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EAST BAY TIMES

49ERS

Greg Papa grateful for support after diagnosis



Greg Papa, the 49ers radio voice, has been battling cancer for months. **ARIC CRABB — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Announcer has been fighting leukemia over the past year, hopes to return soon

By Cam Inman
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Photos of churches across North America steadily pop up on Greg Papa's cellphone, taken by Syracuse classmate and ESPN broadcaster Sean McDonough in whichever city he is calling games.

"You have people all over the world thinking of you and praying for you," McDonough says in a video from St. Anthony Shrine in downtown Boston.

Emails, texts and calls flood in from other college classmates, all rallying Papa against B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia and its brutal aftermath, including a months-long hospital stay that required a ventilator.

The same support pours in from Papa's vast Bay Area cohorts, from every corner of media to every level of the pro teams, especially those around the 49ers, who have called him their play-by-play man since 2019.

"I've had a lot of days and nights I couldn't respond," Papa, 63, says, "because I was battling for my existence."



Greg Papa waves to the audience from the broadcast booth before their NFL game at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara on Jan. 3 when he returned to the radio broadcast booth for the first time since his cancer diagnosis. Papa is still fighting leukemia but has been cleared for a second return. **JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

INSIDE: Thousands have reached out to support Greg Papa in the year since his leukemia diagnosis. **Page C1**

Papa's childhood idols have reached out — Marv Albert praised his versatility, drawing an excited "Whoa!" from Papa

— and more support comes from previously unknown callers, such as A's broadcaster Johnny Dostkow.

"He would send me video messages of him walking on a beach or outside a stadium. It would be an uplifting two-minute message," Papa

said of Dostkow. "Wow, I'd never met this man, and to take time out to reach me in that way, it was incredible."

For decades, for five different Bay Area professional teams, Papa has served as a

See **PAPA** on Page A5

LAWSUIT FOCUSING ON CHILDREN

New trial a threat to Meta's future

\$1.4 trillion at stake, but states' demands to remove features could be bigger, expert says

By Ethan Baron
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Meta goes on trial this week in Oakland over allegations it built Facebook and Instagram to addict children, concealed the resulting harm and illegally collected young users' data, a case that Meta says could expose it to as much as \$1.4 trillion in penalties or force fundamental changes to two of the world's largest social media platforms.

The potentially greater peril is not the financial penalty, experts said, but a court order stripping away features that drive young people to spend more time on the platforms, including infinite scrolling, visible "likes," beauty filters and engagement-boost-

See **TRIAL** on Page A5

WAR IN MIDDLE EAST

Trump threatens to bomb Oman as it talks with Iran

By Catherine Lucey
BLOOMBERG

The prospects for peace in the Middle East suffered a fresh setback, with President Donald Trump reportedly saying he is in no hurry to end the war with Iran, and fighting flaring anew in Lebanon.

Trump told Fox News in a phone interview that a U.S. naval blockade on Iranian ports is putting pressure on the country and he has no timeline for resolving the conflict.

He also warned that if "Oman gets in the way we'll bomb the s--- out of them," without giving any further details. He made a similar threat in May. Oman is negotiating with Iran on how the Strait of Hormuz should be managed, but the U.S. isn't part of those discussions.

See **THREAT** on Page A5

CELEBRATING SANTA CRUZ BEACH RESCUE

President Trump honors teen lifeguard, boy he rescued

By Collin Binkley
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A teenage lifeguard and the boy he rescued off the coast of California were reunited Monday at the White House as President Donald Trump honored both as heroes.

"What you did was incredible, and everybody saw it," Trump told the boys, referring to a viral video of the July rescue in Santa Cruz. "When I first saw it, I said, 'roll that back, I want to see that again.'"

Seated alongside 16-year-old lifeguard Ryder Williams and 10-year-old Nathaniel Rai, Trump marveled at how each of them stayed cool in the dramatic ocean rescue in Santa Cruz in July. The boys' families joined the Oval Office reunion,

along with lifeguard Aaron Bohnen, who aided in the rescue.

Online videos of the rescue have been viewed millions of times worldwide. The footage shows Williams clutching Nathaniel as heavy waves repeatedly smash into them. At one point, the boys disappear underwater for several seconds before emerging from the surf, Williams continuing to haul Nathaniel toward the shore.

Trump hailed Williams as a "real hero." He told Nathaniel that "God was watching you." Trump and Williams sat in chairs in front of the Oval Office fireplace, while Nathaniel and others sat alongside on a pair of couches.

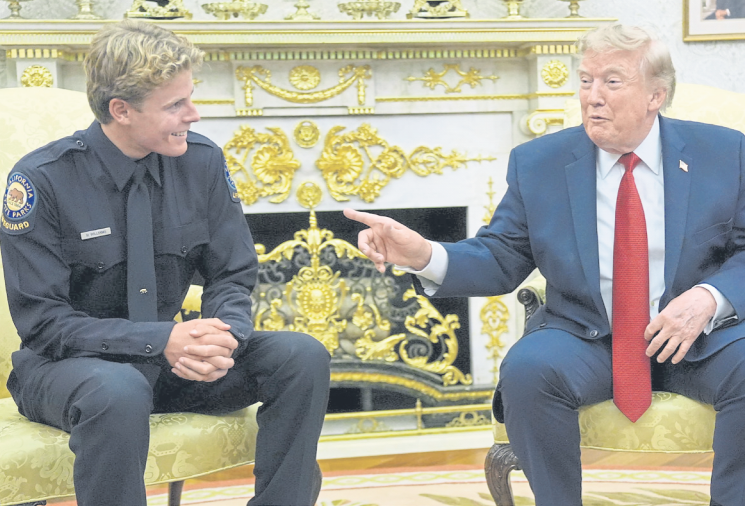
Asked about the moment, Williams credited those who trained him how to snap into action.

"In those dangerous moments that we have, we always try to fall back on our training," he said. "I really was thinking about how to get the boy out of the water as fast as I can."

Wearing a black uniform with a California State Parks lifeguard patch, Williams said he hopes to train as a paramedic and become a firefighter.

Nathaniel, sitting next to his father and sister, nodded along as Trump described the rescue.

"Your father is the happiest man in the world," Trump told him, adding that the boy deserved respect for how he faced the emergency. "The way Nathaniel handled it was — he was cool, considering



President Donald Trump speaks as he meets with Lifeguard Ryder Williams in the Oval Office of the White House on Monday in Washington. **MANUEL BALCE CENETA — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

See **LIFEGUARD** on Page A5