Friday, April 24: A Whale of a Tale

- Museum Researcher, Nick Garcia, will discuss how the golden era of New England whaling became intertwined with California—and even Campbell itself—revealing

surprising maritime connections that helped shape our local history.

- May 15: Stick 'Em Up
 - Museum researcher, David Blinn, presents an exploration of the early days of law enforcement in Campbell and how order was established in a growing orchard town.

\$25/ person | 5:30pm -7:30pm | Campbellmuseums.com

A Mother's Day Tea and Tour at the Ainsley House

Join us for a delightful Mother's Day celebration at the Ainsley House! This special event is perfect for mothers, friends, or anyone who enjoys dressing up and sipping tea. After a lovely tea, take a tour of the Ainsley House and experience vintage women's fashion through the ages. Discover how styles have evolved while enjoying the beautiful surroundings of this historic home.

Don't miss this charming opportunity to celebrate Mother's Day in style! Reserve your spot today! Campbellmuseums.com

Preservation in Action at the Ainsley House

Preservation work is often quiet and behind the scenes—but it is some of the most important work we do.

From January 26–28, the Ainsley House underwent a fully tented fumigation for drywood termite remediation. The protective tent covered both the historic house and the Carriage House, ensuring that these beloved structures are safeguarded for the future. While not glamorous, this essential treatment protects the integrity of the wood framing and architectural details

Continued on page 9

HERE'S HOWE



Driving through Campbell, it is impossible not to notice the steady rhythm of change shaping our city's landscape. New construction rises beside longstanding storefronts, and redevelopment projects signal growth that, while substantial, has largely maintained a sense of proportion. For longtime residents such as myself, progress is measured not only in square footage and zoning permits, but in memories.

Few moments marked that transition more sharply than the closure of Campbell High School in 1980. For students at the time, the decision felt sudden and deeply personal. Yet in retrospect, alumni express gratitude that the campus avoided the fate of other historic schools. Unlike Camden High School, which was ultimately redeveloped into a shopping center, the Campbell High property found new life as a community center, preserving much of its original character. Its Mediterranean-style tiled roof and distinctive architectural details remain intact, a quiet nod to the city's past.

Change has also swept through Campbell's culinary landmarks. The former A&W Restaurant at Winchester Boulevard and Rincon Avenue was once a rite of passage for local students. On warm afternoons, my best friend and I would stop in for a frosty root beer, provided we had enough spare change in our pockets. It was a small ritual that anchored daily life.

Across the street stood Winchester Hardware, remembered not merely as a store but as an institution. In an era before Home Depots dominated the market, customers could rely on seasoned home improvement specialists whose advice came from years of hands-on experience. The store embodied a family-run ethos that many say is difficult to find today.

Downtown Campbell's food scene once featured a pair of beloved cheese-steak establishments. The White House, located at 116 E. Campbell Ave., was known for its meal deals and walls lined with hand-drawn portraits of U.S. presidents. Regulars often speculated about which president would be added next. I believe Jimmy Carter was the last one before closing. Nearby, the original Jersey's Cheese-steaks, tucked behind KFC at Latimer Avenue and Winchester Boulevard, offered a different take on the East Coast classic. For some students in the 70's, the spot (once known as the Brown Jug) served as a lunchtime escape for soda and pinball.

Other vanished landmarks dot longtime residents' recollections. Copper Kettle Donuts stood as the town's lone donut shop on Winchester Boulevard, across from what is now Uncle John's Pancake House—a regular stop for many local families. The smoky aroma of Andy's BBQ once greeted drivers passing beneath the Highway 17 overpass near Campbell Park.

Continuing eastward, residents could stop at Togo's—now home to Thai Orchid—or pick up a pie at The Hickory Pit, a building that still stands vacant before the road reaches Bascom Avenue.

Such memories underscore the dual nature of growth. Campbell's evolution reflects economic vitality and a community willing to adapt. Yet beneath the new facades lies a shared history shaped by neighborhood schools, family-owned businesses, and the gathering places that defined everyday life. Progress may be inevitable, but for many longtime residents, the spirit of Campbell endures in the echoes of what once was.

JOIN OUR TEAM

The Campbell Historical Museum & Ainsley House Invite you to:

Volunteer Recruitment Mixer

March 26 | 5 pm-7 pm
at the Carriage House

Learn about our volunteer opportunities.
Explore ways to make a difference.

Departments include:

- Events
- Exhibits
- Special Events
- Museum Foundation Board
- Donor Services
- Collections

Kerry Perkins
kerryperkins@campbellca.gov | 408-666-2718

A TIME IN FASHION

MOTHER'S DAY TEA & TOUR

Vintage Fashions on Display in the Ainsley House

MAY 1, 2, & 3, 2026 | 12PM SITTING
AT THE AINSLEY HOUSE | CARRIAGE HOUSE

Reservations start Feb 9, 2026

570/General Public | \$65/ Museum Members
campbellmuseums.com

THE CAMPBELL HISTORICAL MUSEUM & AINSLEY HOUSE

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT MIXER

JOIN OUR TEAM, MAKE HISTORY HAPPEN

Two museums in the heart of
downtown Campbell with many different
Volunteer Opportunities

MARCH 26 | 5PM - 7PM

At the Ainsley House visitor center, 300 Grant St, Campbell, CA 95008 | 408-666-2718 for questions.
www.campbellmuseums.com



Violet and Rosie Years



World War II began on September 1, 1939, but it wasn't until Pearl Harbor was bombed in December 1941 that the United States entered the war. The attack on American soil ignited intense patriotism across the country. As young men rushed to enlist, critical labor shortages emerged—especially in munitions and aircraft manufacturing.

This need gave rise to *Rosie the Riveter*. The iconic image of a bandana-wearing woman in a jumpsuit inspired a nationwide movement, encouraging women to step into factory jobs and support the war effort.

Meanwhile, back on a Utah fruit farm in 1942, 17-year-old Violet Flowers was facing her own upheaval. She had been dating a young man for about a year when he enlisted. In her biography, Violet wrote, "It is hard to describe how his absence affected me, but I didn't want to do anything. Anything!" Her school attendance suffered, and eventually the principal called her in. Compassionate and understanding, he also recognized she needed direction. He told her about West High Trade Tech, where young women were being trained in aircraft mechanics for the war effort. Violet immediately felt renewed purpose.

The school was across town and required a long bus commute, but Violet enrolled anyway, along with her friend Jean. They trained in aluminum welding, riveting, rigging, and doping. After two semesters, Pan American came to recruit—and both young women were hired on the spot to work at Treasure Island in California.

The 800-mile bus ride was frightening—the first time either girl had been away from home—but they reminded themselves they were "gutsy teenagers." Violet's sweetheart hitchhiked from Fort Bragg (200 miles) to Oakland to meet them and make sure they made it safely to their new residence then he returned immediately to base.

Their work commute was long and exhausting: walking two miles to a train, transferring to a bus, and then walking again to the hangar on Treasure Island. Their eight-hour shifts were often spent sitting on cold cement floors, riveting aircraft. Though physically demanding, they took pride in contributing to the war effort—and Violet cherished being closer to her sweetheart.

When Dick was transferred to San Diego, Violet followed and was hired by Consolidated Aircraft. She lived near Balboa Park among other military wives.

With no television or radio, they passed time talking together for hours. Each morning, Violet checked the harbor to see whether Dick's ship was in port—a sight that often set the tone for her day.

In March 2025 Violet was invited to New Orleans and the World War II Museum to be recognized for her service during the war. She was treated like royalty and received the Presidential Medal of Honor.

The famous Rosie the Riveter slogan was "We can do it." Violet did. As a courageous young woman, she sacrificed for her country and for love—setting a standard of strength and determination that shaped her life and her family for years to come.



Violet Flowers received the Presidential Medal of Honor. On February 14th, 2026 celebrated her 100th Birthday with family and friends! Happy Birthday Violet Flowers! Thank you for your service.

PUBLISHER NOTES

By Nancy O. Whitney

Celebrating Campbell: Community, Commitment, and Our City Spirit

As we prepare to turn the corner into March, this February issue—like so many before it—is filled with timely information, local events, and reminders of what Campbell is known for: a deep sense of community, enthusiastic participation, and a spirit that refuses to fade.

Time and again, our residents prove that when Campbell gathers, it does so with heart, generosity, and an unwavering commitment to lifting one another up through service, celebration, and shared purpose together.

On the front cover, the Crab Feed hosted by the CWCC shows that spirit in action. Neighbors gathered for an evening of fun while supporting scholarships for local high school students. It is another example of how Campbell blends celebration with purpose.

The Campbell Chamber of Commerce continues that tradition as it prepares for its annual Business of the Year and community recognition dinner in March. This year's Mad Hatter theme, inspired by Alice in Wonderland, promises a festive evening. Business leaders, volunteers, service organizations, and residents will gather to celebrate the individuals who help Campbell shine.

The evening honors those who lead by example through business excellence and service. The awards reflect commitment, generosity, and genuine love for our city. Campbell's service organizations and volunteers are recognized as well, reinforcing why our community remains exceptional and connected.

We recognize the Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions clubs, whose members work year-round to support local events and outreach. We also honor the Campbell Veterans Memorial Foundation, rooted in recognizing military service members and their families. The foundation preserves history through its veterans memorial, brick by brick, engraved with

the names of those who served, offering a place for reflection.

Having been honored myself—in 2019 as Kiwanis Member of the Year and again in 2023 as Business of the Year—I can attest to how meaningful this celebration is. It reflects who we are as a city and why community matters.

This issue highlights Violet, a Rosie the Riveter who received the Presidential Medal of Honor for her service during World War II and celebrated her 100th birthday on February 14, 2026. Her story reminds us that history lives among us.

Police Department Lodge 52 is another inspiring group featured. Each year, it honors fallen officers with a Christmas ornament at Christmas in the Park, supporting families while preserving memory. Lodge 52 is also hosting a dinner fundraiser, detailed on page 5.

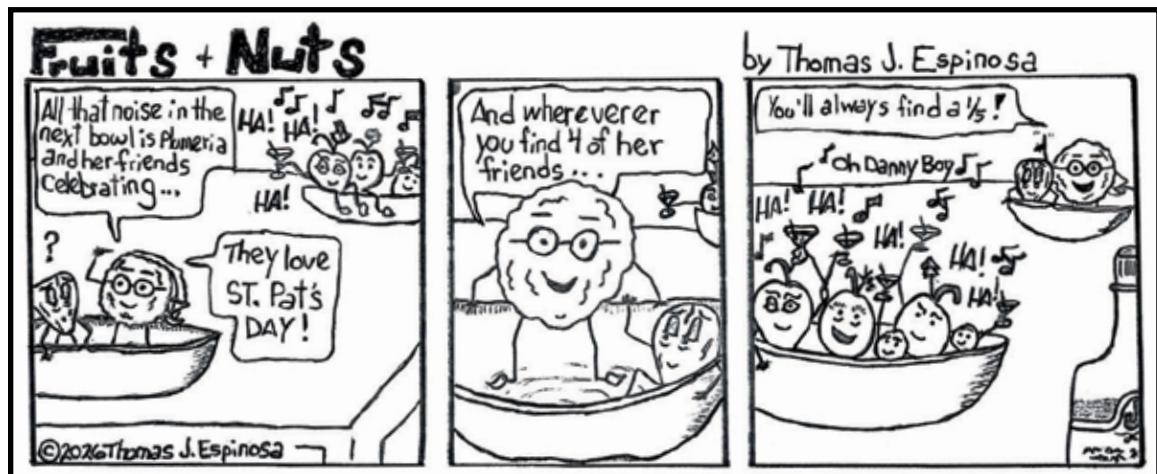
We welcome new real estate columnist Tim McMullen. Originally from Melbourne, Australia, he chose Campbell, California, as his home because of the charm and strong sense of community that define our city.

You will notice the return of the word search, which we hope to continue featuring. Page 7 includes coverage of VTA during Super Bowl weekend and how smoothly the event operated, allowing guests to enjoy festivities without traffic concerns.

In the entertainment section on page 8, we share the story of two local musicians who began as friends, with one later achieving national recognition.

The back page features a new game invented by a former mayor of Campbell, along with a glimpse into the Bay Area's folk music history.

As always, thank you to our loyal readers, subscribers, advertisers, contributors, and writers. Your continued support makes this newspaper possible. Thank you, and see you around town.



Rock Hall 2026 Heats Up the Stage

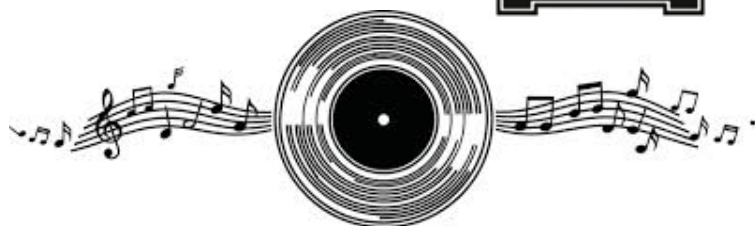
Yet the Backlog of Legends Grows

By Dana Jang — Campbell Press

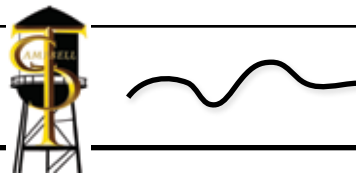
The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame has announced its 2026 nominees, and it is one of the most stylistically diverse ballots in recent memory. From pop powerhouses to metal titans, from soul icons to hip-hop innovators, this year's list reflects a broader and more inclusive understanding of what "rock and roll" truly means.

The 2026 Nominees

- Pop / R&B / Soul: Mariah Carey, Lauryn Hill, Sade, Luther Vandross, Pink, Shakira, New Edition, Melissa Etheridge
- Rock / Alternative / Britpop: Oasis, INXS, The Black Crowes, Billy Idol, Jeff Buckley
- Metal / Hard Rock: Iron Maiden
- Hip-Hop: Wu-Tang Clan
- Post-Punk / New Wave: Joy Division / New Order
- Pop-Rock Icon: Phil Collins



Continued on page 15



SPRINGING INTO ACTION WITH LIONS



Larry Edson
President West SJ/Campbell Lions

Nature gets into full swing during the month of March and, while the rain might keep us inside much of the month, that provides us plenty of time to wrap up our planning for the coming months. At the top of the list for the West San Jose Lions is ironing out all the last-minute details for our upcoming Comedy Night fundraiser.

The West San Jose/Campbell Lions Comedy Night comes around on April 11 this year. This is our 4th year at the Campbell Orchard Valley Banquet Hall and it keeps getting bigger and better each year. The comics are still being finalized so I don't have any teasers to leak out. But if you've been before you know it's going to be

good. Plan on a great pasta dinner with wine, beer and soft drinks available for purchase at a reasonable price. There will also be a number of great auction and raffle items for you to bid on. We use part of the proceeds to give out \$1000 scholarships to one deserving student at each of the 6 high schools in the Campbell Union High School District. So, get in on the action and get your tickets now before we sell out. To order go to <https://wsjclions.org/comedy>.

Meanwhile we are continuing to plan and execute our volunteer efforts in the community.

In February our annual Student Speaker Contest gets underway at the local level with the winners moving up

to the regional level by the end of March. The scholarship awards for winners at each level continue to grow with topping out at \$10,000 at the state level. Our club has had some pretty good contestants in the past and I'm looking forward to hearing the first speeches tonight. The theme this year is Youth Mental Health: Overcoming Barriers to Well-Being.

In March we are making a push to bring new members into the club. Lions International is the largest service club organization in the world with over 49,000 clubs and over 1.4 million members in some

200 countries. Our local club has doubled in size since I joined in 2009 and will be celebrating its 75th anniversary next year. If you feel called to do service to the community I invite you to join us by going to <https://wsjclions.org/act/>.

We have another eye clinic scheduled for April 26 where we will prescribe and distribute hundreds of eyeglasses to folks in need. The 3rd week of April is also Lions Environmental Service Week when we will work with Our City Forest for a day.

West San Jose-Campbell Lions Club Presents

Lions Comedy Night 2026

3 Great Comedians!
Dinner & No-Host Bar

Raffle & Silent Auction
Lots of great prizes!

Proceeds support our service in the community

Student Scholarships Program

- Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Jacob's Heart Childhood Cancer Services
- UCC Food Pantry
- Martha's Kitchen
- Our City Forest
- Campbell Toy Drive
- The Grateful Garment Project
- AJ Robinson Foundation
- Eyeglass Recycling Project
- Diabetes Education
- Canine Companions
- Lions Eye Foundation
- LCIF Disaster Relief and more!

Campbell Veterans Memorial Foundation

The CVMF Board is truly excited to get moving in 2026. Recently, CVMF was proud to support the Kiwanis Club of Campbell at its annual Crab and Pasta Dinner, hosted by the Country Women's Club. The evening was filled with good food, warm fellowship, and plenty of volunteer spirit. From cold, freshly cracked crab dipped in hot butter to lively conversation and laughter, the event was a clear reminder of what makes our community special. It was a pleasure to see so many neighbors working

together and enjoying the evening, and we are already looking forward to next year's gathering.

CVMF is also pleased to announce that it selected Frank Jewett as its 2025 Veteran of the Year. As one of the Foundation's original founders, Frank has demonstrated unwavering dedication to CVMF's mission for more than 17 years.

His leadership, service, and commitment helped shape the organization into what it is today.

Frank will be formally recognized at the Campbell Chamber of Commerce's Celebrate Campbell event on March 21. The Board and community alike look forward to honoring his outstanding contributions.



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
CAMPBELL VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

The Olive Tree



By Margaret Schieck, Co-President

The Campbell Area Chapter 5151 of AARP did not have a General Meeting in January as we were celebrating our thirtieth anniversary as a Chapter with a special luncheon at Casa Lupe Restaurant in Campbell.

Our February 17th meeting will feature the Traveling Troupe from the Santa Clara Players performing one act plays.

In addition, Sharon Levine, our tour committee chair, will be introducing four possible trips for our members in 2026. Members will have an opportunity to ask questions and think about which one they would like us to take next. Members who took the New Mexico trip in 2025 had a great time.

Chapter 5151 of AARP meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Campbell Community Center in Room Q80. Coffee and snacks are

ready at 9:15 am and the formal meeting begins at 10:00 am. One does not need to be a Campbell resident to join this group. Come and join us and find out all that we have to offer senior citizens in the area.



HEY...

Tired of weights?
Tired of boring treadmills?
Tired of robotic, mundane, dance like self defence moves?

Try boxing!
Get fit and conditioned. Learn how to throw a left hook!
Learn to hit a speedbag.
Learn to jump rope.
Learn balance & coordination.
Learn to throw combinations.

Contenders Gym LLC
410 Martin Ave.
Santa Clara, CA. 95050
408-980-9849

Cloud City Supply Inc.

JOIN US FOR OUR 4TH ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Cloud City Supply & Stanford Blood Center are hosting a Give Blood Get Love Blood Drive

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH 2026

10:00 AM - 04:00 PM

**Campbell Community Center
Roosevelt Room
1 West Campbell Ave.
Campbell, CA 95008**

- Show us your donation confirmation and get **triple loyalty points** on one purchase at Cloud City Supply.
- All donors receive a donor gift bag with cool swag from local businesses.

Scan to sign up and donate:

STANFORD BLOOD CENTER



Why We Do It



Each December, the Silicon Valley Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 52, honors fallen officers nationwide at Christmas in the Park - San Jose. It is an opportunity for our community to participate in a memorial honoring our fallen heroes. We

<https://www.32auctions.com/FOMT>

- Participate in the online charity auction
- Donate to the Fallen Officer Memorial Tree

Your donation of \$50 helps provide funds for the creation of the ornament, packing materials, and postage.



Inspired by her time in Florence, Victoria Napolitano is bringing the rich, heart-of-Tuscany experience to the Bay Area, creating a special annual event designed not just

to entertain, but to forge lasting memories while making a tangible difference. The evening promises to be a stunning affair with every detail meticulously crafted to reflect the beauty and elegance of Italy.

What truly sets this event apart is its unwavering commitment to its cause. One hundred percent of all proceeds will be directly donated to the Fallen Officer Memorial Tree. This ensures that every dollar raised goes toward honoring fallen officers nationwide and supporting fallen officer families.



On March 12, 2026, the Silicon Valley Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 52, will have its inaugural charity at The Grand Hotel/Silicon Valley, located at 865 W El Camino in Sunnyvale.

Our guests will enjoy a delectable dinner, be entertained by World Class Opera Singer, Rosario Monetti, and bring high energy and charisma, and will be Bay Area DJ Aaron E. Expect surprises throughout the evening. We are not done yet.

Our guests are invited to a whiskey after-party.

Silicon Valley FOP Lodge 52 is a 501(c)(8) non-profit organization.

honor our heroes with a Cub Scout opening flag ceremony, bagpipes, taps, a benediction, a singer, and a police K-9 special guest. Volunteers from the Cub Scouts, students from Silicon Valley Career Technical Education, and members of our community volunteer to carry glass ornaments inscribed with each fallen officer or police K-9 name, agency, and end-of-watch date and place them on a specially decorated Christmas tree in the park. Community volunteers help us pack ornaments. These ornaments are later mailed home to the fallen officer's families.

Letters from Fallen Officer Families:

"We received the beautiful ornament on Christmas Eve." "Our son quickly placed it on the tree front and center..." "I still find myself looking for the patrol vehicle coming down the driveway."

Joanne, wife of fallen officer, Missouri

"Please know that we always appreciate your act of kindness and sincere words of encouragement; it will never be forgotten." "It is reassuring to know that we do not carry this loss and grief alone."

Detroit Fallen Officer, Police Chief, City of Detroit Help Us Fund the "Fallen Officer Memorial Tree," which honors our fallen and supports fallen officer families.

Go to our website: www.svfop52.org

<https://victorianapolitano.com/the-orchestrations>

Campbell's Charm: My Journey Here and the Art of Maximizing Home Value



Tim McMullen
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Tim@mcmullen.properties
DRE #02016832
www.mcmullen.properties/campbell



Hey there, Campbell! Tim McMullen here, your new neighbor-turned-columnist, kicking off my first column with The Campbell Press. After growing up in Melbourne, Australia, I've spent the last decade selling San Francisco high-rises and representing Tiburon's iconic waterfront. In November '24, I planted roots right here in Campbell, and let me tell you—this place is amazing. The tree-lined streets, the vibrant downtown buzz, that perfect blend of Silicon Valley spark and small-town charm? It's my all-time favorite spot to call home.

Now, as someone who's spent the last ten years pushing to exceed expectations in Bay Area sales, I'm excited to share inside scoops with you in each column. My passion? Real estate that's not just about slapping a "For Sale" sign in the yard—it's about unlocking every hidden dollar a property can sell for. I reverse-engineer what makes a home scream "top

dollar" and guide sellers step-by-step to maximize that once-in-a-lifetime windfall. Because let's face it, your house isn't just bricks and beams—it's likely your biggest asset and selling it should feel like a triumphant win.

Here's my core belief: Every single square foot on your property has a dollar figure associated with it. My job? The best Return on Investment (ROI) analysis & gameplan to prepare and sell a home, finding what moves the needle, then having a team to execute the plan. A great driveway could add \$50K in curb appeal. How about the outdated kitchen? A smart remodel might bump your ROI by 150%. I dive deep, assessing everything from foundation to fixtures, then map out the smartest upgrades that deliver the biggest bang for your buck.

Take my current listing — I'm prepping 1694 Clay Drive, Los Altos, an already stunning Eichler-style

home, to shatter neighborhood records. This place is a masterpiece: sleek modern lines, a chef's kitchen that'd make Gordon Ramsay jealous, and a backyard oasis perfect for those endless California evenings. By tweaking the lighting to highlight those vaulted ceilings, updating the landscaping and staging the living room to evoke that "I must live here" vibe, we're engineering a top sale value. With the right strategy, even a top-tier home can climb higher.

Living in Campbell has reignited my love for this game. Strolling Campbell Ave or chatting at the farmers' market, I see untapped potential everywhere—from cozy bungalows begging for a fresh facade to sprawling lots ripe for increasing their enjoyable & functional use. In future columns, we'll dive into local market trends, DIY tips that actually pay off, and tales from the trenches that'll have you nodding (or chuckling) in recognition.

But hey, a column can only squeeze in so much. Scan the QR code below each piece to dive deeper — exclusive insights, tips, and maybe a virtual tour or two to explore Campbell from my boots-on-the-ground perspective.

CAMPBELL EAT & DRINK

S	Q	U	A	R	E	P	I	E	G	U	Y	S	O	L	D
U	D	H	O	R	A	L	E	B	A	J	A	K	D	I	Y
L	U	C	Y	S	A	L	A	L	O	D	N	I	E	R	O
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A	N	U	L	S	K	C	A	T	S	H	E	M	B	G	N

OLALA LAJAIBA LUCYS LAUGHING MONK ELIA SQUARE PIE GUYS PHIN CAFÉ HALEH PASTRY BE STEAK A SWEETGREEN SULTANS KEBAB BLOOM BAGELS PACIFIC CATCH STACKS NASCAR WINGS LUNA TEHRAN TASTE EL GUAPOS DRINX THAI ORCHID ORALE BAJA GARRET PIZZA PEETS TOGOS EFFIES

Words can be diagonal and backwards too! How many words can you find?



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Tickets go on sale soon.

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Check our website for details!

www.campbellchamber.net



Local Filmmaker Premieres 'Willie Did It' at CineLux in Campbell



On January 25, the CineLux Plaza Theatre in Safeway Plaza on Winchester Boulevard hosted the debut of a short local film, Willie Did It. The premiere marked an exciting milestone for Bay Area resident Tonia Maclean, who directed the film and also appears in it.

Although the movie had an earlier screening in the Santa Cruz area a month prior, the Campbell showing served as its official local debut. For Maclean, presenting her first film in her own community made the evening especially meaningful.

Maclean balances a full professional career while serving as a board member of Save Our Shores.

Her creative journey began with her lifelong love of the ocean. From whale watching excursions to producing ocean-focused documentaries with her husband, storytelling gradually evolved into narrative filmmaking.

Working closely with her husband, Maclean has written numerous scripts and creative pieces over the years. Together they developed Willie Did It, their first completed and publicly released film. The approximately 50-minute feature centers on a relic from the past connected to her husband's childhood. When strange and unexplained events begin to unfold, the object threatens to disrupt family life. The story follows Lily as she navigates mounting tension at home while trying to protect her family and maintain her sanity.

Steve, Lily's husband, is played by Allan Conroy, while Lily is portrayed by Holly Conroy. The film blends suspense, family dynamics, and lighthearted moments, creating an entertaining and thoughtful experience for audi-

ences. As a first-time director, Maclean wanted the film to reflect today's world while offering a shift from the stronger male-driven storylines common decades ago. Instead, she aimed to create a story that feels empowering for women and relatable for families, even amid unexpected chaos.

Maclean credits a strong support system for helping bring the project to life. She is part of a creative circle of friends who are also filmmakers. This collaborative group works on various projects together, sharing ideas and encouraging one another's artistic growth. That community spirit has played a

Continued on page 8



Holly Conroy and Tonia Maclean taking questions after the film.

Money Empowerment *by Jill*



Money Organization

A common goal among my clients is money organization. Without regular habits and a reliable tracking system, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by bills and fall behind on important paperwork. Due dates get missed, irregular expenses are forgotten, and over time this can lead to late fees, overdrafts, and damaged credit.

Beyond the financial consequences, disorganization with money often affects emotional well-being. It can create overwhelm, anxiety, and even depression. Many people respond by avoiding their finances altogether, which only continues the cycle.

So, what can you do? Below are a few simple but effective tips to help you get your money organized.

1. Create a Tracking System

Use a system to track both spending and income. This could be a paid tool like Quicken, QuickBooks, Mint, or EveryDollar, or something as simple as a spreadsheet. It doesn't need to be complicated. What matters most is that it works for you.

2. Build Consistent Habits

Money organization isn't a one-time event, it's a set of ongoing habits. These may include:

- Logging transactions
- Reconciling accounts
- Reviewing spending
- Budgeting
- Staying aware of where your money is going

Set regular timeframes for these tasks. Some may be weekly, others monthly. Consistency is key.

3. Manage Your Files

You don't need to keep everything. Most banks store records for up to ten years. Important documents for tax purposes can be uploaded digitally or printed and filed. Either approach is fine. The important part is doing it regularly so paperwork doesn't pile up and turn into an overwhelming project later.

4. Get Accountability and Support

Consider finding an accountability partner. Someone who can help you stay consistent with your habits. This could be a friend, family member, coach, or mentor. Having someone to brainstorm with or check in regularly can make a big difference.

The result of money organization is similar to organizing your kitchen or closet. Once you've cleared out what you don't need, assigned a place for everything, and created a system that's easy to maintain, so you feel lighter and can breathe.

When you can breathe, you see more clearly what your path is that will take you to the next level.

If you need advice or support in this area, feel free to reach out. I'm here to help.

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CITY NEWS *By Sergio Lopez*



On Super Bowl Sunday, while most of us watched the Seahawks square off against the Pats — or maybe just Bad Bunny’s half-time show — many hundreds of public employees were hard at work to make sure the festivities went off without a hitch.

City of Campbell police, for example, were contracted to help support with security for the event and teams. My spouse, who works for another city in the county, was hard at work the week leading up to the event in the City of Santa Clara’s Emergency Operations Center, where Public Information Officers carefully monitored events and information to get updates out to the public in a timely manner.

And for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, Super Bowl Sunday represented not just the culmination of a marathon of years of planning work, but of a concentrated sprint which involved every department, including safety, communications, and hundreds of bus and light rail operators and attendants.

On Super Bowl Sunday, fans traveling to Super Bowl LX used VTA light rail and buses in numbers that far exceeded expectations. In total, VTA carried more than 30,000 passengers to and from Levi’s Stadium. Service planners had anticipated around 25,000 passengers in total, but the contingency plans that were made meant that the event was able to proceed smoothly.

The previous record was set during Taylor Swift’s 2023 concerts

at Levi’s Stadium on July 28 and 29, both sold out. Each of those dates hit about 28,000 riders. VTA took its lessons learned from these events to continually improve operations, leading up to the success of Super Bowl Sunday.

In this case, necessity was the mother of invention. That was because unlike with the Taylor Swift shows or other mega-concerts at Levi’s Stadium, security considerations required a section of track to be shut down. What could have been a challenge instead became a smart way to speed up operations. VTA planners and operators were able to convert the two stations, Lick Mill and Great America, which no longer connected, into two separate points of departure. This modified post-event service plan using two stations, instead of the

Continued on page 9



DISTRICT NEWS



By Susan Ellenburg

Remaining Committed to Investing in Children... Even and Especially in Tough Times

It’s been seven years since I led the creation of the County’s Children’s Budget – more than 2,000 days since our County committed to identifying and tracking funds for programs serving children across County departments, service lines, and programs to propel us closer to a future where every child can grow up in a thriving environment. My guiding principle is that, if we truly want to improve outcomes for children and families, we must know exactly what services we are funding, what outcomes we expect from those expenditures, and whether those expectations are being met.

And even this fiscal year, while facing unfathomable federal cuts, I will continue to prioritize uplifting our children and their families.

We approved the recently released 2025-26 Children’s Budget in June, before we knew about the harm the federal funding cuts were set to wreak. The budget allocated \$1.33 billion toward welfare, rehabilitative, medical, and education services for the County’s nearly 399,000 children (approx. 8,500 in Campbell, making up 20 percent of the City’s population) – a 2.8% uptick from last fiscal year. Those dollars are even more pivotal for the 43,000 children in poverty who rely on our services.

Much of our children’s funding stems from the state and federal government. The County general fund accounts for about \$300 million, or 22% of the dollars identified in the Children’s Budget.

These funds demonstrate our express responsibility to address the roots of many systemic inequities that too often begin in early childhood and, when unaddressed, compound over time.

I’ll highlight here a few investments from the FY 2025-26 budget that were guided by the principles we established in 2019: **every child should be safe, healthy, academically successful, and thriving in life.**

Every child is safe:

No child in our County should experience mental or physical harm, period.

The County invested \$34.4 million in child welfare services, out of a combined total of \$194 million with state and federal funds. These indispensable services protect children from abuse and neglect, promote healthy development, and preserve families’ ability to care for their children. Approximately 1,994 clients will be supported by those dollars over the year.

Every child is healthy:

In our supposedly wealthy County, nearly one in four children lives in poverty. And right now, approximately 26,000 children countywide are at risk of losing Medi-Cal coverage for critical care or access to food support via CalFresh, thanks to the federal cuts – a staggering statistic that makes the County’s commitment to its children even more consequential.

We invested \$26.5 million in pediatric medical staff in the current fiscal year. We need to properly compensate our medical professionals so they can

provide lifesaving care to thousands of kids at our four public hospitals and 15 clinics.

Healthy, equitably resourced childhoods lead to healthy, fruitful lives. We must keep that top of mind when making difficult fiscal decisions in the coming year.

Every child is successful in learning:

If you know me, you know early childhood education is my north star – and libraries are a cornerstone of learning, on top of acting as welcoming safe spaces full of resources, ranging from English lessons to food assistance.

We’re lucky that our library system is more insulated from budget cuts because it has its own designated fund. Even so, we continued to fund the full \$7.5 million for County librarians serving children and teens, along with \$4.3 million earmarked for children’s materials. The librarians will serve about 170,000 children at the eight County libraries, including the young readers eagerly anticipating the opening of the Campbell Library in my district.

Every child is successful in life:

All our investments in children share one goal: to allow children to lead successful lives as they mature into adults. And to do that, some need a second (and even third) chance.

We invested \$2.6 million into the probation department toward the oversight of record sealing and checks for youths seeking employment or military

Continued on page 15

City Council & Planning Commission News



By Adam Buchbinder

After an uneventful January (all meetings were cancelled for lack of items), the Planning Commission is back for 2026! Our first item of business was 600 E Campbell Ave, the former Del Grande Auto Parts location.

Development was first proposed here a decade ago. In 2016, Cresleigh Homes made their first proposal. Because state law hadn’t yet removed discretionary authority from cities at that point, and residents didn’t like the height, the perceived insufficient parking, and the aesthetics, it

was rejected in 2017. A later version was finally approved in 2019, but pandemic-era chaos led to the site being demolished in 2021, and the initial entitlement finally expired, even with extensions, in 2024.

Much has changed over the last ten years. The city passed a new General Plan along with a Housing Element which allowed higher-density development in that area, plus a set of objective development standards. The state passed laws requiring cities to approve development proposals

which conformed to the plans they’d passed. (It also passed laws removing the city’s ability to require parking near train stations.) Meanwhile, the 2022 court case Bankers Hill 150 v. San Diego greatly expanded developers’ ability to waive local development standards.

In short, the height, parking, and aesthetics of the design are no longer valid grounds for denial.

Cresleigh Homes was originally planning to bring back a 90-unit proposal, but the City Council had

just recently passed a local density bonus program allowing developers to add more small (studio or one-bedroom) units to an existing envelope. Using this program, the proposal now includes 116 units, as well as five thousand square feet of ground-floor retail, roof terraces, and two floors of parking for residents, though not for retail customers.

This is considered a “minor” development project, as the site is small (less than an acre), so the Planning Commission is the approving body. The

developer plans to start construction in early 2027, and the construction timeline is 22 months. With luck, people will actually be able to live there by 2029.

Adam Buchbinder is a member of the Campbell Planning Commission. Opinions expressed here are his alone, not those of the Commission or the City. Contact the Campbell Planning Department at planning@campbellca.gov. Read more about our Multimodal Plan at campbellca.gov/multimodal.



Drum Legend “Jeff Porcaro” Performance at The Gaslighter Theatre Campbell, CA (1983)

I was working in the drum department at Guitar Showcase in San Jose, CA, and had already produced several drum events. Barry Weinroth, the owner of the store, felt it would be successful for the store and the drum community for me to produce drum clinics at the store. I jumped on it and started having drum clinics regularly. It took off, big time, so we found a larger venue for the bigger name drummers. Russ Anzalone, who worked with me at Guitar Showcase, jumped in to help me.



I received a call from Los Angeles that Jeff Porcaro was interested in doing a drum clinic and performance. Jeff was the famous drummer for the band Toto, so I immediately said, “Yes!” This was the year that the band

diately said, “Yes!” This was the year that the band



Toto won six grammy awards, including Song of the Year for “Rosanna” and Album of the Year for “Toto IV”.

Jamison, arrived early. I showed them the theater. Jeff was all smiles. Jamo jumped right in getting Jeff’s amazing drum kit set up. I was able to schedule Lyle Workman, guitarist, and Myron Dove, bassist, to perform with Jeff.

The word was out and the theatre was sold out. When I introduced Jeff Porcaro, everyone gave him a standing ovation. Jeff jumped right in laying down slamin’ grooves like you never heard before, WOW!! Just amazing!! His influence on other drummers was well earned—he filled up the room with energy. At the end of the night, another standing ovation!!



The day of the performance Jeff Porcaro and his Drum Tech, Jamo

Jeff Porcaro’s Legacy will Live On!!

‘WILLIE DID IT!’ *Continued from page 6*

key role in launching her filmmaking journey.

Among those supporting her work is Rick Alegria, a national artist and drummer who first met Maclean’s son more than 20 years ago as a music teacher and mentor. Today, he remains connected to the family’s creative efforts and is slated to oversee the musical score for Maclean’s next film.

That next project is already in development. Maclean revealed that the upcoming film will be nearly twice as long—approx-

mately 90 minutes—expanding both the scope and depth of her storytelling. Once again, she and her husband are collaborating on the screenplay and production, continuing the partnership that brought their first film to the screen.

With hopes of debuting future projects again at CineLux in Campbell, Maclean’s first premiere stands as an inspiring example for aspiring filmmakers. Her journey demonstrates how passion, collaboration, and community support can turn a creative vision into a local success story.



FEBRUARY MOVIES

By Sam Wilson



Send Help – B+

Director Sam Raimi’s (Spider-Man, Evil Dead) first-class “Cast Away” meets “Misery” comedy-thriller is a rowdy audience experience. Linda (Rachel McAdams, “Mean Girls”) and her slimeball boss (Dylan O’Brien, “Saturday Night”) must overcome their differences to survive on an island following a plane crash. Highly entertaining two-hander with commanding performances and dark humor. Raimi’s return to form is tightly scripted, violent, and unpredictable with surprising character development.

28 Years Later:

The Bone Temple – B+

Powerhouse acting and an improved story from writer Alex Garland (Civil War, Annihilation) show this franchise hasn’t lost its bite. 12-year-old Spike is forced into a violent cult led by Jimmy (Jack O’Connell, “Sinners”), resulting in a collision course with Dr. Kelton (Ralph Fiennes, “Conclave”). O’Connell’s psychopath steals the film, which isn’t as stylized under new director Nia DaCosta (The Marvels, Candyman). Remains unsettlingly bleak while exploring satanism versus atheism and cruelty versus compassion.

Primate – C+

Basic teen horror premise that’s unexpectedly not campy, expectedly gory, and surprisingly decent. A college student vacationing with friends at her family’s Hawaii vacation home must fight for survival when the family chimp snaps and goes bananas. Full of horror tropes, questionable decisions, and bland characters, nevertheless the “Cujo”-like murderous Chimp is quite effective and extremely brutal.

Greenland 2:

Migration – C-

By-the-numbers sequel of diminishing returns forgoing a chaotic panic-driven narrative for a somber survival road-trip similar to “The Last of Us”. Five years later, John (Gerard Butler, “300”), Allison (Morena Baccarin, “Deadpool”) and their son (Roman Griffin Davis, “Jojo Rabbit”) leave the Greenland bunker to journey across Europe. Ric Roman Waugh (Snitch, Angel Has Fallen) maintains his reputation for directing mediocre action. The disaster story turned post-apocalyptic action-drama is a generic snoozefest.

Return to Silent Hill – C-

Incomprehensibly messy with no scares, poor CGI, and flat tensionless set pieces. A letter from his lost love draws James (Jeremy Irvine, “War Horse”) to Silent Hill, a town he once knew. Director Christophe Gans (Brotherhood of the Wolf, Silent Hill) returns with a pedestrian adaptation of the acclaimed horror game “Silent Hill 2”. Visually uninspired with disappointing creature designs, questionable acting, and confusing plotting and pacing.

Iron Lung – B-

Grungy low-budget cosmic horror full of atmospheric dread that grows increasingly repetitive. In a post-apocalyptic future where all known stars and planets disappeared, a convict searches a moon’s blood ocean using a submarine. YouTuber Mark Fischbach writes, directs and stars in the 2022 sci-fi game adaptation that exceeds expectations, making great use of its claustrophobic setting. The fascinating set-up features little world-building and at 127 minutes the compelling concept is stretched past its breaking point.

Dead Man’s Wire – B

A quietly exceptional true story anti-hero hostage drama similar to “Dog Day Afternoon” from 2-time Academy award nominated director Gus Van Sant (Good Will Hunting, Milk). In 1977, Tony (Bill Skarsgard, “It”) takes a mortgage company president (Dacre Montgomery, “Elvis”) hostage and enters into a police stand-off. An acting showcase from Skarsgard, who’s fed up everyman is frightening, intense and unpredictable. The anti-capitalism story co-stars Colman Domingo (Sing Sing), Al Pacino (Scarface), and Cary Elwes (Saw).

We Bury the Dead – C

Forgettable art house zombie drama missing the genre’s traditional horror and action. After a catastrophic military experiment kills many people, Ava (Daisy Ridley, “Murder on the Orient Express”) joins a body retrieval unit to search for her missing husband. Zombies take a back seat as the small scale tale deals with human grief. Brenton Thwaites (Gods of Egypt) appears in the underdeveloped bore that drags thanks to slow pacing and a melancholy tone.

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CITY NEWS

Continued from page 7

typical single-station setup, helped speed up departure, while a bus bridge allowed riders to still access either station if needed.

In total, more than 13,000 post-game riders were cleared from light rail platforms in under 90 minutes — possibly setting a record not just for quantity but for speed.

The travel patterns also demonstrate the way in which investments in a broader regional system are critical. Ridership data shows that about 40% of riders transferred from Caltrain to VTA at the Mountain View Transit Center. The other roughly 60% of riders traveled from Downtown San José or transferred from BART to VTA at the Milpitas Transit Center, which connects them to the broader Bay Area region.

Additionally, other riders used VTA over Super Bowl weekend not just to get to the games, but to many of the festivities and activations, such as those in downtown San Jose and Mountain View (I myself was one of those riders).

From here, VTA will continue to build on this record-breaking success for other events such as March Madness, the World Cup, and many more, continuing to showcase Santa Clara County. For me, the takeaway is how VTA and its hard-working employees serve our county and keep us moving — not just for special events, but every single day as well.

This column is written by Sergio Lopez in an individual capacity and not on behalf of the City Council, city staff, or the City of Campbell.

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

Continued from page 2

that make the Ainsley House such a treasured landmark.

This critical preservation effort was made possible through the generous support of the Campbell Museum Foundation and our incredible community. Every beer and hamburger purchased at summer concert concessions, every ticket to the 100th Anniversary Gala, every Holiday Tea reservation, every boutique purchase, and every museum membership directly contributes to projects like this.

The Foundation's impact extends beyond preservation of buildings. It also funds scholarships for students throughout Santa Clara Valley to participate in our Hands-On History program at the Campbell Historical Museum. These scholarships provide bus grants to bring students to the museum and cover admission costs—ensuring that access to local history is not limited by school budgets. Thanks to your support, students from across

Continued on page 15



Wednesday, March 4
6:00pm
Eurotrash

Thursday, March 5
6:00pm
Pro Blues Jam

Friday, March 6
7:30pm
Seven Shades of Grey

Saturday, March 7
7:30pm
Iconics

Wednesday, March 11
6:00pm
First Call

Thursday, March 12
5:00pm
Pro Blues Jam

Friday, March 13
6:30pm
Mitch Polzac

Saturday, March 14
6:30pm
Jukebox Boyz

Tuesday, March 17
6:00pm
Sound Decision

Wednesday, March 18
5:00pm
HOOTENANNY

Thursday, March 19
5:00pm
Pro Blues Jam

Friday, March 20
6:30pm
JJ Hawg Band

Saturday, March 21
6:30pm
AC Myles

Wednesday, March 25
5:00pm
Ryan & Ryan

Thursday, March 26
5:00pm
Pro Blues Jam

Friday, March 27
6:30pm
Identity Problem

Saturday, March 28
3:30pm **Steve**
6:30pm **Thunderburg Showcase**
Whole Shot

Wednesday, April 1
5:00pm
Eurotrash

Thursday, April 2
5:00pm
Pro Blues Jam

Friday, April 3
6:30pm
Jokers w/ Doug Thiele

Saturday, April 4
6:30pm
Hit Collective

Wednesday, April 8
6:00pm
First Call



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The Marks

February 26 Thursday
5:30pm-7:30pm
San Benito Chamber of Commerce Mixer
243 6th St.

February 27 Friday
3p-4p Morgan Hill Health Services
(Pvt Event)

March 15 Sunday
1p-4p Fortino Winery
Gilroy

March 18 Wednesday
Westmont Senior living
3p-4p (Pvt Event)

March 22 Sunday
1p-4p Cordevalle Winery (Clos La Chance)



When Rock Ruled the Valley: The KSJO vs. KOME Rivalry

By Dana Jang, Special to The Campbell Press

Recently, I attended the induction of San Francisco's long-running alternative station Live 105 as *Legendary Station of the Year* at the Bay Area Radio Museum in Alameda. Throughout the evening, several Live 105 personalities came up to tell me something that caught me off guard: the KSJO-KOME rivalry had inspired them to get into radio. They remembered the stickers, the stunts, the swagger—and they credited that South Bay battle for shaping the “street presence” that later became a hallmark of Live 105's identity in San Francisco.

Hearing that reminded me just how far the influence of two San Jose rock stations reached. For anyone who grew up in the South Bay during the 1970s, '80s, or '90s, the phrase *rock radio* didn't just describe a format—it described a battle. KSJO and KOME weren't simply two stations on opposite ends of the dial. They were cultural forces locked in a rivalry that helped define the identity of San Jose for more than three decades.

I had the unusual vantage point of working on both sides of the war. And like anyone who lived through it, I can tell you: this wasn't just competition. It was sport, theater, and community pride rolled into one.

The Early Skirmishes: 1970s
KSJO had already planted its flag in the freeform rock world when KOME flipped to rock in 1971. Suddenly, San Jose had two stations chasing the same young, rebellious audience—and neither was willing to blink.

KSJO, under SRD Broadcasting, leaned into its raw, progressive roots. KOME, owned by Audio House, countered with irreverence, personality driven radio, and a willingness to push boundaries. The bumpersticker war erupted: KSJO's red white and blue logo versus KOME's iconic yellow “straight ahead arrow” sign.

Listeners picked sides. Cars picked sides. High school binders, college parking lots, and every available surface became a canvas for allegiance.

Then came the mid '70s and the arrival of Program Director Mikel Hunter at KOME. He escalated the competition with outrageous promotions and tongue in cheek imaging—what he proudly called “rude radio.” KSJO responded with tighter Top 40 inspired rotations, music callout research, and consultant John Sebastian's blunt positioning statement: “No BS.”

The battle lines were drawn.

The Rock Wars Intensify: 1980s

By the 1980s, the rivalry had become the stuff of legend. Both stations were loaded with big personalities, big promotions, and even bigger egos. Concerts became battlegrounds. At every major rock show—from the Oakland Coliseum and Cow Palace to the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds and the San Jose Civic—you'd find dueling tents, dueling vans, dueling banners, and dueling street teams.

When Narragansett Broadcasting brought me back to KSJO in 1985 as Operations Manager, the competition was white hot. KSJO had swagger, street presence, and a lineup that could go toe to toe with anyone. KOME had its own stars and a fiercely loyal following.

We weren't just trying to win ratings—we were trying to win hearts, minds, and dashboard presets.

Promotions director Marty Wright turned KSJO into a guerrilla marketing machine, with KSJO T-shirts flying out of every event. KOME, under David Wohlman, fired back with stunts of its own. Some days it felt like the entire South Bay was choosing sides in a rock and roll civil war.

And listeners absolutely loved it.

The 1990s: A New Era, Same Rivalry

By the early 1990s, the radio landscape was shifting. Formats

were splintering, demographics were changing, and corporate ownership was reshaping the industry. But KSJO and KOME kept swinging.

When I returned once more—this time as Program Director under BayCom Partners—KSJO was the last true AOR powerhouse in the Valley. KOME had moved toward classic rock, opening the door for KSJO to double down on its rock identity.

Lamont & Tonelli gave KSJO a dominant morning show. The station expanded its reach through simulcasts in the North Bay. And for a time, KSJO stood alone as the Bay Area's Active Rock authority.

Even as the formats diverged, the rivalry never really faded. Listeners still compared. Advertisers still compared. And every time a new band broke or a big concert rolled through town, the old competitive instincts snapped right back into place.

Why It Mattered

Looking back, the KSJO/KOME rivalry wasn't just about ratings. It was about identity. It was about the pride of being from San Jose at a time when the South Bay was still defining itself culturally.

Two rock stations fighting for the same audience created a creative pressure cooker. It pushed both stations to be better—funnier, louder, more

Continued on page 12

Rolling Stones at Levi's Stadium

By Chris Jackson
“Mayor of Silicon Valley”



The big game at Levi's Stadium February 8, 2026, was packed with people who wanted to see the best two teams, Seattle and New England show us who was the better team. It reminded me of another time Levi's was packed: the July 17, 2024 Rolling Stones concert!

That night, the band wasted no time getting to one of their biggest songs. The previous time they played Levi's, they opened with “Jumpin' Jack Flash”; this time, they went with “Start Me Up”—Keith Richard strums his guitar, and they're off. “Start Me Up” started as a reggae song, and for years the band tried to un-reggae it before releasing it.

They originally recorded it 38 times and they all sounded reggae. On the 39th, they were able to find a rock beat to use, but they reverted to a

reggae beat for another 30 takes after that. Four years after they first recorded it, they were able to go through 70 takes of “Start Me Up” and find that one rock beat in the middle of the takes and make it into a whole song.

They released it in 1981. The final recording session took six hours—just for “Start Me Up.” That may seem like a long time for one song, but it turns out it's typical for a Rolling Stones song: they would never sit down and work out a song ahead of time because that would spoil the magic of spontaneity. It makes sense to me: you can't argue with what many call “the feel” of the band—loose, sloppy, unplanned, and actually...just right. ☺

Chris Jackson can be heard on 98.5 KFOX The South Bay's Classic Rock, weekdays 9am-2pm

THE STAGE

The Coast Starlight

APR 1 — 26, 2026

ABOUT THE SHOW
A NEW PLAY BY KEITH BUNIN

REGIONAL PREMIERE

The Coast Starlight departs Los Angeles bound for Seattle, carrying six strangers who have no idea their lives are about to intersect in extraordinary ways. As the train speeds north along the Pacific coastline, separate journeys become something far more connected.

Among the passengers: a young man carrying a dangerous secret that could destroy everything he's worked for, fellow travelers wrestling with their own crossroads, and the shared understanding that sometimes you have to leave everything behind to figure out who you really are. With roughly 1,000 miles of track ahead, they each have the length of California, Oregon, and Washington to reinvent themselves.

Keith Bunin's poignant new play explores starting over when life derails completely and the courage it takes to change course.

All aboard for a journey that proves the best destinations are often the ones you never saw coming.

Running time: 95 minutes, no intermission
Recommended age: 14 years and older




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DIG IT...



with SAM

By Sharon McCray, UCCE Master Gardener

BEGONIAS



This cold wet weather has this gardener dreaming of getting outside and getting dirty. So many seasonal plants need dead heading, trees and roses need pruning and exhausted plants removed. Pests have enjoyed this interlude of a gardener distracted by holidays, food and family. Where to start.

Pruning tops my list. It is not too late to prune anything that is usually pruned during the winter with the exception of apricots. Prune apricots in the summer, usually before August. An open wound or pruning cut on apricot or plum trees during wet weather can lead to diseases, including eutypa, a disease that can be deadly to your trees.

It is time to start thinking about summer bulbs such

as gladiolas and begonias. Gladiolas have an interesting growth habit. Their bulb is called a "corm". Corms grow upward, meaning that every year, the bulb will produce growth closer to the top of the soil. It is best to replant every couple of years to keep the corm in the ground and plants growing upright.

Begonias are an interesting plant that I struggled with for a while. I have been romanced by the brilliant bright flower and foliage colors shown in new plant catalogs and in nurseries. Buying quality bulbs and corms is essential. I rely on reputable nurseries to provide excellent quality and selection. Rarely have I been pleased with catalog purchases and have utilized those resources for variety selection only. They usually provide a

wealth of information about plant needs, growth habitat along with water and light requirements.

Over the years, and after many disappointing experiences, I have figured out, finally, which part of the begonia bulb is up. By soaking the flat side of the begonia rhizomes or bulbs in warm water for a few hours, my success rate has improved.

After the bulb is hydrated, barely snuggle it into the top of your soil: do not bury it. The tiny valley on the top of the begonia bulb will start to produce green growth within a few weeks if planted in a sunny spot. They prefer a bright sunny spot but rarely appreciate full sun. Begonias perform outstandingly as potted and as hanging plants. Some plants

sport amazing foliage and unique growing habits. Do your research and get the "right plant in the right place".

Watch out for slugs and snails and occasionally earwigs this time of year. Know the difference between sucking and chewing pests so that they are managed accordingly. Snails tend to leave holes in the middle of leaves while earwigs and caterpillars, chew around the outer leaves of your plants.

It's also time to start planting summer vegetable seeds, like tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant. One package of seeds will generally provide enough seeds to last years. There are seed libraries at several local libraries. With the exception of onion, most seeds will last several years. When soaking

seeds, warm water is best. Generally speaking, most seeds and bulbs need a minimum of 55 degree soil temperature in order to germinate.

Local seed libraries are a unique place to find seeds specific to our area because they are grown, harvested and saved by our neighbors. At the end of the season, it is hoped that you will return some seeds back to the library to keep the local source viable.

Finally, it is again another new year and opportunity to try something new in your garden. Grow something you have never grown before. Plant a tree just because. Walk your neighborhood and see what others are growing. Most importantly, enjoy being outside and in nature - you won't regret it.

WEST COAST CHEF

REMEMBERING JULIA CHILD

Boeuf Bourguignon



By Bill Peil



I was blessed to have a number of stellar culinary mentors growing up.

There was my mom, Cora, my Auntie Lu, and my Uncle Tony come to mind.

Graham Kerr, the Galloping Gourmet...The legendary Fernand Point. My many years with Jacques Pepin, Jeremiah Tower, Wolfgang Puck, and the late, great Julia Child.

The influence she had on teaching American men and house wives to cook French was pro-

found. She made it look easy and showed us that making a mistake in the kitchen was not the end of the world. I had several encounters with her, and she was true culinary royalty.

Her liaison with Jacques Pepin, and their friendship was epic, and remains so. Her volumes of Mastering the Art of French cooking remain the gold standard to this day. She came to a book signing at Sur la Table in Los Gatos, and there were many hundreds of people applauding her and waiting for a glimpse.

Here is her base recipe, along with a few tweaks, for her Boeuf Bourguignon. It remains one of the go-to cold weather dishes. French comfort food at its very finest. The flavors are big and bold. It is a tremendous dinner party dish that can be made well ahead of time.

- ¼ pound bacon, diced
- ¼ cup Cognac
- ¼ cup fresh chopped parsley
- ¼ tsp. fresh ground pepper (twice)
- ½ cup flour
- 1 ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper
- Dash cayenne pepper
- 3 pounds bottom round, cut in 1 ½ inch pieces
- ¼ pound butter
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 4 medium onions, chopped,
- 2 cups beef stock or as needed
- 2 cups good red wine
- 1 heaping tsp. fresh chopped thyme
- 1 tsp. fresh chopped marjoram
- 1 pound fresh mushrooms
- 16 small white pearl onions (frozen is fine)

Chopped fresh parsley to garnish
Now cook! Marinate bacon in Cognac parsley and black pepper for 2-3 hours. Combine salt, pepper, flour, and cayenne. Dredge beef in seasoned flour. Melt half the butter and half olive oil in heavy skillet and brown meat all over. Add chopped onions, and brown. Transfer beef and onions to 3 Qt. or larger casserole with tight fitting lid. Drain bacon, reserving marinade, and

brown it in small amount of butter. Add to beef, deglaze the skillet with marinade, and ¼ cup beef stock. Pour over meat, add wine, thyme, marjoram, and enough stock to cover meat. Cover and bake at 375 degree oven for 2 hours, or until meat is tender. Sauté mushrooms in 2 Tbsp. butter until barely cooked.

Add to meat. Parboil pearl onions for 3 minutes, Drain well, and sauté in remaining butter to caramelize and brown lightly. Add to meat, replace cover, and continue cooking for another hour. Add more wine or stock if needed. Adjust



seasonings, and serve sprinkled with fresh parsley. Great with mashed potatoes, or buttered noodles.

Open up that great bottle of red. BON APPETIT !!! Billy.

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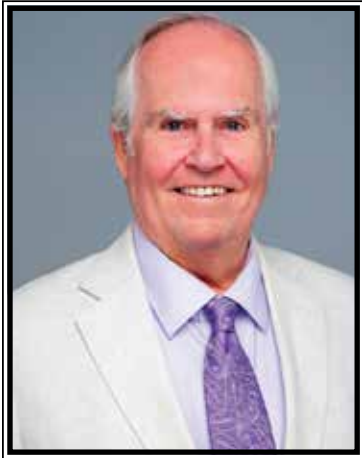
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Realtors...More Than Sales



Most people interact with a Real Estate Agent only when buying or selling real property like their home. Many have an understanding of the commission structure, the marketing and the ability to function in the transaction to make it appear smooth and seamless for the client. There's much more that affects a home owner, seller or buyer, however, than simply signing them up for a service.

There are between 400,000 and 430,000 real estate Brokers and Salespersons in California, however, only about 185,000 are members of the California Association of Realtors (C.A.R.). Only those who are members can claim the title of "Realtor." Only members are

authorized to use that term. As members we form what is the largest consumer advocacy group in CA.

Here are two current examples of how we, as Realtors, work to protect the consumer. First is a bill currently under consideration in the CA legislature. It's called AB 1406. This is a bill that would change the liquidated damages clause in a purchase contract limit of 3%, currently in law, to 6%. Liquidated damages are the amount of money a seller can seek from a buyer who cancels a transaction once all contingencies are removed. This is being pushed by builders who, in their contracts, eliminate contingencies, in essence making up to 6% of the purchase price forfeited upon signing. Despite C.A.R.'s opposition, this was passed by the Assembly and is now in the State Senate. We continue to oppose this increased costs to the consumer.

A second example is more local; at the Santa Clara County level. While many of us at the local Realtor Association wrote to the County Supervisors, they voted unanimously to in-

crease the costs of challenging the value of a home given by the County Assessor. This is an increase from \$50 to \$290 when you want to challenge the value given which determines your property taxes. This will be a non-refundable fee a property owner incurs when they feel they're being valued too high and, subsequently, paying a higher property tax amount. The Santa Clara County Association of Realtors (SCCAOR) opposed this increase as home ownership is already considered unaffordable by many. This only increases the costs of home ownership. Unfortunately, we don't win in all of our efforts to protect homeowners.

Participation with C.A.R. and SCCAOR are volunteer efforts I take to protect private property rights and try to make home ownership more affordable. They are part of how I manifest my motto, "No one is more dedicated to your goals" while serving you and others in Real Estate. Call or email me for the latest on home buying, selling, investing or legislation affecting you at (408) 887-4731 or geneshomes@earthlink.net.

WHEN ROCK RULED THE VALLEY: THE KSJO VS. KOME RIVALRY

Continued from page 10

daring, more connected to the community.

It made the South Bay a rock radio powerhouse in a way few markets ever experienced.

The Legacy Lives On

Today, KOME's old 98.5 frequency is KUFX, playing classic

rock, and KSJO 92.3 frequency broadcasts Bollywood programming. But the rivalry still echoes in the memories of anyone who grew up here. People still tell me which station they were loyal to. They still remember the stickers, the

concerts, morning shows and the other DJs, the slogans, the pranks, the promotions.

KSJO and KOME weren't just stations. They were tribes.

And for a few glorious decades, San Jose was the center of the rock and roll universe—because two stations refused to let the other one win.

Set Jetting - A Walk Through The Silver Screen

By Susan Lola

From exotic cityscapes to otherworldly landscapes, blockbuster films have transformed everyday destinations into cinematic legends. Step into the real-world backdrops of your favorite movies and discover remarkable filming locations that seamlessly blend Hollywood magic with authentic travel experiences.



Ireland's Cosmic Coastline

The dramatic windswept cliffs of Skellig Michael off Ireland's southwest coast became Luke Skywalker's secluded hideaway in "Star Wars." Fans can follow Rey's footsteps on the Wild Atlantic Way, where ancient stone structures and emerald landscapes create a vista worthy of a galaxy far, far away.



Hawaii's Lost Temple Trail

The lush rainforests of Kauai's Huleia National Wildlife Refuge set the scene for Indiana Jones' heart-pounding opening sequence in "Raiders of the Lost Ark." The dense jungle where Indy famously outran that giant boulder remains largely unchanged for adventure seekers.



Vietnam's Prehistoric Paradise

The limestone karsts of Vietnam's Ninh Binh and Ha Long Bay created "Kong: Skull Island's" mysterious landscape. These emerald-laden waterways and misty mountains offered the perfect prehistoric atmosphere, with boat tours now following filming routes through nature's most dramatic set pieces.



Singapore: The Real Crazy Rich Experience

Singapore's glittering skyline starred in "Crazy Rich Asians." Savor a Singapore Sling at the historic Raffles Hotel where movie characters celebrated, or experience the futuristic Gardens by the Bay with its towering Supertrees that served as the film's iconic backdrop.



New Zealand's Lord of the Rings

Step into the magical world of Middle earth with a tour of the Hobbiton Movie Set, a Wētā Workshop experience, or a tour through high country filming locations.



Italy's Culinary Canvas


Julia Roberts' gastronomic awakening in "Eat, Pray, Love" showcased Rome and Naples' mouth-watering cuisine. Visit Naples' L'Antica Pizzeria da Michele for authentic Neapolitan pizza or dine at Rome's charming Restaurant Santa Lucia where the movie's most delectable scenes were filmed.




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Bergamot & Basil
 This pair of adorable boys are a loving set to not only each other but to people too, we would like them adopted together. Bergamot (the gray and white) and Basil (the black and white) look like ying and yang when napping just look at that photo, but they also find fun in play-wrestling together. They adore time being held and purr up a storm, both are thrilled to be with you and settle down for a night of TV with you on the couch. Basil and Bergamot are a great set - playful and adore each other, and sleep together when play-time is over, and Bergamot is happy to groom Basil when they cuddle, it's so cute. When it comes to play Basil is usually the instigator of all the fun, but Bergamot also can be the one to start it all up! They enjoy balls, the tri-tier, fake mice, spring toys, and wand toys and you can see their videos of them playing even at the pet fair on our website, they are so comfortable with everything. These 5 month old boys are all ready to go, neutered, chipped, tested and all their vaccines. Contact Janice.Frazier@sbcglobal.net for more information, or see www.13stcats.org for their posting, along with videos, and of course all our other felines for adoption!




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Campbell Crime Report



By Carol W. Gerwitz

West Valley Dr. (S) reportedly grabbed (V) on his neck leaving visible injuries and was pounding on (V)'s bedroom door. Upon arrival, officer's on viewed (S) grabbing (V) by the arm. Booked.

Nido Dr. (S) sent 89 phone calls and text messages to (V). Report taken.

Redding Rd. (S) pushed (V) causing visible injury to her face and pain to her right arm. (S) had a peaceful contact restraining order protecting (V) from her. (S) was also in possession of methamphetamine and prescription pills without a prescription. Booked.

Leon Dr./Del Mar Ave. (V)'s vehicle had been reported stolen and was recovered and released to (V).

Waterford Ct. Unknown (S) obtained approximately \$22,000 meant to be paid to (V).

E. Hamilton Ave./Creekside Way (S1) who was the driver of a blue truck was pulled over

for a CVC violation. (S2) who was the passenger was on parole and found to be in possession of methamphetamine and credit cards not belonging to him. A glass smoking pipe was located in the truck. (S1) was cited and released. (S2) was booked into jail.

McCoy Ave. (V) reported that unknown suspects opened the door to his unlocked vehicle and stole the garage door remote and entered his garage. (S)s took shoes which they dropped outside of the house.

E. Hamilton Ave. (S) was contacted after reporting a non-existent physical fight. (S) was determined to be under the influence of a controlled substance and a felon in possession of pepper spray, counterfeit mail keys, lost property, and another person's credit cards. Booked.

N. 3rd St. (S) kicked and choked (V1) during an argument. (S) also punched (V2) when he intervened. (S) then threatened (V1), (V2), and (V3) before leaving the residence. (S) fled prior to CPD

arrival and refused to return when contacted via telephone.

S. Bascom Ave. Three unknown (S)'s entered the store and stole miscellaneous perfume testers and additional merchandise, then fled the scene.

Winchester Blvd. (S) was in violation of CMC no camping ordinance. (S) was found to have two outstanding warrants totaling \$35,000 and to be in possession of suspected methamphetamine. Booked.

Civic Center Dr. (S1) and (S2) were reported to be attempting to break into a residence. (S1) had vandalized the residence with a hammer, he had lit a fire in front of the front door of a residence and was under the influence for a controlled substance. (S2) was in possession of pepper spray and had a prior conviction of a violent crime, (S2) was determined to be under the influence for a controlled substance, and committed a felony while out on SORP. Booked.

Gale Dr. Unknown (S) threw a pear through (V)'s window caus-

ing about \$150 in damage.

E. Campbell Ave./S. Winchester Blvd. A traffic stop was initiated. (S) provided multiple false identities to officers but was identified and determined to have an active felony warrant. Booked.

Rose Ct. (V) reported that (S) had punched her in the face. Upon arrival CPD officers had to force entry due to (V) screaming and no one answering the door. (S) was in violation of a served criminal protective order and was in possession of drug paraphernalia. Booked.

Whitethorne Dr. (S) was contacted after he was observed littering and walking away. (S) did not listen to commands and resisted officers as he was being detained. (S) was found to be in possession of meth and drug paraphernalia, and to be under the influence of a CNS stimulant and had 3 outstanding warrants. Booked without further incident.

E. Hamilton Ave. (S) originally shoplifted merchandise

from the business and then attempted a fraudulent return of the stolen merchandise. Records revealed (S) to have 2 prior theft convictions. Booked.

Normandy Dr. Two unknown (S) broke the front passenger window of (V)'s vehicle and damaged the ignition in an attempt to steal the vehicle. (S)'s fled in an unknown direction and are still at large.

W. Hacienda Ave. (S) posed as the owner of the property and posted a room for rent. (V) realized (S) was attempting to obtain PII when (V) went to the residence and found out the listing was fraudulent.

N. 1st St. (V) reported (S) demanded money from (V), and when (V) declined, (S) threatened to distribute (V)'s nude images. (V) reported that this is routine and habitual behavior by (S), when (S) does not get her way.

Welker Ct. Three unidentified (S)s wearing hoodies stole (V)'s security camera from outside the residence.

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Rock Hall 2026 Heats Up the Stage Yet the Backlog of Legends Grows

Continued from page 3

It's a strong and culturally relevant slate—one that acknowledges global influence, genre-blending, and the evolution of popular music. Inductees will be announced in May, with the ceremony following in the fall.

“Some of rock’s most important architects remain unrecognized—not even nominated.”



The Legends Still Waiting

- J. Geils Band – American bar-band swagger and blistering live energy.
- Thin Lizzy – Twin-guitar attack that shaped modern hard rock.
- Emerson, Lake & Palmer – Progressive rock pioneers of symphonic ambition.
- REO Speedwagon – Arena-rock giants of the early '80s.
- Supertramp – Sophisticated pop-rock craftsmanship.
- Peter Frampton – Live-album phenomenon and guitar hero.
- Blue Öyster Cult – Mystical, literary hard rock innovators.
- Foreigner – Masters of radio-ready rock power.
- Boston – Studio innovation that changed production forever.
- Styx – Theatrical, prog-leaning rock hitmakers.
- Procol Harum – Baroque rock pioneers.
- The Guess Who – Canadian trailblazers of early '70s radio.
- King Crimson – Experimental progressive rock cornerstone.
- Jethro Tull – Folk, classical, and rock fusion trailblazers.
- Little Feat – Revered musician’s band with eclectic brilliance.
- Scorpions – German hard rock ambassadors.
- Jimmy Buffett – Builder of a cultural island-rock movement.



These are not obscure footnotes. These are arena headliners, platinum sellers, and foundational influences whose songs still dominate classic rock playlists.

The Rock Hall is more than a museum—it is a narrative institution. If it seeks to celebrate the full history of rock and roll, it must widen the spotlight—not just forward, but backward.

Until then, each new ballot will spark not just celebration—but debate.

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

Continued from page 9

the valley can experience history in meaningful, engaging ways.

Campbell Museums Volunteer Recruitment Mixer on Thursday, March 26 from 5–7 PM at the Campbell Museums!

Come learn about the many ways you can get involved — from docents and greeters to gardeners, special event helpers, and the Campbell Museum Foundation Board.

Current volunteers and museum staff will be on hand to answer questions and share their experiences.

Enjoy light refreshments, enter our prize drawing, and discover how you can be part of a vibrant community group in the Santa Clara Valley. If you're ready to make a difference and help

make history happen, we'd love to welcome you!

Calling All Artists!

The Campbell Museums' Biennial Art Show returns in 2026 for its fourth exhibition — and this year's theme is **“Home.”**

What does *home* mean to you? A place, a memory, a feeling, a landscape, a community? We invite artists to explore and interpret this theme in bold, thoughtful, and unexpected ways.

This is a juried exhibition, with strength of concept and interpretation of the theme serving as the primary selection criteria. Artists are encouraged to create new work inspired by “Home,” though existing pieces that powerfully capture the theme are also welcome.

Guidelines can be found at the museum website: Campbellmuseums.com

DISTRICT NEWS

Continued from page 7

enrollment. Approximately \$1.4 million was directed toward the young adult deferred entry of judgment program, which sends some youths aged 18 to 20 to juvenile facilities instead of prison.

Kids and young adults deserve a chance at restorative rehabilitation that works. That's what the criminal justice system should be about.

When I spearheaded the children's budget seven years ago, I never imagined we'd have to weigh funding its critical programs because of a federal administration that willfully disregards the very real needs of individuals and families across the country. But I can say this county will remain committed to creating the best future for our children during this unprecedented fiscal uncertainty. Amid all the bad, we can say we've done good.

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— Watermark family member



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Blossom Hill Crafts Campbell Chambers' Ribbon Cutting Debuts Local Geozzle Geometric Game



Right to left: Dan Furtado Campbell mayor, Susan Landry, game inventor/former mayor of Campbell, Ken Johnson, executive director Campbell Chamber, David Johanson, owner of Blossom Hill Crafts, a ceramics studio first location in Almaden on Blossom Hill Rd. Los Gatos.

The grand opening of Blossom Hill Crafts Store is located at 354 E. Campbell Ave, in the heart of downtown Campbell. There was a warm community welcome, along with an exciting game debut because

her new game, which is a new-style geometric puzzle game. Everyone was able to view the display of Dots & Boxes from the center display table, along with Creature's Folic on the



Blossom Hill Crafts and Susan Landry, inventor of Geozzle, welcome the crowd of testers and invitees as they look at the Geozzle game display. Many Campbell residents and families attended as well.

of the partnership with a local inventor, Susan Landry and a unique geometric game called Geozzle.

The game inventor, Susan Landry, and former mayor of Campbell, has launched her new game, which is a new-style geometric puzzle game. Everyone was able to view the display of Dots & Boxes from the center display table, along with Creature's Folic on the other table, to show the versatility of the game's ability to play more than one geometric puzzle game on it. Our Campbell Chamber's executive director, Ken Johnson,

hosted the ribbon cutting of Blossom Hill Crafts and game inventor Susan Landry's newest board game, **Geozzle**. This is a unique, exciting, and versatile challenge in the "family game" arena!

The game Geozzle is a geometric puzzle game that takes game playing and puzzle solving to an exciting new level.

Susan was quoted as saying, 10 years ago, when she started this journey, she dreamed of selling the 1st game box and having a "game time" party in downtown Campbell. Special thank you and my gratitude to the Campbell Chamber, Blossom Hill Crafts, and Orchard Valley Coffee House, where the games were tested and played by several tables of players and testers.

Geozzle challenges players to use problem solving skills by merging the four cardinal directions using the concepts of lines and points of geometry, and adding the complexities of solving puzzles. This game is for 1-4 players and for ages 5-99. Play times will

vary depending on the play option one chooses to decide to play and how many players. There are several play options. Dot's and Box, and Creature Folic are among a few of the choices available.

Come by the Blossom Hill Crafts store and talk with them about their 55 year history of supporting art in a community of over 200 artists and 40 new students a month. They have memberships, available games, and book merchandise to browse while you go to pick up your game of Geozzle.

One can pre-order the Geozzle board game exclusively at Blossom Hill Crafts. The games will be available in the fall for delivery. This is a great way to get your board game for the holidays and support



Creature's Frolic game design, on the table display, where creatures jump around the board trying to land on an end piece.

Campbell's businesses and economic development! Website is www.geozzle.com



Some of the game tester invitees are enjoying the challenges and learning the game from its inventor, Susan Landry, as she gives instructions on playing this exciting new game!

Chuck's Cellar: The Little Los Altos Folk Room That Helped Shape American Music

As 91.5 FM KKUP aired for its annual **Country, Folk & Bluegrass Marathon**, airing February 20-22, it's impossible not to look back at one of the South Bay's most influential—yet often overlooked—folk venues: **Chuck's Cellar** in Los Altos. Long before arenas and amphitheaters defined the touring circuit, this cozy basement room on El Camino Real quietly became a crucible for some of America's most enduring artists.

From the late 1960s through the early 1970s, Chuck's Cellar was the folkrock stop between San Francisco and the South Bay. Tucked beneath a steak and lobster restaurant, the venue offered candlelit tables, wood beams, a fireplace, and acoustics so warm that performers often described it as "playing inside a guitar." Capacity hovered around a couple hundred, but the lines in the parking lot suggested a far larger following.

A Launchpad for Legends
Chuck's Cellar earned its place in music history in 1971, when **Linda Ronstadt** assembled a new backing band for a

Cellar gig. On her producer's recommendation, she brought together three young musicians—**Glenn Frey, Don Henley, and Randy Meisner**—who had never played as a unit before. The chemistry was instant. That night in Los Altos became the spark that led directly to the formation of **the Eagles**, one of the most successful American bands of all time.

But the Cellar's roster reads like a who's who of folk and Americana:

- **John Stewart**, fresh from the Kingston Trio, who recorded part of an album there and played quarterly shows for nearly two decades.
- **Hoyt Axton**, whose booming voice filled every inch of the room.
- **The Limelinters and Glenn Yarbrough**, who drew standing room only crowds.
- **Rick Nelson & The Stone Canyon Band**, who played a memorable December 1970 set.
- Local favorites like **South Bay Express, DaddyO,** and **James Lee Reeves**, who

helped define the region's folk identity.

For a "sleepy" Los Altos, it was an unlikely cultural hotspot. But word traveled fast among touring musicians: Chuck's was fun, friendly, and close enough to San Francisco to make routing easy. They didn't make big money, but they made big memories.

A Room That Felt Like Home
Patrons still describe Chuck's Cellar with a kind of reverence. It was a singles' hangout, a date night destination, and a community gathering place all at once. You could walk in alone and feel like you belonged.

"You walked into the place and you felt like you were home," one longtime regular recalled. "Good music, good people, and a cocktail at a fair price."

The intimacy of the room created connections that lasted decades—some even leading to marriages. It was that kind of place.

A Personal Note from the Radio Side
As someone who spent years in Bay Area radio—including my time as **Music Director at**

KOME in San Jose—I saw firsthand how folk artists could electrify a room. KOME had a special relationship with **John Stewart**, especially when his song "**Gold**"—featuring **Stevie Nicks** on background vocals—became a major hit. Our staff spent countless nights enjoying live music at **Joshua**, Larry Hancock's sister restaurant on Stevens Creek, which had a close promotional relationship with KOME.

But even then, we all knew that Chuck's Cellar was something different. The folk nights there were legendary. Lines snaked through the parking lot, and once inside, you felt like you were witnessing something intimate and historic. And often, you were.

The Final Curtain
By the mid-1980s, development pressures and changing times caught up with the venue. Chuck's Cellar closed in 1985, though the building still stands and is considered by many a local landmark. Stewart himself played the final show—a fitting farewell for an artist who helped define the room.

Why Chuck's Cellar Matters Today

As KKUP and *KKUPFM.org* aired its annual **Country, Folk & Bluegrass Marathon**, the spirit of Chuck's Cellar feels especially alive. The station's commitment to independent, community driven music echoes the ethos that made the Cellar so beloved.

Chuck's was never about spectacle. It was about songs, stories, and the shared experience of live music in a room small enough to hear every breath of a ballad. It was about discovery—of artists, of community, and sometimes of lifelong partners.

And it was about the South Bay's role in shaping American folk and rock history, a role too often overshadowed by its northern neighbors.

This month, as KKUP celebrates the traditions of folk, country, bluegrass and Americana, we also celebrate the venues that nurtured them. Chuck's Cellar may be gone, but its legacy continues to resonate—one song, one memory, and one radio marathon at a time.