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Los Altos Town Crier

Community news for Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View since 1947

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WEDNESDAY • August 13, 2025

Fine art in the park



PHOTOS BY S.M. LIEU/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

The 50th Fine Art in the Park, hosted by the Rotary Club of Los Altos, drew a strong gathering to Lincoln Park over the weekend. The showcase of art was wide-ranging, from jewelry, above, to the bag at left made from beer can tabs. Below, a martial arts demonstration was among the vast array of live entertainment.



Cuesta pickleball sites criticized for potential loss of green space

Town Crier Report

Mountain View city officials are trying to accommodate the needs of pickleball enthusiasts with plans for 12 new courts at either Cuesta Park, the adjacent undeveloped annex or newly acquired property at San Rafael Avenue.

The Cuesta Park option has local environmentalists decrying the potential loss of green space at Cuesta, specifically where an off-leash dog area is located.

The city has scheduled an Aug. 27 community meeting to present draft findings and conceptual designs to gather further public input. Plans then go to the city council for more direction.

According to spokesperson Lenka Wright, the city is analyzing locations for the possible

construction of new pickleball courts as part of a “Pickleball Study, Design and Construction Project.” Wright said the three options are from among more than 60 city-owned parcels initially considered.

The city’s Parks and Recreation Commission last October recommended the off-leash dog park location at Cuesta. Two additional locations are at play, including the 2.4-acre property near San Rafael Avenue and a portion of the Cuesta Annex near the Cuesta tennis courts.

These new locations were included at the direction of the Mountain View City Council on April 22 as part of the FY 2025–27 Strategic Work Plan, in response to “considerable community input,” Wright said.

See PICKLEBALL, Page 4

Online Poll of the Week



Here are the results of the latest poll:
How tall is too tall when it comes to downtown buildings?

- Two stories – 2.1%
- Three stories – 11.3%
- Four stories – 4.2%
- No more than four stories along the downtown periphery, such as First Street – 4.9%
- There should be no limits, especially for new housing – 77.5%

Watch for more polls at losaltosonline.com

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Around Town



National Night Out hits Los Altos

Local law enforcement and first responders got into the spirit of National Night Out, Aug. 5, visiting neighborhoods and hosting events. Los Altos Police Department activities included drone demonstrations and appearances from Baine, the police K-9. The Santa Clara County Fire Department showed up, left, with fire truck demonstrations. Below left, the annual event in Los Altos' Toyon Farms neighborhood drew 32 residents. Capt. Katie Krauss and Emily Wong, from Los Altos police, celebrate with Toyon Farms residents.

PHOTO ABOVE COURTESY OF THE LOS ALTOS POLICE DEPARTMENT
PHOTO AT LEFT COURTESY OF AGNES DERBIN-CAULFIELD



Correction

Last week's story about Los Altos library renovations incorrectly noted Anderson Brulé as architects for the Los Altos Community Center. The center's architects were Noll & Tam.



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News

Sales tax put on ballot to counteract county healthcare losses

Town Crier Report

Reacting to staggering losses in federal revenue, Santa Clara County supervisors last week agreed to place a five-eighths-cent sales tax on the Nov. 4 special election ballot.

Measure A will not come close to matching the \$1 billion in projected losses to county healthcare by 2030, under President Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill." But officials hope the \$330 million in annual tax revenues, in tandem

with other budget cuts, will prevent the county healthcare system from collapsing.

County officials said H.R. 1, signed into law by President Trump on July 4, "included major and unprecedented cuts to Medicaid and food assistance, putting at risk health care and food for millions of Americans. Medicaid provides health care access for one in five Americans and nearly half of all children in the United States."

The county's measure, which needs a simple majority to pass, would be in effect April 1, 2026 through April 1, 2031. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the ballot measure at a special Aug. 7 meeting.

Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga, whose District 5 includes Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View, offered a broader view of Measure A's purpose. She acknowledged the massive budget shortfall is a wakeup call for more fiscal

responsibility.

"This proposed sales tax is a general tax, intended to stabilize the general fund and reduce the subsidies currently supporting our healthcare system," Abe-Koga said in a letter to constituents. "I've spoken often about fiscal responsibility, and I want to emphasize again the importance of taking that seriously. What I hear most from residents is that

See SALES TAX, Page 5

PICKLEBALL

From Page 1

But environmentalists, some with groups such as Greenspace Mountain View and the newly formed Save Cuesta Park, are concerned that the city is moving ahead after hearing more from pickleball advocates than the rest of the community. One Save Cuesta Park member, who asked not to be identified, said the city did a community survey that showed only 7% of respondents were interested in pickleball courts. She said that survey has since been removed from the city's website.

The Save Cuesta Park group suggests conversion of parking lots would be preferable to digging up existing green space.

"Once something's paved over, nothing ever gets unpaved," the member said.

Resident Li Zhang framed her opposition to the project this way: "Imagine replacing a big chunk of that (park) with a 12-court pickleball complex, the thwack-thwack of plastic balls echoing across the meadow, and a full parking lot spilling into more pavement. That's the future on the table right now."

"The city recognizes that parks are shared public spaces meant to serve a wide variety of community needs," Wright said. "These include amenities such as playgrounds, trails, picnic areas, open space and more active features like basketball, volleyball, soccer, tennis and pickleball courts. As with any park planning effort, this process requires balancing a range of interests, oftentimes at odds – including those advocating to protect open space, as well as neighborhood residents, park visitors, tennis players and



MAX ASMAR/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

The Cuesta Park tennis courts, pictured here, may be accompanied by 12 pickleball courts as one of three options under consideration by the city of Mountain View.

pickleball players.

"Mountain View is not alone in navigating these challenges," Wright said. "Many cities locally and across the country are working to meet the evolving recreational needs of their communities while preserving access to and the character of existing park spaces. The city is committed to moving forward with transparency and meaningful public engagement."

Pickleball, a variation on the game of tennis, was invented in the 1960s, but skyrocketed in popularity just a few years ago. From 2021 through 2024, Sports and Fitness Industry Association said pickleball was the fastest-growing sport in the United States.

The city initially responded to demand with the opening of three dedicated courts at Rengstorff Park in 2018. Then in 2023, six more pickleball courts were striped onto two existing tennis courts at Rengstorff Park.

"This seven-year process of responding to the community's interest in pickleball is now culminating in the feasibility study that is underway," Wright said.

Wright pointed to a Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan survey. Pickleball courts received a Medium Priority Investment Rating of 77 (medium range = 50-99). Pickleball programs – such as lessons and leagues – scored even higher, with a rating of 99, placing them near the high priority threshold (100+).

"While court construction may not have been the top-rated facility, there is community interest in pickleball activities and dedicated court space will help support that demand," she said.

Some expressed concern that pickleball courts would impact a large portion of the annex.

"The potential layouts being developed, which will be shared at the Aug. 27 public

meeting, propose to integrate new courts adjacent to the existing tennis area by using less than one acre of Cuesta Annex and approximately 11.5 acres would remain as is," Wright said.

"I don't yet have a solid opinion about this particular proposal," said Councilmember Lucas Ramirez. "I generally support providing additional pickleball facilities. It's clear that the demand is high, and the pickleball community has been advocating for years for new courts. I'd like to see that this is accomplished. The location is harder."

"I wish we had more effectively engaged residents early on to identify suitable locations. Staff had shared with the council that several sites are being evaluated. My guess is that, one way or another, we will have to make a hard decision. There doesn't seem to be a location that is universally supported."

El Camino recognized among best U.S. hospitals

Town Crier Report

El Camino Health has been recognized as one of the Best Hospitals for 2025-2026 by U.S. News & World Report, ranking as the top community hospital in the San Jose metropolitan area.

The annual U.S. News Best Hospitals list, now in its 36th year, recognizes hospitals for excellence in clinical outcomes, nursing care and patient safety practices.

"We are honored to once again be recognized among the nation's best hospitals," said Dan Woods, chief executive officer of El Camino Health. "This achievement is a testament to the dedication and expertise of our physicians, nurses and staff, who consistently provide exceptional care to our community. Being named the top community hospital in our area highlights our ongoing commitment to excellence and to provide the highest quality patient experience."

In addition to being ranked as one of the top two hospitals in the San Jose metropolitan area, El Camino Health was ranked 16th overall in the state of California, moving up 24 spots from the previous year. This designation requires hospitals to earn the highest possible ratings in numerous procedures and conditions. El Camino Health earned high

See HOSPITALS, Page 5

News

Four candidates, including Los Altos vice mayor, to vie for county assessor

Town Crier Report

Four candidates, including a Los Altos City Council member will be vying for the position of Santa Clara County Assessor on the Nov. 4 ballot.

Longtime Assessor Larry Stone's July 6 retirement triggered the special election. The winner will have the position for a year – the remainder of Stone's term. The position will be up again in November 2026 for another four years.

The deadline for filing was Aug. 8.

Bryan Do, currently board president of the Eastside Union High School District, is the latest entry to the four-candidate race.

The others are: Neysa Fligor, currently Los Altos Vice Mayor; Saratoga City Councilmember Yan Zhao; and former



Fligor



Zhao

Saratoga Councilmember Rishi Kumar.

Kumar, who ran unsuccessfully in the 2022 16th District Congressional race, is already vowing to cut taxes, "protect Prop 13" and support a property tax exemption for seniors. He also says he is the only candidate ready to modernize the Assessor's Office.

Fligor, who is serving as a special assistant to the assessor's office, said she has overseen a successful effort to modernize the office's property tax

management system this year. She said she is the most qualified because she works in the office and has an appraiser's license.

Zhao, an electrical engineer by trade, also points to technology upgrades and efficiency that she said she would bring to the office.

Zhao, who made the earliest commitment to run, is endorsed by U.S. Congressman Rho Khanna and state treasurer Fiona Ma. Fligor is endorsed by former District 5 County Supervisor Joe Simitian and by Stone himself.

Zhao, who entered the race late last year, claims more than \$500,000 raised for her campaign thus far.

Fligor, who entered the race three days after Stone's June 23 resignation announcement, said she has raised more than \$100,000.

SALES TAX

From Page 4

they want to see results. I understand concerns about tax fatigue, which is why this fall I will be asking the board to strengthen our reserve policy. Our reserves are meant to protect us during catastrophes, and this moment highlights the importance of having funds available to fill emergency gaps. ... It's during times of crisis that we are forced to reevaluate our practices and make

substantial changes. Strengthening our reserves and committing to real outcomes is how we can honor our taxpayers and ensure we can continue saving lives in the future.

"This moment also reminds me of my time as mayor during the 2009 recession," she said. "We navigated that crisis with thoughtful cost-cutting. While recent years have brought economic flourishing, they've also led to a sense of comfort. I believe there is opportunity for greater efficiency, and we must remain committed to financial prudence and responsibility."

HOSPITALS

From Page 4

performing ratings in 18 adult procedures and conditions, including several cancer specialty areas, cardiovascular conditions including heart attack and heart failure, maternity care and more.

"For most Americans, health care decisions are made close to home. The Best Regional Hospitals rankings underscore the difference high-performing local medical centers make," Ben Harder, chief of health analysis and managing editor at U.S. News, said in a statement. "These local hospital rankings, entirely performance-driven, equip individuals and their families, in consultation with their medical providers, to choose the highest quality care



El Camino Health recently received national recognition for its patient care.

available in their own communities."

U.S. News & World Report is the global leader in quality rankings that empower consumers, business leaders and policy officials to make better,

more informed decisions about important issues affecting their lives and communities.

For more information about El Camino Health's ranking, visit tinyurl.com/ECH-USNews.

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Plans discussed for quarry fill after nearly a century of mining

Town Crier Report

The cement plant in the foothills above Los Altos hasn't been functioning for five years. The deep quarry next to it is no longer being mined.

But there's still activity going on at the 3,500-acre Heidelberg Materials (formerly Lehigh) property, where transport and

storage of aggregate material continues. Plans are also afoot to demolish old structures on the property and embark on a restoration project that could take decades.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga hosted a July 31 town hall to bring residents up to speed. The new supervisor, representing the

Los Altos area in District 5, is continuing an annual tradition started by her predecessor, Joe Simitian.

For the first time, representatives from the cement plant and quarry participated in the annual meeting, held at Quinlan Community Center in Cupertino. In addition to Greg Ronczka and Sanjeet Sen from

Heidelberg, panelists included representatives from Santa Clara County's planning, counsel and environmental health departments, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board and the city of Cupertino.

Past town halls had included reports of multiple environmental violations, but county planner Robert Salisbury said no violations had been issued over the past year.

Salisbury said the county continues to inspect the quarry on a monthly basis and submits an annual report to the county planning commission.

Benjamin Fu, director of community development with the city of Cupertino, also noted no new violations.

"We have received a number of complaints regarding noise," he said, as trucks go in and out of the property hauling aggregate.

For decades, even before Henry J. Kaiser opened the cement plant in 1939, the site has been the county's biggest polluter as crews mined limestone for construction projects all over the Bay Area and beyond. Environmental concerns grew as housing development increased around the site.

The COVID-19 pandemic, combined with aging equipment, prompted the closure of the cement plant in 2022. An agreement the following year ensured permanent closure of the cement plant and the end of quarry mining activity.

Creek restoration work was another focus of the meeting. Abe-Koga noted last month's "kickoff for the long-awaited restoration of Permanente Creek. ... I think many people are looking forward to seeing the mining waste and concrete barriers removed from the creek."

The goal is a restored habitat for fish and plant life, and clean water.

Salisbury said the project involves restoration of 135 acres of land along 1.5 miles of creek.

"It's going to remove man-made structures, culverts – it's going to widen the creek channel, restore biological habitat and functionality," he said.

It's been a long time coming. "We actually required a long-term restoration plan as early as 1999," said Jessica Watkins with the San Francisco Regional

Water Quality Control District. "It's been a few years, but it's happening."

In answer to the question, "Will the fish return?" Ronczka remarked, "We'll give them the opportunity to return, that will be up to the fish, ultimately."

Heidelberg, formerly Lehigh Hanson, is working on a reclamation plan amendment, which takes on the gargantuan task of restoring a quarry site that has been mined for nearly a century.

"This is a job that will take decades to accomplish as they work to reconstruct the massive pit by filling it," Abe-Koga said.

Plans also involve restoration of the "viewshed and ridgeline," as Abe-Koga put it, where the county holds an easement and shares enforcement with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

She said the Heidelberg reclamation plan has been deemed complete this year by the county planning department.

Salisbury said Heidelberg has submitted the materials required on a checklist that the county needs to conduct an analysis in accordance with state environmental regulations.

Salisbury said the new plan includes elimination of a southern boundary area across Permanente Creek, an area that was considered for mining but did not transpire; and a change in the "plant palette," to use more noninvasive species.

The more significant aspect of the new plan, he indicated, is still active use of the site. Heidelberg, Salisbury said, uses off-site "fill" to backfill the main quarry under the current reclamation plan. Under the new plan, Heidelberg is proposing to import approximately 30 million cubic yards of "clean fill" and then use 10 million cubic yards of on-site material to backfill the main pit.

Salisbury said the county is undertaking an Environmental Impact Report for the proposed reclamation plan, with a draft plan ready for public review by January.

In the meantime, Heidelberg continues to do business.

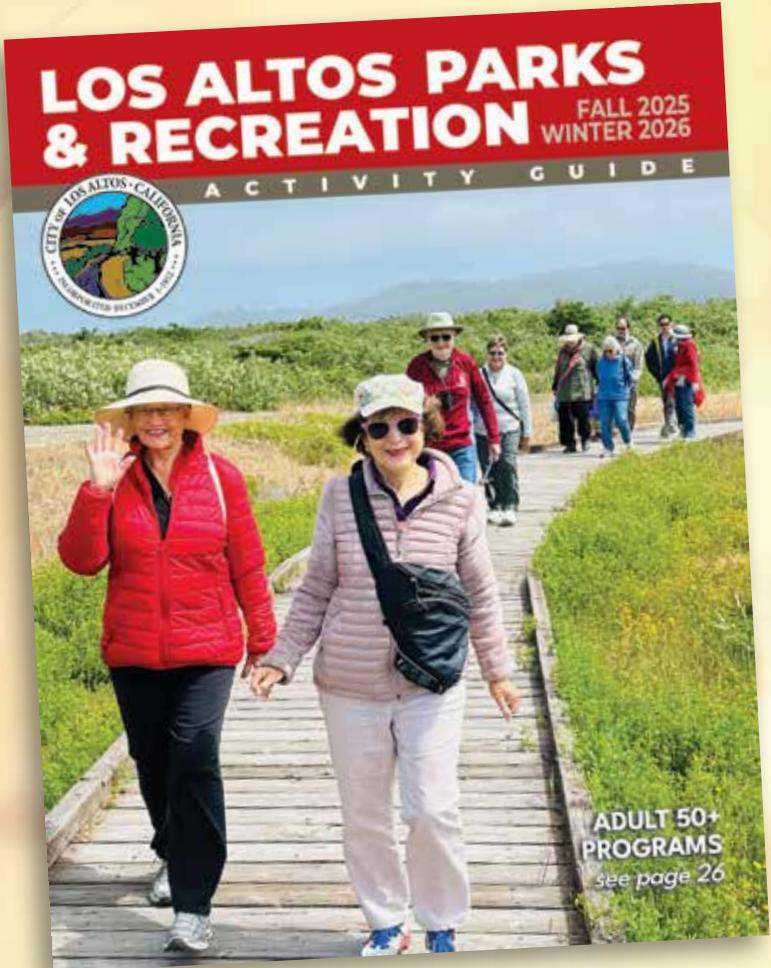
Ronczka said "there's a need in the area – there's material ... that is generated from construction projects in the area. There needs to be a place for that material to go, otherwise it will be trucked offsite some distance at a cost of additional emissions from truck traffic."

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FALL/WINTER

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Mtn. View's Downtown Precise Plan workshop set for Thursday

By Kaitlyn Stattler
Los Altos Town Crier Intern

Those who want to weigh in on the future of downtown Mountain View – including the partial closure of Castro Street – are welcome to attend a city workshop Thursday night.

The Downtown Precise Plan Community Workshop is an opportunity for residents, businesses and other stakeholders to share their ideas for downtown, according to Lenka Wright, Mountain View's chief communications officer.

Expect the Castro Pedestrian Mall to be a topic of discussion. It is the three blocks of Castro that have been closed since June 2020 to help businesses – particularly restaurants – during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to city officials.

After restrictions on local businesses were lifted, the city received positive feedback about the closure and made it permanent Oct. 25, 2022, said assistant city manager Audrey Seymour Ramber.

The city now seeks ways to expand the Castro Pedestrian Mall to improve the lives of Mountain View's community members, according to Amanda Ro-

tella, the city's acting economic vitality manager.

"We received a lot of positive feedback," Rotella said. "We are always trying to balance the different needs in the downtown, and we hear about the importance of accessibility to our downtown. We want to make it super easy for pedestrians and cyclists and people arriving on transit to have full access to downtown and then to easily navigate it."

Peter Katz, CEO of the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce, noted that the Castro Pedestrian Mall has been a hit.

"Visitors really liked it," he said. "Everybody really thought it was just a way of transforming Castro in a way that made it more walkable, more attractive, and most importantly, more interested in the kind of businesses that we have downtown."

The city plans to revamp the pedestrian mall to create a more enjoyable experience for the Mountain View community, Rotella said.

"We're hoping to bring the street level with the sidewalk to create more of a plaza," she said. "That will create this continuity and sense of real intentionality of the pedestrian space. So, we



A map shows the impacted area.

do have sort of long-term plans to keep the Castro pedestrian mall driving and growing and developing with continued community feedback."

Rotella added that there is also a plan to make downtown easier to navigate

and more accessible. The city intends to design wayfinding signage for Castro to help visitors find their cars, connect them to parking facilities and guide them to businesses and other points of interest.

Many businesses along the three blocks closed to auto traffic are happy with what the city has done so far. Emily Esparza, who has worked at Therapy Stores on Castro for three years, said the street closure creates a safer environment and allows customers of the farmers' market on Sundays to stroll around downtown easily.

"It brings more people into the store just in general instead of people just driving by and going home," Esparza said.

Several restaurants on Castro have been able to provide more outdoor dining for their customers. Benjamin Rodriguez, the general manager of Eureka on the corner of Castro and Villa streets, said he appreciates having more space outside the restaurant to seat customers.

Thursday's Downtown Precise Plan Community Workshop is scheduled to run 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the SFV Portuguese Hall of Mountain View, 361 Villa St. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/hxty8v5h.

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Comment

Editorial

Get involved

With the new school year underway, we'll soon see more activity around town as residents reconnect after summer break.

Schools will be buzzing with students, and weekends will fill up with youth sports – soccer, football, softball, baseball and more. Local nonprofits will also be ramping up their fall programming, and many will be looking for volunteers and support.

Let's take a moment to reflect on what makes our community so special.

We live in a safe, beautiful place with excellent schools, vibrant organizations and incredible local resources. But these things don't just happen – they depend on both funding and people power.

Please don't take them for granted. Consider giving back by volunteering your time – whether it's something you're passionate about or simply something you enjoy. Not only will you make a difference, but you'll also set an example for your family and friends about the value of community involvement.

There are so many ways to get involved:

- Help out at a local school
- Volunteer with the Festival of Lights Parade
- Join a service club like Kiwanis or Rotary
- Support GreenTown Los Altos or the Los Altos History Museum
- Serve on a city commission or committee
- Or lend your time to any of the many nonprofits that enrich our town.

And to stay connected with all these efforts, support local journalism by subscribing to and advertising in the Town Crier.

We're part of the community fabric, too – and we need your help to keep doing what we do.

Want to learn more about how to get involved? Join us at the Community Volunteer Fair on Saturday, October 4, at State Street Market.

Peek into the past



COURTESY OF THE LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

Viki & Jim Moore became the new owners of the Rancho Toy & Hobby Shop in February 1963. Who remembers the store? Where was it located at the Rancho Shopping Center?

Artificial grass has no place on public land

By Laura Fay

The Los Altos Parks & Recreation Department's proposal to install artificial turf at the new Hillview dog park directly contradicts the city's environmental goals, especially the Environmental Commission's plan to prioritize green landscaping and reduce waste.

Los Altos should actively consider decomposed granite as a cost-effective viable alternative for dog parks, a solution that most Bay Area cities have standardized.

While artificial turf vendors tout "new technology," the environmental and practical downsides remain significant. These include:

Environmental and practical concerns: Artificial turf is made from plastic and rubber – materials that contribute to microplastic pollution, chemical runoff and high carbon emissions.

It's energy-intensive to manufacture and almost impossible to recycle, ending

Other Voices

up in landfills every few years. Artificial turf also traps heat, contributing to the urban "heat island" effect, especially problematic in Los Altos, which has 263 sunny days per year.

In winter, the low-permeable base beneath artificial turf can exacerbate flooding and harms tree roots. It doesn't absorb pet waste, leading to odors, bacteria and increased maintenance, including the need for frequent washing – ironically, with water, despite the drought-conscious rationale for its installation.

Cost and health risks: Artificial turf is arguably the most expensive surface option due to high installation, maintenance and replacement costs. It contains hazardous chemicals like lead, phthalates and PFAS ("forever chemicals"), with growing evidence of long-term health impacts.

Wider rejection and better

alternatives: Other Bay Area cities are rejecting artificial turf.

Sunnyvale is conducting a scientific study and using natural alternatives like crushed stone. Millbrae enforces an artificial turf ban. Santa Rosa, San Marino and Carmel-by-the-Sea have avoided or are banning artificial turf altogether.

Leading environmental and health groups, including the Sierra Club and the Santa Clara Medical Association, oppose artificial turf use on public land.

Installing artificial turf at the proposed Hillview dog park would be a costly, unsustainable and unhealthy step that directly undermines Los Altos 2022 Environmental Commission's Climate Action and their 2025 Work Plan. There is no good reason to install artificial turf when viable natural alternatives are being successfully deployed by our neighboring cities.

Fay is a Los Altos resident.



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(650) 948-9000 | losaltosonline.com | SUBSCRIPTIONS: howardb@latc.com

Administration

Chief Executive Officer, Publisher:

Dennis Young (650) 397-5065, dennisy@latc.com

Chief Operating Officer, Associate Publisher:

Howard Bischoff (650) 397-5213, howardb@latc.com

Editor-in-Chief:

Bruce Barton (650) 397-5482, bruceb@latc.com

Managing Editor:

Christina Casillas (650) 397-5714, christinac@latc.com

Reporters:

Christina Casillas (650) 397-5714, christinac@latc.com

Curtis Driscoll (650) 397-5717, curtisd@latc.com

Brandon Roth (650) 397-5035, brandonr@latc.com

Copy Editors:

Vanessa Connell, Mary Larsen

Magazines Designer:

Michel Y. Echeverria (650) 397-5706, mikee@latc.com

Lucy Chen (650) 397-5726, lucyc@latc.com

Contributing Photographers:

Shelly Bowers, S.M. Lieu, T. Mallie Brathwaite

Interns: Sahana Anamika, Rachel Aronson,

Ananya Chaudhary, Shaona Das, Maya Dutt,

Annabelle Eaton, Zoe Friedman, Oscar Johnson,

Mckayla Kao, Matthew Lee-Asiong, Lara Leon,

Prisha Mohapatra, Keara Morrow, Michael Shtrom,

Dorie Xie, Amelia Yuan

Intern manager:

Pete Borello (650) 397-5495, peteb@latc.com

Print/Media Ad Sales

Real Estate Advertising:

Linda Monterrey (650) 397-5487,

lindam@latc.com

Ad Sales:

Maria Crowder (650) 397-5097, mariac@latc.com

Janice Fabella (650) 397-5066, janicef@latc.com

Danielle Amaral (650) 397-5738,

daniellea@latc.com

Ad Services:

Production Manager:

Melissa Rodriguez (650) 397-5208,

melissar@latc.com

Lead Graphic Designer:

Michel Y. Echeverria (650) 397-5706,

mikee@latc.com

Graphic Designer:

Lucy Chen (650) 397-5726, lucyc@latc.com

Classified: classifieds@latc.com

Paid Obituaries: obits@latc.com

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Community

Los Altos resident, engineer tackles AI with debut novel

By Lara Leon
Town Crier Editorial Intern

In his debut novel “ab initio,” Los Altos resident author Jacob Terracina explores the moral and legal challenges of artificial intelligence through a gripping courtroom battle. Set for release later this summer, the self-published book asks readers to consider what truly defines humanity in a world driven by technology.

“The book is centered around a court case debating the merits of this startup company’s claim that artificial intelligence is deserving of human rights,” Terracina said.

The story follows Raza Mugabi, a software engineer hired by a mysterious startup despite his modest credentials. Eight years later, Raza faces a high-stakes trial that questions whether the political, technical and moral implications of AI’s evolution can still be considered ethical.

Terracina said his interest in storytelling began early. Growing up in Louisiana, he enjoyed creative writing and loved reading the “Animorphs”

science fantasy series by K.A. Applegate. Although he occasionally wrote outside school, his early attempts never progressed far, eventually pursuing a STEM career.

“I kind of took the engineer’s path and sort of winnowed away the great creative part of my brain,” he said.

Terracina added that the idea for the novel came to him while earning his Ph.D. at State University of New York at Albany’s College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering – specifically during lectures about quantum mechanical simulations.

“The sci-fi, tech idea is something that popped into my head whenever I was in a computational chemistry class in grad school 10 years ago,” Terracina said. “It was just an idea that I jotted down in this big, messy idea folder I have – story ideas and product ideas.”

Still, Terracina said he never had the time to fully write and produce a book while in school.

After earning his Ph.D. in 2017, he moved to the Bay Area and worked at several tech startups as a hardware engi-

neer. Nearly a decade later, he rediscovered scraps of his novel and finally began writing.

“During the early pandemic, I started to have a little more free time on my hands, and I was reading more,” he said. “I had just read ‘Exhalation’ by Ted Chiang, which is just an incredible collection of sci-fi shorts and it inspired me to try writing.”

Terracina said Chiang’s stories left him “jaw-dropping” with their emotional depth and inventive storytelling. Terracina added that he also drew inspiration from authors like Becky Chambers, whose warm, character-driven sci-fi helped him focus on voice and perspective, and Kim Stanley Robinson, whose detailed world-building pushed him to think about scale and realism in speculative fiction.

That renewed love for sci-fi quickly turned into a habit. Writing, he said, gave him a more meaningful way to



Terracina

spend his free time than “doom scrolling” on social media.

“(Writing) gave me a place to take that energy to a more productive place, so I would just start writing,” he said. “Long after the sunset, I would start writing and try and wrap it up before the sun came up, and then go to work the next day.”

Over the past four years, Terracina revised and edited “ab initio” with help from professional editors and family members – including his wife, Aurora Terracina.

“One of the million things I love about (Aurora) is how she helped me make sure the characters had unique voices,” he said. “Whenever I write probably a dozen speaking characters, ... she influenced me to keep going back to make sure people had unique and consistent voices.”

Jacob said Aurora pushed him to refine the distinct personalities of each character, making the story feel more immersive and emotionally

See NOVEL, Page 10

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Author:

Kim Gladfelter
MPT, OCS, FAAOMPT

- Executive Director
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Community Briefs

LAH plans crime and fire prevention class

Los Altos Hills is hosting a Crime Prevention & Home Fire Safety Class 1-2:30 p.m. Aug. 14 at Town Hall to help residents gain knowledge and tools to stay safe at home and in the community.

The event is in partnership

with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and Santa Clara County Fire Department and is a free, in-person class. The town said the program is particularly valuable for older adults to help protect themselves from scams, fraud and identity theft by teaching

warning signs and response steps. It also covers fire safety, including alarm maintenance, escape planning, and proper use of emergency services like 9-1-1. Other program topics include fraud and crime prevention, common scams and how to protect yourself, crime prevention at home and reporting suspicious activity. Fire safety topics include kitchen and electrical safety, smoke alarms and carbon

monoxide alarms, developing a home escape plan and community resources.

All residents are welcome to attend. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/4f5y64fw>

Art duo display work in LAH

The fine art exhibit "Rhythms and Reflections" featuring local artists Anil and Charlene Sawe will be on display at the Los Altos Hills Town Hall until September.

Anil and Charlene Sawe are both pursuing their passion for the fine arts in their retirement years. They met almost 48 years ago in Florida, when Charlene was an educator and Anil an electrical engineer, and watching the sunrise from the beach was one of their favorite activities.

For more information, visit losaltoshills.ca.gov or call (650) 941-7222.

For information on Anil and Charlene Sawe's art, visit sawearts.com.

'My Illustrated Poem' runs through October

The Los Altos Parks, Arts, Recreation and Cultural Commission's latest art exhibit, "My Illustrated Poem," runs through October at the Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave.

The assembled works are poetry through the eyes and brushes of local artists.

"My Illustrated Poem" focuses on the emotional world of language and visual interpretation. In response to an open call for art issued by the commission, local residents created original artworks inspired by poems – either classic or contemporary – that spoke to them.

For more information on this and future exhibitions, or to learn how to submit work for upcoming calls for art, visit the city of Los Altos website at losaltosca.gov.

Merriman exhibit runs through November

The Los Altos History Museum is exhibiting "Building El Sueño: Isabel Merriman, Sarah Winchester, and the California Dream," which runs through Nov. 30. It shines a long-overdue spotlight on Isabel Merriman – an independent woman and active force in the rural community that predated Los Altos. Though often overlooked in historical records as anyone beyond Sarah Winchester's sister, Isabel's story is brought to life through original documents and artifacts, period images and architectural elements.

The exhibition features historic photographs from the museum's collections of early Los Altos, clothing of the Victorian era, correspondence from prominent local figures and architectural elements on loan from the Winchester Mystery House which resemble those adorning El Sueño. The distinctive variety of windows that grace both houses are echoed in the exhibition's design.

Related program:

- Sarah and Isabel: Two Sisters and their "Dream Houses," with Winchester Mystery House historian Jan-an Boehme, Wednesday, Sept. 17, 5:30-7 p.m.

Program admission is \$15/person; free for museum members. Registration required at losaltoshistory.org/elsueno.

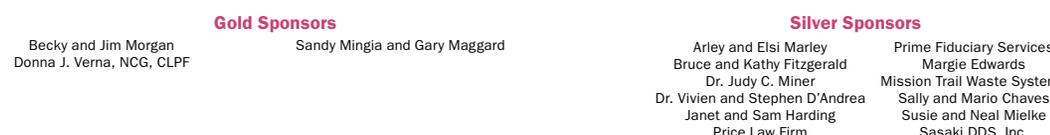


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Community

Garden club speaker says think like a deer to keep plants safe

Town Crier Report

“Oh, Dear! (Oh, Deer!) – Coping with Bambi in the Garden” is the topic for the Tuesday, Aug. 26 Garden Club of Los Altos program.

The speaker is Bob Hornbeck, a teacher, writer, cultivator, botanical guide, docent and lifelong learner in the field of horticulture.

For this meeting, he chooses to share his current topic of interest: getting into the mind of deer.

He will share vulnerable and invulnerable plants for dealing with these visitors in the garden, lawful reminders and suggestions to take away from the talk.

There are a few experts in any field whose personal knowledge and experience are so varied and vast that they can never cata-

log or archive it no matter how many books are written or lectures given.

Hornbeck is one of those individuals. Horticulturist, nurseryman, teacher and cultivator of unusual plants, he has been in the center of California’s plant world his whole life.

A multi-generational Californian, he was born and raised in Antioch and Concord and traces his Hupa (Hoopa) ancestors back thousands of years.

His own nursery, Muchas Grasses, was the first and only all-grasses nursery in northern California.

The Garden Club of Los Altos meets at the Los Altos Lutheran Church, 460 S. El Monte Ave., Los Altos on the fourth Tuesday of each month except July, November and December.

The meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. and the program at approx-



COURTESY OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF LOS ALTOS

Horticulturist Bob Hornbeck leads a recent tour. He is scheduled to speak before the Garden Club of Los Altos on Aug. 27.

imately 1:30. There is a \$10 fee for guests.

For more information about

the club and its activities, visit thegardencluboflosaltos.org.

For Garden Club of Los

Altos membership details, email GCLAmembership@gmail.com.

Save the Date

• Los Altos Farmers’ Market, 4-8 p.m. Thursdays, through Oct. 9, along State Street. Information: downtownlosaltos.org.

• Groundbreaking on 90-unit affordable housing proj-

ect., 1-3 p.m., Aug. 28, 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos.

• Mountain View Arts Festival, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 6, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 7, Castro Street, downtown Moun-

tain View. Information: mvar-twine.com.

• Downtown Whiskey and Bites Stroll, 6-9 p.m., Sept. 12, hosted by the Los Altos Village Association. Information: downtownlosaltos.org.

• Corvette Spectacular, 8

a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 21, Main Street, downtown Los Altos. Organized by Santa Clara Corvettes, hosted by Los Altos Village Association. Information: sccorvettes.org/corvette-spectacular.

• A BOO-tiful Downtown Halloween, noon to 4 p.m.

Oct. 31, downtown Los Altos. Trick-or-treating event and other activities for children. Information: downtownlosaltos.org.

• Downtown Los Altos Festival of Lights Parade, 6 p.m. Nov. 30. Information: losaltosparade.org.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Community

Local think tank founder thanks LAMVCF: 'An institutional pillar'

By Maulik Dhakal

As I prepare to begin my freshman year at Stanford University and step back from day-to-day involvement at the Los Altos Institution, a student-led global policy think tank I helped build, I find myself reflecting on one partner without whom none of our work would have been possible: the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation (LAMVCF).

In a community known for innovation, excellence and community spirit, LAMVCF stands out as an institutional pillar. For us at the Los Altos Institution, and for so many others with ideas bigger than our resources, the foundation has been a powerful catalyst. My friends and I came up with an idea, but we had no legal or financial infrastructure to collect donations or scale a nonprofit organization.

LAMVCF's nonprofit incubator program helped us grow from a lunch table idea into a real policy organization. Today, the Los Altos Institution empowers students across the world to engage in high-level research and regularly meets with officials at the highest levels of government to both under-

stand current decisions and advise on those in the future.

Too often, we overlook the backbone organizations that make local impact possible. LAMVCF doesn't just write checks; it builds infrastructure. Its commitment to nonprofit incubation, often known as fiscal sponsorship, is unique. Few organizations on the Peninsula or in the South Bay offer this kind of support. The fiscal sponsors that do exist in the Bay Area typically serve over 100 projects and charge significantly higher administrative fees. LAMVCF, by contrast, chooses to subsidize the cost of supporting local initiatives like ours by contributing not only funds, but also staff time, reputation, space, technology and strategic guidance.

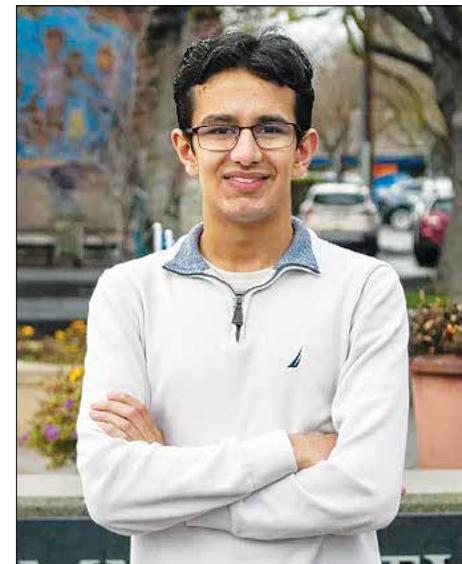
Running this program costs the foundation an estimated \$140,000 to \$230,000 each year. That includes direct and indirect support ranging from financial management and branding to oversight that protects the foundation's reputation and mission. But the return

on this investment isn't measured in dollars. It is measured in local teens launching nonprofits, neighbors building mutual aid networks, and grassroots projects gaining a foothold. It is measured in lives changed and ideas realized.

For members of our community, especially young people, who want to make a difference but lack the legal, financial or professional tools to act, LAMVCF provides something invaluable: a real chance. The foundation turns ambition into action and intention into impact. And it's not just the Los Altos Institution, 18 other projects are part of LAMVCF's Local Impact Collective.

I'm proud of what we built at the Los Altos Institution. But I'm even prouder that we did it here, in a community that supports its changemakers.

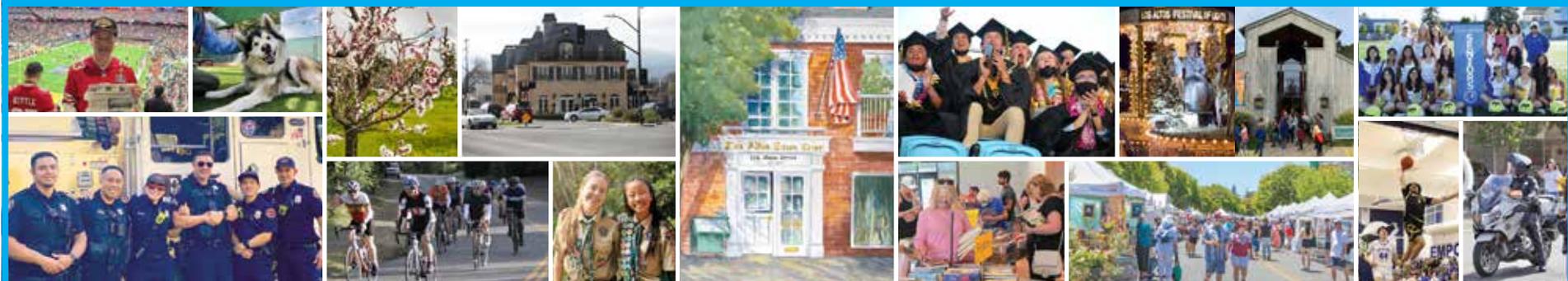
As I begin a new chapter, I want to thank everyone at LAMVCF for believing in us, supporting us and showing that strong local infrastructure can be the foundation for global change.



FROM THE MIDPENINSULA POST
Dhakal

Los Altos, Mountain View and Los Altos Hills have a true gem in LAMVCF. Let's make sure this institution remains a constant in a time when steadfast support is more important than ever.

Maulik Dhakal is a recent Los Altos High School graduate. He co-founded a nonprofit organization that was fiscally sponsored by the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation.



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Schools

A new school year is an opportunity for personal growth

By Brandon Roth

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

As students once again fill the halls and classrooms of their schools, they need to be reminded that they are showing up for themselves to learn. Students – who may hate waking up early or doing their homework – need to be inspired in the classroom and find a community while they are continuing to find themselves at school. The local schools ensure the 2025-2026 school year will be a positive space for all students.

Tracey Runeare, the Los Altos High School principal, said there are more than 540 new freshman students on the campus this year. Through their freshman orientation the previous week, she said they were able to have an easy transition to see their friends and collect their student IDs and devices. She said she is looking forward to welcoming the new class and having the high-energy campus back.

“We are a high-performing school and we take academics very seriously,” Runeare said. “We also want students to enjoy their time here, you

know, we want them to have spaces and time to make new friends. We want them to have opportunities to try out new things. You know, meet as many people as possible so that they feel like they belong at Los Altos.”

She said the first two weeks are called the Week of Welcome because their goals are to introduce the students to each other. During the summer, many of the teachers help prepare lesson plans that also help reintroduce students to each other. Many of the activities include icebreakers and welcoming games. They also helped plan their back-to-school rally for next Monday and their skate and dance event for the following Friday.

The first few weeks also help students and teachers navigate the many changes on campus. She said that the underclassmen are taken on tours to the student service building where they can access college and career counselors, administrators and emotional wellness counselors. They are also given time to set their student accounts on Canvas and Google Classroom, student



BRANDON ROTH/TOWN CRIER

Students on the Los Altos High School campus hustled during their lunch period to meet with their friends. There are more than 2,165 students enrolled for the 2025-2026 school year.



COURTESY OF ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

Many high school students are starting their first day of school this week. Teachers and administrators are prepping for their return by planning fun activities and easing them into what they need to know for the new school year.

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learning management software systems that are important for their academic success. Teachers were also trained on new classroom management systems such as Minga, an online application that allows teachers to track attendance.

“Minga is a positive behavior incentive program,” she said. “We’re starting with the small features of just taking attendance during the academic class period, but it has a lot of other applications where you can track student positive behavior to provide rewards. That’s something we’re building towards, but we’re just starting that.”

She said the school community is also awaiting the opening of their new

cafeteria. She said it is not expected to open until October, but it will soon be able to fit the 2,165 enrolled students.

Jamie Perkins, the director of strategic marketing and communication at St. Francis High School, said their first week is also meant to ease the freshman class into their new environment. Many of the freshman class have an opportunity to go on campus early as part of the Lancers Rising program in the summer to participate in non-academic classes and programs such as drama and cooking courses. First-generation students also have access to campus in the spring through the Holy Cross Achievers. She said

this program provides them time to meet their mentors and assists with college preparation before they have to worry about registering for their classes.

“Our whole goal is really to make people feel comfortable, make them feel welcome, and not just students, families too,” she said. “It’s an overwhelming process. It blew my mind to learn that we are sending our graduating class to over 150 different colleges and we have well over 200 middle schools coming in as freshmen. So it’s just kind of like the statistics are just crazy.”

She said new programs at

See CAMPUS, Page 15

To pitch an idea for the Schools section or to comment on its content, email section editor Brandon Roth at brandonr@latc.com.

Schools

Local court dismisses Bullis Charter Elementary School's discrimination case

By **Brandon Roth**

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

The United States District Court Northern District of California dismissed Bullis Charter Elementary School's court case on July 11 against the Santa Clara County Board of Education. Bullis claimed that the board violated the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 toward their school and discriminated against them because of their Asian student majority.

Bullis Charter Elementary School is a K-8 charter school within Los Altos that relies on the board to renew its contract. Every seven years, Bullis makes a routine visit to the board, but in the latest contract

renewal meeting on Aug. 4, 2024, they were met with new conditions. The board explained that there "continues to be underrepresentation of some historically underserved student groups at Bullis Charter School." The board would only give them a "conditionally approved contract" if they follow the new standard of their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which they must hit a new quota of Hispanic populations by June 30, 2030.

Bullis claims in its injunction to the board that no other charter schools in the district are subjugated to racial discrimination, bullied by compliance letters and forced to be put under a MOU to meet

quotas. Bullis said as they are not being protected equally under the law, they are not being protected under the 14th Amendment.

The court eventually concluded that Bullis is not able to state a valid claim for Title VI discrimination. They said the board is doing nothing wrong in making Bullis comply with California law, which states a charter school should have a student population that "reflects the demographics of the school district in which the school is located."

In response to the court's dismissal, John C. Lemmo, Bullis' attorney, issued a complaint to the courts. Lemmo further suggested that the board is subjecting

the school and the students to "unlawful discrimination." He said Asian American discrimination is active within the board and that the quotas they want them to achieve are illegal requirements. He also provided data that showed that in five years the Hispanic

population at Bullis went from 3.8% in 2018 to 4.5% in 2023, matching the data of some Los Altos School District schools.

Bullis is holding out hope that the court will reverse the board's demands and that compensation for the board's conduct will be forthcoming.

Schools Briefs

Informational coffee for Living Classroom volunteers

Living Classroom is seeking volunteers to teach fun nature-based lessons and help care for school gardens. Volunteering is fun and no experience is necessary as they teach you

everything you need to know. Join them between 10-11:30 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 18 at the Los Altos School District iLearn Studio, 201 Covington Road, Los Altos to learn more

about volunteering. Questions? Email Living Classroom at livingclassroom@lasdschools.org or call (650) 947-1103 or view its website LivingClassroomLASD.org.

CAMPUS

From Page 14

theschool include a redesign of their Innovation Program and renaming it Lancers LEAP. The program is a chance for students to engage in workshops with various companies and get hands-on experience. She said this year, there will be 10 participating companies.

She said there is also a new construction project that will soon be completed on campus, such as a new track in the stadium, resurfacing and repainting their indoor gym and creating a new brick wall tribute near the school's Holy Cross Statue that honors past alumni. She said it is important to have places on campus that respect the past.

"We have 2,000 students, between the ages of five and high school, on campus doing their camps and classes," she said. "A lot is going on on campus, but when school starts, it feels like a new energy, it is really fun."



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Stepping Out

Sunnyvale Community Players stages 'Little Shop of Horrors'

By Neel Gupta
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Sunnyvale Community Players kicks off its seventh season with a production of "Little Shop of Horrors" set in the modern-day Bay Area. The musical runs Sept. 6-28 at the Sunnyvale Theatre.

"The overall message of 'Little Shop of Horrors' is to not give in to greed. Right

now, we're living in a time where greed is so prevalent, especially with billionaires and folks in higher tax brackets," said Gabrielle Goodman, one of two actresses portraying Audrey in the musical. "It affects our most vulnerable, especially when the Bay Area is so expensive."

Howard Ashman's Oscar-nominated musical follows floral assistant Seymour

Krelborn's discovery of a new carnivorous plant species, which he named "Audrey II," and his attempt to prevent its plans for global domination. The performance incorporates musical influences of doo-wop, R&B and rock, all composed by Alan Menken.

"The music is a mixture of so many different genres and tones, but it all blends to-

gether so seamlessly," director Thomas Times said. "It's a beautiful representation of how the characters and their circumstances are constantly changing. While it's not overly complex, it tells a story of human existence and how it never really sounds like one thing."

The production features two casts – Feed Me and Suppertime – that rotate during the 14-show run. The supporting actors are the same in each cast; the four leads alternate. While the original cast only consisted of eight members, Times more than doubled the number to provide more opportunities, while aiming to distribute adequate stage-time for everyone.

"There's been a beautiful collaboration between the actors, and the support system really shows the beauty of musical theatre when you set aside your ego and let the story take over," Times said. "Each cast has their own interpretation of the characters, creating two completely different versions of the play. It's going to be really exciting for audiences to see both fantastic casts."

This marks Goodman's first show with Sunnyvale Community Players, and she's enjoying the experience.

"I've seen glimpses of the deep family bond that usually comes with being in a show," she said. "I'm being welcomed into the community and I can't wait

to continue growing this bond through the end of the show and beyond."

Times noted that community theater is especially important because it's a representation of the citizens, as most of the actors have full-time jobs and act on the side.

"My goal of community theater is ensuring that the people on stage are a reflection of our community and the stories we tell mirror the times we live in," Times said. "We are tapping into the arts because it is a form of resistance."

Similarly, Goodman hopes audience members will have a deepened sense of community when watching the musical.

"After the show, I hope the audience feels more enlightened about the people around them, and has more compassion for those struggling in our community," Goodman said. "And that we perform so well they can't get the songs out of their head!"

Performances of "Little Shop of Horrors" are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, and 2:30 p.m. Sundays. The theater is located at 550 E. Remington Drive, Sunnyvale. Tickets are \$29.08-\$57.08.

For tickets and more information on the organizations, visit roomforsuccess.org and mvascholars.org.

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COURTESY OF KRISTEN SORIANO

Pictured center is Peter Spoelstra as Seymour of the 'Feed Me' Cast in rehearsal with the cast of "Little Shop of Horrors." This play won best original song in 1986 and tells the story of a floral assistant who finds a new breed of a plant.



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Sports

Pair of MVHS wrestlers compete at junior nationals

By **Andres Baisch**
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Two Mountain View High School wrestlers competed at last month's Junior National Championships in Fargo, North Dakota, with one of them placing in the top six.

Junior Kiana Lien finished sixth in the 100-pound weight class of the 16-and-under girls division. Justice Commendatore, a sophomore, went 2-2 as a 138-pounder in the 16-and-under-boys division.

Lien, who has been wrestling for five years and served as a captain of the Mountain View team last season, placed just outside the top 10 at last year's meet.

"Both (Justice) and I had to train really hard for Fargo," Lien said. "We're just trying to help everyone have that discipline and work hard in the Mountain View room."

Despite 30 matches going on at the same time in the Fargo Dome, Lien said she remained focused on the task at hand.

"It's easy to get your emo-

tions up," Lien said. "I tried not to make it such a big deal."

Lien instead zoned in on executing and playing to her strengths.

"You don't have to hit super impressive moves in a match to win," said Lien, who hopes to wrestle at the college level.

Lien qualified for Fargo by winning the California state freestyle tournament earlier this year. Her sixth-place finish automatically qualifies her for next summer's tournament.

Lien's mother, Wendy, said their family was prepared to navigate the long tournament days after last summer's competition.

"(At) all those smaller tournaments at the state or regional level, we've learned the routine, and not only having her performance be the best but also how to prepare for (matches) logistically," Wendy said.

This marked Commendatore's first trip to Fargo as a wrestler.

"It made me want to compete more than ever," Commendatore said of qualifying.



COURTESY OF DUSTIN TILLMAN

Mountain View junior Kiana Lien, in red, wrestling during the girls 16U Nationals tournament.

Prior to Fargo, Commendatore won the U16 State Title at the Fresno USA folk-style last spring with his club. Commendatore said his match includes visualization routine before a big wrestling

See WRESTLING, Page 19

MVLA girls soccer win national title

Town Crier Report

Local youth soccer club Mountain View Los Altos (MVLA) has been crowned national champions at the girls U16 level after winning a prestigious Elite Clubs National League (ECNL) soccer tournament in Richmond, Virginia.

The ECNL Girls National Finals Championship held July 18-21 saw eight teams from across the country in the U16 bracket compete, with MVLA beating Utah Royals FC Arizona 1-0 in the quarterfinals, Penn Fusion SA 1-0 in the semifinals and Kansas City Athletics 3-1 in the finals. Chloe Miller opened the scoring for MVLA in the finals, with Sophie McCarthy doubling the lead and Isabella Bertolucci making it 3-0 for MVLA. Kansas City Athletics cut the lead to 3-1 late in the second half but could not bring it any closer.

MVLA reached the final after advancing out of the ECNL Regional League Playoffs-West in June.

The roster included: Anneliese Braun, Sophia Malloy, Maya Meltz, Brooke Neschleba, Kaylie Giusti, Charlotte Tyler Perry, Avery Edson, Sophie McCarthy, Katie Lu, Sofia Mello, Teagan Kafer, Chloe Miller, Kendall Koury, Allison Park, Isabella Bertolucci, Miliani Makasini, Ashley Luong, Emmy Salita and Stella Hall.



COURTESY OF GRANT KOURY

The MVLA Soccer Club 09G Gunners girls team won the ECNL title at the U16 level in July.

Sports



COURTESY OF DUSTIN TILLMAN AND JOE COMMENDATORE

Top, Mountain View's Justice Commendatore, right, lifts an opponent during a match. Bottom, Mountain View's Kiana Lien wrestling at the girls 16U Nationals tournament.



To pitch an idea for the Sports section or to comment on its content, email section editor Curtis Driscoll at curtisd@latc.com.

WRESTLING

From Page 18

Competing at Fargo encouraged him to be more present during his competitions.

"I want to let myself flow," Commendatore said. "I'm at my best when I just let myself put stuff together rather than thinking of every little step."

Newly appointed Moun-

tain View High wrestling coach Nhiem Nguyen is proud of the way Commendatore and Lien prepared for Fargo.

"Most kids at the end of the season, after states, they're done," Nguyen said. "Kiana and Justice aren't there just to be on the mat; every hour with their coaches is precious."

Sports Brief

Los Altos High looking for coaches ahead of new school year

Los Altos High School is currently seeking individuals with coaching experience to join their athletic staff. They are looking for coaches who are passionate about creating a positive experience for student-athletes while also focusing on skill development and fostering a competitive spirit within their sport.

Coaches are needed for

junior varsity swimming and badminton in the spring (January-May) and freshman girls basketball in the winter (November-February).

A stipend is available. For more information or to express interest, contact Los Altos High athletic director Michelle Noeth at michelle.noeth@mvla.net.

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Back to School

INSIDE
Food and Wine
Puzzles
Business & Real Estate

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Krause Center for Innovation celebrates 25 years

By Brandon Roth

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

The Krause Center for Innovation is celebrating 25 years of supporting students and teachers in using the latest technologies and planning for a new future.

On Saturday evening, KCI staff members hosted an awards dinner at the Computer History Museum for their 25th anniversary and to honor eight educators across the Bay Area who are introducing emerging technologies in the classroom. Many important figures in the area, such as technology leaders, astronauts, politicians and school leaders, all attended the event as they learned about KCI's commitments to the future of education.

KCI is a learning space for community members to test their skills with the latest technologies and learn how to adapt them into their

curriculums, individual projects and leadership roles. The areas they teach include equipment training on 3D printers or laser cutters, coding and online safety. Teachers and students can also earn a certificate as an educational technology specialist through their merit program.

Gay Krause, the founder and executive director of KCI, told the Town Crier that KCI is an exciting environment where everyone is looking ahead. She said a big focus area right now is artificial intelligence and everyone is trying to understand how to incorporate it in the classroom. She said the program had just been given a new grant to invest in more AI-focused lessons. The AI classes include literacy skills, lesson planning and hands-on practice.

"We're trying to get educators and students lined up," she said. "It's quite interesting in



BRANDON ROTH/TOWN CRIER

The Krause Center for Innovation hosted a 25th anniversary and awards dinner to celebrate teachers that are integrating new educational technologies in their classrooms.

that we've just now started a so we know that's going to be Ellen Kamei, the mayor of few classes and people are very successful." enthusiastic. It is highly rated, Keynote speakers included See INNOVATION, Page 23

Los Altos Community Botball shines at international robotics tournament

By Lara Leon

Town Crier Editorial Intern

Three teams of teens from the Los Altos Community Botball program placed in the top 10 at this year's International Botball Tournament, which featured 49 teams from around the world, including China, Australia and Austria.

Team LACT 0399 placed first overall, while LACT 328 and LACT 329 finished ninth and 10th, respectively. In all, nine teams from Los Altos Community Botball competed at the event, held July 8-12 at the Global Conference on Educational Robotics in Norman, Oklahoma.

Each local team included five to 10 high school students from Los Altos and nearby cities such as Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

"We worked really hard (when we met as a team),

basically every night and also in the afternoons once it led up to the competition," said Kathleen Xie, co-president of LACT 0399. "Fine-tuning is where we're spending hours and hours every day just running each robot and finding areas where it might fail, or areas that we can improve on to make sure the competition, we know that the robot can stay consistent throughout the competition."

Xie, a Pinewood School graduate bound for Stanford University, added that the autonomous robotics competition includes three rounds: seeding, double seeding and double elimination.

"Each round lasts two minutes, and the robots move autonomously without remote control," Xie said. "The goal is to score as many points as possible while strategically navigating the game board."

Each year, the competition



COURTESY OF KATHLEEN XIE

From left, Alan Gao, Philip Oberhart, Oliver Jiang, Aaron Xie, Kathleen Xie, Kyle Ma and Serena Tang participated in the Botball 2025 International Tournament, winning first place at the Global Conference on Educational Robotics in Norman, Oklahoma.

features a new game board Xie added. This year's theme meals and drinks. theme that requires robots was cooking with robots See BOTBALL, Page 23 to complete specific tasks, assigned tasks like preparing



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Back to School

Pinewood student creates food allergy documentary

By Grace Lin
Town Crier Editorial Intern

A student from Los Altos has nearly completed a documentary aimed at spreading awareness about food allergies.

Braxton Kimura, a rising senior at Pinewood School, said he has been working on the project, titled "The Last Bite," for seven months and expects to release the film later this summer.

Kimura has a personal connection to the topic; he was diagnosed with nut allergies at 14 months of age after being rushed to the hospital for anaphylactic shock from eating peanuts.

"I want people to take food allergies seriously. It's not a diet or a preference - it's actually a disease that myself and 33 million other Americans live with," Kimura said. "Overall, just having an understanding of that can really just help save a life, as silly as that may sound."

Kimura added that he kept quiet about managing his severe food allergy until taking the social entrepreneurship program at his school last year. This prompted him to launch a community initiative called Beyond the Shell that raises awareness of



COURTESY OF BRAXTON KIMURA

Braxton Kimura, a rising senior at Pinewood School, created a documentary called "The Last Bite," to chronicle his life with severe allergies and what people with allergies have to endure.

food allergies. In the spring, he hosted a Food Allergy Awareness Fundraising Walk with the nonprofit Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE).

With hopes of making a nationwide impact, Kimura said he felt that the most natural step was creating a documentary, with support from FARE.

"I think a lot of people tend to think that we're picky eaters or we're being extra. (People think) that

it's not really a big deal, but I think we're trying to express how severe food allergies are," Kimura said. "It's a life or death scenario, and that you shouldn't really judge someone based on that, which is why I try to encourage people to speak up about their own allergies."

Kimura's search for a videographer and editor led him to Upwork, an online platform that offers

See ALLERGY, Page 24

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Back to School

INNOVATION

From Page 21

Mountain View and Lee Lambert, Chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, who both honored Krause for her commitment to supporting more than 26,000 educators since the district was founded. Krause was even given a proclamation from Mountain View for her efforts in professional development and helping to shape the future.

Stacy Kratochvil, an instructional coach at KCI and a teacher at San Mateo Union High School District, said that she started at KCI through the merit program. She said the program made her think “outside the box” and provided her with a new outlook for student enrichment. She said it is important for educators to embrace new technologies so they can make students literate and critical of the tools.

“It’s been a great experience for helping me practice my facilitation of adult learning,” she said. “When working with teenagers, you’d gain a



BRANDON ROTH/TOWN CRIER

Second to left, Stacy Kratochvil, an instructional coach at KCI and a high school teacher, was one of eight educators who won an award for innovation in the classroom.

certain skill set, but then it’s different when you’re working with adults. So it’s been really great to work with the curious, driven, innovative adults who are hungry to learn. Those are the people who come to KCI.”

She said AI is a total game-changer and she uses it to help with her lesson planning, exploring new ideas or seeing where the gaps are with students. She wants to remind people that AI is still in its early stages and it is up to the teachers how much they want to incorporate it in their classroom. She said it is in the best interest of the student to

see both sides of the technology and to see how it works.

“I think AI is such a complex issue that we can see it as either hype or just be skeptical,” she said. “It’s all a big mess right now. Teachers are making their own rules, and they’re saying, ‘No AI in my classroom.’ I think there is a big call to action, that we need to educate our students to make those decisions for themselves, rather than just teachers making it for them.”

For more information on KCI and how they are helping educators, visit krauseinnovationcenter.org.

BOTBALL

From Page 21

In this year’s challenge, one of the robots collected “ice” (represented by pom-poms) and “drinks” (small PVC pipes), while the other gathered bottles, condiment sets and a “potato” to place in a designated fryer, according to Xie.

The teams had just one month to prepare, spending frequent meetings fine-tuning and coordinating their robots ahead of the international tournament, said Alan Gao, a rising senior at Harker School and co-president of LACT 0399.

Both Gao and Xie described this year’s tournament as especially competitive, with the top teams posting similar scores.

“It was really intense,” Xie said. “It came down to who could consistently score the most points.”

Despite the pressure, Gao

said LACT 399’s success came down to how well the team members worked together.

“Our results wouldn’t have been possible without teamwork,” he said. “Each member had a specific role ... whether it was building, coding, designing or handling documentation.”

The Los Altos Community Botball program is a donation- and volunteer-led organization coordinated by Michael Shuh, who helps guide students and provide resources for building and programming.

“The program gives students opportunities to engage in open-ended problem solving,” Shuh said. “It encourages creativity and critical thinking – robotics is a big part of that,” Shuh said.

To apply for the program, visit tinyurl.com/wzy4zd2z for the pdf. For more information, visit boardsailor.com/botball.

To pitch an idea for the Schools section or to comment on its content, email section editor Brandon Roth at brandonr@latc.com.

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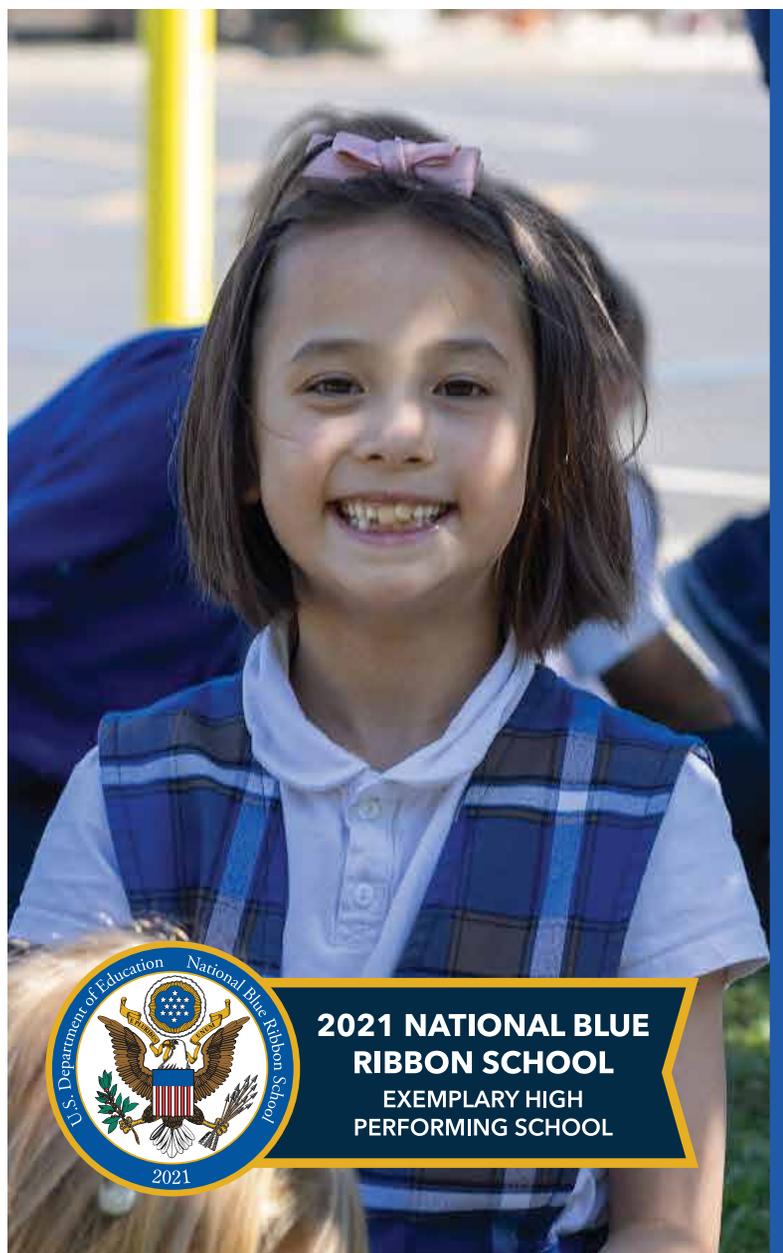
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Back to School

ALLERGY From Page 22

freelancers working in an array of fields. He said a videographer on Upwork agreed to film and edit Kimura's film for free to support the cause of spreading awareness about food allergies.

Kimura said the videographer filmed him playing basketball, walking around school and interviewing guests.

Kimura added that he wrote a story arc on his own, outlining the message he wanted to share with his viewers. He next scheduled interviews with people to deepen the story beyond his personal experiences. Kimura interviewed a parent advocate who lost his son to an allergic reaction while traveling; Dr. Sung Poblete, CEO at FARE and Michelle Gannon, his social entrepreneurship and English teacher at Pinewood.

In particular, Poblete said she was impressed by

Kimura's efforts of turning his life-threatening disease into a leadership initiative.

"Braxton is a real problem solver, working to bring people together - I always say that communication, cooperation and collaboration are the keys to advancing any effort and Braxton's work is a perfect example of that principle in action," Poblete said in an email.

Along the way, FARE helped Kimura with the process, including helping with deciding which trailer of the film to release to the public in order to effectively get his message across.

While his trailer is finished, the documentary itself is still a work in progress. Once completed, "The Last Bite" will be streamed on YouTube and possibly screened in a local theater, according to Kimura.

For more information on the documentary, visit beyondtheshell.co/thelast-bite.

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Back to School

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Family Features

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Find more helpful tips to get ready to make the grade this school year at eLiving-Today.com.

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Dual-purpose devices

If you're strapped for cash or simply want the convenience of a smaller screen, a tablet can be a terrific alternative to a full-size laptop. Using Bluetooth, you can even connect to a keyboard if you want to use it to take notes in class. Download apps designed to help you study and look up information using the built-in web browser. A tablet isn't just a learning tool, however; it can be a source of entertainment, too. Add games and social apps, and you'll have an instant option for passing time between classes or taking a well-deserved break from hitting the books.

Dress up your dorm room

A dorm room is a drab room until you add your own personal touches. Bedding is a practical necessity that gives you lots of latitude for self-expression. Before you begin shopping, note whether your dorm mattresses are standard length or extra-long. Then it's time to explore your options. While you don't want to overspend on dorm gear that might get damaged, it's also a good idea to invest in at least moderate quality. Look for a matching set for ultimate coordination or pull together your own look that includes a comforter, pillowcases and sheets.

Hydrate for healthier days

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game by supporting your body's energy needs, helping you focus and promoting cognitive function. Look for a reusable water bottle with a sturdy seal that will stand up to bumps and bruises in your backpack. You may also want to think about how much you drink in a day and how often you'll be able to refill; that can help you determine the best size bottle for you.

A better boxed lunch

A busy class schedule

may keep you on your toes, but skipping meals is a fast track toward a crash and burn. Keep your body and mind fueled with good nutrition by carrying a bento box filled with your favorite snacks. The compartments make it easy to keep your favorite treats fresh and tasty, and with multiple wells to fill, you can challenge yourself to create well-rounded meals in every box. Bento boxes are available in a variety of sizes and materials, so you can customize your box to fit your personal needs.

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Back to School

Laying the Foundation for Writing

Family Features

Learning to write is one of the defining milestones of early childhood, but it doesn't happen all at once. Children build writing skills over time, from indecipherable scribbles to writing letters and words. While children progress at their own pace, families can help foster early writing development.

Dr. Lauren Loquasto, senior vice president and chief academic officer at The Goddard School, and Dr. Sonia Cabell, professor of reading education at Florida State University and member of The Goddard School's Educational Advisory Board, provide this insight and guidance for families.

Early writing milestone

Writing begins in early toddlerhood, around 18-24 months. The earliest developmental milestone is when children scribble on

paper with a crayon.

By 2-3 years old, children often draw shapes and narrate their writing. Parents should show genuine interest to help build confidence and interest. Ask your children to read what they write, as this helps make the connection that marks on paper represent thoughts and ideas. It's not expected for children younger than three to write identifiable letters. Instead, encourage them to make marks on paper without constraint, allowing them to freely express themselves.

Around ages 3-5, children begin to move from writing (making marks) to handwriting, which is the formalized motion of making numerals and letters in recognizable forms. It's vital for parents to value their children's writing no matter what appears on the paper and provide opportunities for them to regularly engage in writing. Children at this age tend to write letters in different ways. It's common, for example, for

letters to appear backwards or from right to left. These are not causes for concern; this is a natural part of the development process.

Writing supports reading (and vice versa)

Reading and writing skills develop in tandem, reinforcing each other. Through writing, children experiment with how written language works, learning English moves from left to right and top to bottom. By estimating spelling – using their knowledge of letter shapes and sounds to attempt to write words – they are beginning to break the code of reading. Moreover, when children are composing stories, they are supporting comprehension and oral language growth, which are critical for reading development.

Encourage writing at home

Make writing part of

everyday life. While ensuring paper and writing utensils are accessible is a start, materials alone won't spontaneously create writing experiences. Children naturally want to engage with things they see, so parents and older siblings should serve as writing models. For example, when writing a grocery list, ask your children to write their own lists. When you're writing a thank-you note, have them write their own.

The development of fine motor skills is also essential. One way to do this is provide tools like chopsticks or tongs that require them to use their forefinger and thumb in a pinching motion; this strengthens the hand muscles that are used to write. Also encourage play with small toys like blocks or beads that engage the hands in different ways. As fine motor skills improve, it becomes easier to grip writing utensils and write for extended periods.

Writing tools

From apps to workbooks, countless tools and resources

tout their ability to help children learn to write. Be wary. Typing on a tablet or computer is no substitute for learning to write by hand. Multiple studies have shown that writing – not typing – better promotes cognitive and literacy development.

Avoid activities like workbooks that require repetitive writing of letters over and over, as this inhibits creativity and experimentation. These activities can cause children to fear making mistakes, which can lead to anxiety, frustration and a loss of interest. The best tools are often the simplest: a small writing utensil (not big or bulky; children have small hands and need appropriately sized utensils) and a blank piece of paper.

Remember, children develop at their own pace. Provide encouragement and focus on effort, not perfection.

To watch a writing webinar featuring Loquasto and Cabell and access additional parenting resources, visit the Parent Resource Center at GoddardSchool.com.



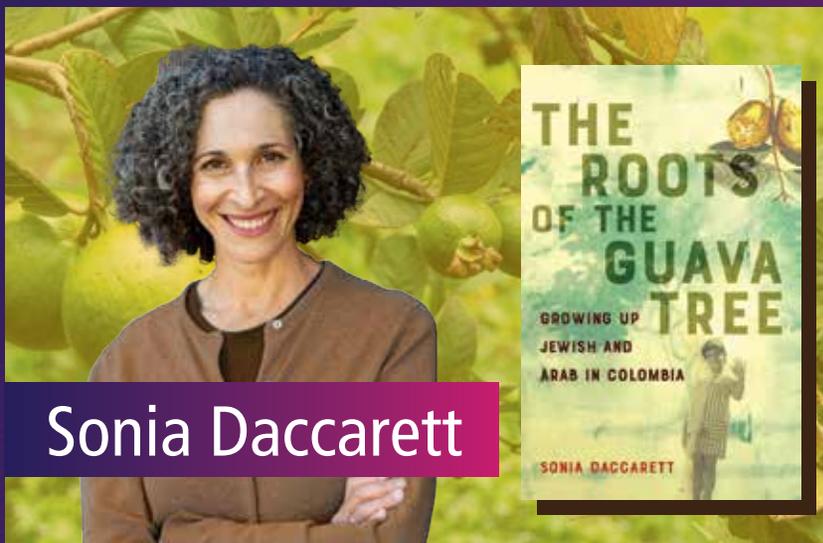
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AUTHORS

Thursday, 8/21/2025 | 7:00 PM

The Roots of the Guava Tree:

A Conversation With Memoirist Sonia Daccarett

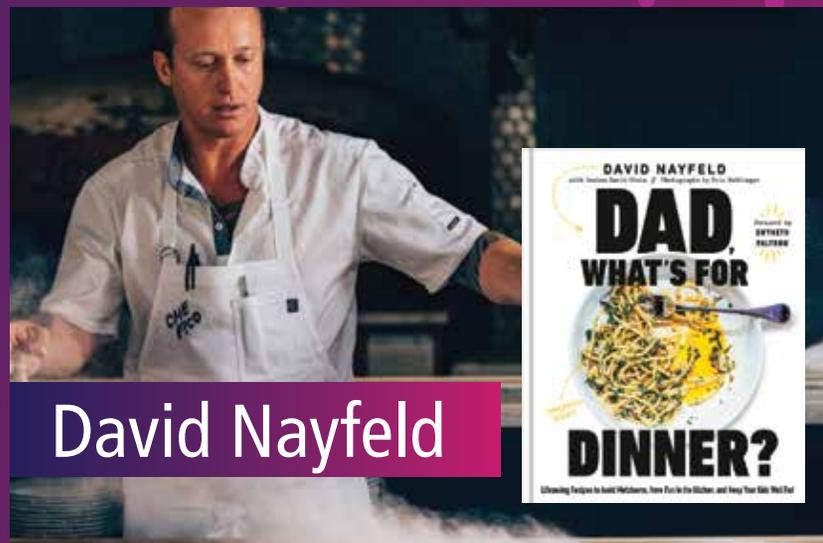


Sonia Daccarett

Monday, 9/15/2025 | 7:00 PM

Dad, What's For Dinner?

A Conversation With Michelin-trained chef (and dad) David Nayfeld



David Nayfeld

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Puzzles Page

Town Crier Crossword

By Myles Mellor

Across

1. La ____, Bolivia
4. **Los Altos commission with culture, abbr.**
8. Womanizer
12. Buckeye State university's abbreviation
13. Persistent dull pain
14. Caen's river
15. Gun device often used by assassins in movies
17. Guitar part
18. Listed items one by one
20. Suffix with glycer-
21. Raison ____ (French phrase)
25. **2015 Los Altan of the Year (last name)**
28. Stalemate
31. Acorn-producing tree
32. Watch on the sidelines
33. French title for married woman, abbr.
34. Rehashes
36. Casual affirmative responses
37. Truck rental company
38. Single unit or person
40. "Call of the Wild" author, 2

words

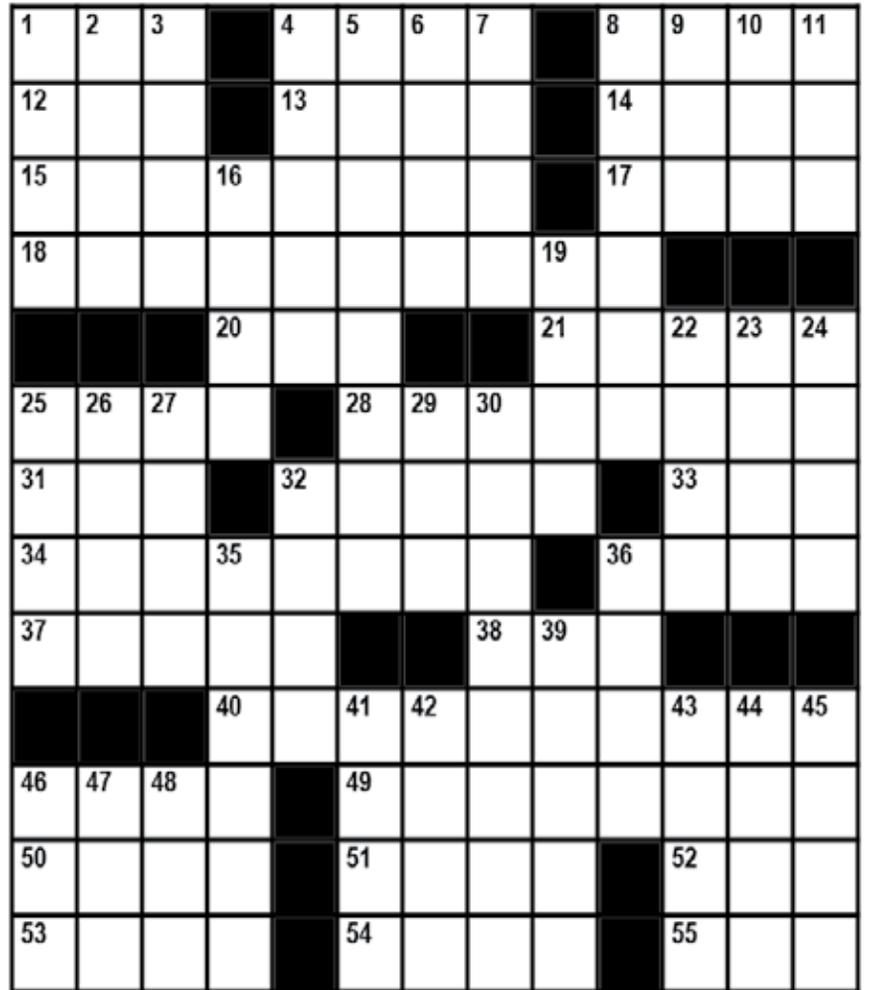
46. Healing plant
49. Visualize or imagine a future scenario
50. Artist Chagall
51. Female deer, plural
52. Time periods, abbr.
53. Study of body structure, abbr.
54. Online marketplace for handmade goods
55. Guitar master Paul

Down

1. Model for
2. Q ____ queen, 2 words
3. South African people
4. Having divisions in a window
5. Officially recognize
6. Flightless South American bird
7. Paper showing qualification, for short
8. Lyrical poem
9. Valuable rock
10. The Tar Heels, abbr.
11. Startled exclamation
16. Expressionist Nolde
19. Small whirlpool

22. Large book
23. Canadian federal police force, abbr.
24. Manages with difficulty, as a living
25. Dark film genre
26. Like Cheerios
27. Barely managed to get by
29. Summer season in France
30. Frees from blame
32. "____ Smile" Hall and Oates smash hit
35. Refuse to accept
36. Japanese currency units
39. Clamorous
41. Surrender possession
42. Masseur's target
43. "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" author
44. Shrek, e.g.
45. Lake that contains a monster
46. Doc bloc, abbr.
47. Local computer network, abbreviated
48. Man-mouse link, 2 words

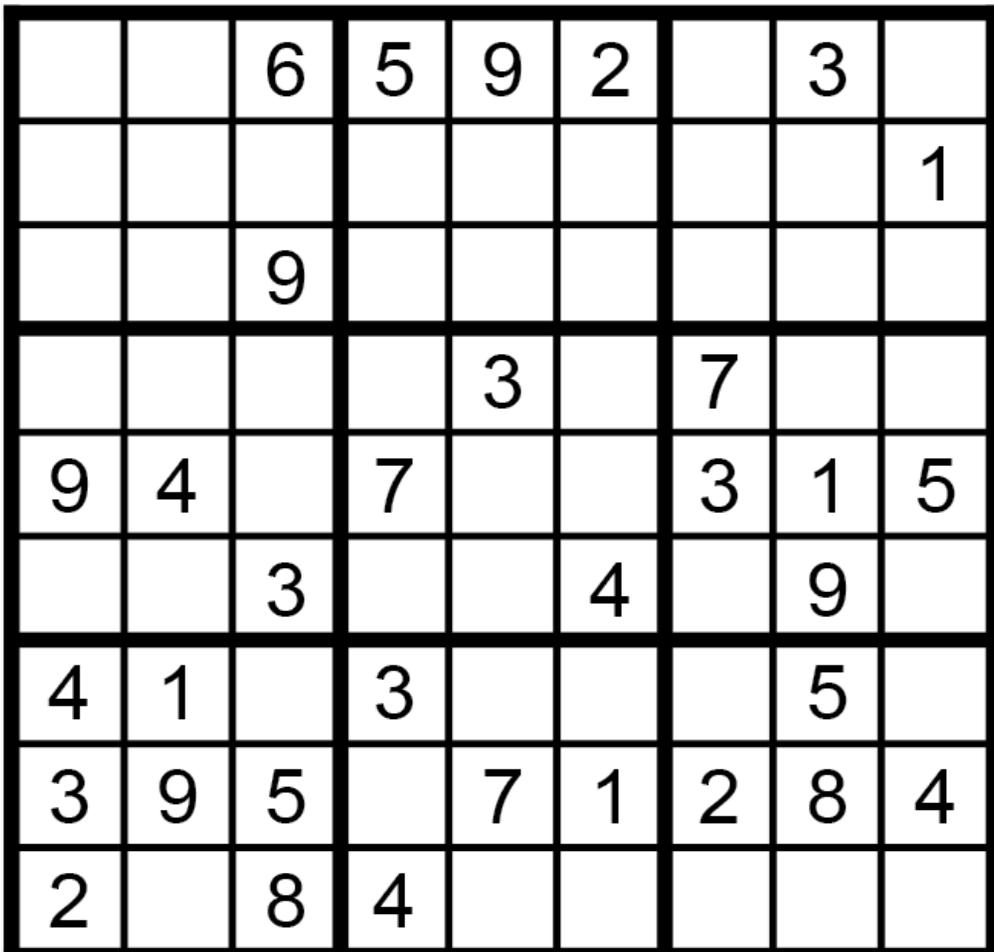
Answers on Page 43



Sudoku

By Myles Mellor and Susan Flanagan

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9X9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3X3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult. Level: Medium



Find A Word



Fifteen "exercise" words are listed by this puzzle. They may go across, up and down or diagonally in the puzzle. Circle each one when you find it.

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|---------|
| Benchpress | Dips | Plank |
| Burpee | Handstand | Pullup |
| Calfraise | Jackknife | Pushup |
| Chinup | Legpress | Squat |
| Crunch | Lunge | Wallsit |

Food and Wine

Hot days, easy drinking: Why August should be G&T month

By Christine Moore

When I think about hot weather cocktails, I think of simplicity and ease. On those scorching August days when the temperature gauge is sure to start climbing, even in mild summers, such as the one we're having, the last thing needed is an elaborate preparation to refreshment.

For this reason, I am a fan of classic cocktails for August – with the gin and tonic at the top of my list for 2025.

I was once a critic of gin, preferring vodka over the floral, resinous, slightly tart juniper-infused spirit. But a summer in the southwest region of England changed my mind. Walking along the shoreline promenade of the English Channel facing town, Worthing, I was introduced to the craft gin movement sweeping the UK and the world.

On a sunny day, a stroll beside the English Channel

Silicon Valley Sips

– where rows of pastel-hued beach huts stretch out and brightly striped canvas folding chaises are dotted in water-facing groupings – the Worthing promenade is as idyllic a summer experience as one can find. Scattered seemingly perfectly along the route are craft gin producers hawking their magical potions from retrofitted caravans and converted horse trailers.

As so often is the case, travel can change minds and hearts. Since that summer, I have a growing appreciation for gin. The tonic water producers are no slouches themselves and have kept up with wonderful offerings of new tonic flavors to match the craft-cocktail movement.

Craft gins are a category of spirits made for foodies, mix-



AHIRAO/ADOBE STOCK

Gin and tonic provides a classic cocktail option in the hot summer months.

ologists and folks with elevated senses of curiosity because there is so much to discover. Nuances between bottlings

provide a massive runway of flavor to explore.

This summer, friends Lisa and Anton introduced me

to the joys of an elderflower G&T. In July, my daughter got me hooked on passionfruit,

See GIN, Page 31

Twice-baked California sweet potatoes

NAPSI

Trying to incorporate more healthy foods into your cooking repertoire? Think California sweet potatoes. Nutritious and delicious, California sweet potatoes are filled with plenty of vitamins and minerals, loaded with fiber and are heart healthy to boot.

There are endless ways, classic and creative, to enjoy California sweet potatoes. Take these twice-baked sweet potatoes, for example. They make an excellent side or even main dish – hello, meatless Monday – and, since California sweet potatoes are available year-round, you can switch things up with seasonal ingredients.

If you like getting creative in the kitchen, you'll love using California sweet potatoes as a canvas for just about anything – savory and sweet.

Twice-baked California sweet potatoes

Serves 4

- 4 yellow/white-fleshed sweet potatoes, about 12 ounces each
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 3 tablespoons butter, room temperature, plus 1 tablespoon melted butter
- 1/2 cup shredded Jack or mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh chives, divided
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika

Preheat oven to 400 F. Pierce sweet potatoes with a fork, arrange on a rimmed baking sheet and bake until tender, about one hour (see note). Set aside until cool enough to handle, about 10 minutes. Cut 1/3 off top of each sweet potato. Scoop flesh (including from tops) into a large bowl, leaving about 1/4 inch on skins. Add sour cream and room temperature butter and mash. Stir in cheese, 3/4 of chives and salt and pepper to taste. Stir in egg. Fill sweet potato shells



COURTESY OF NAPSI

These twice-baked California sweet potatoes offer a savory and sweet option for dinner this summer.

with sweet potato mixture, using a spoon or spatula to leave a textured surface. Brush with melted butter and sprinkle with paprika. Return to baking sheet and bake until browned on top, 20 to 25 minutes. Sprinkle with

remaining chives and serve.

Note: If you love baked sweet potatoes but not how long they take to make, try this trick: microwave them on high for four minutes, then bake at 400 F until tender, 10 to 20 minutes. Or omit

the oven altogether and simply microwave your sweet potatoes until tender, six to eight minutes depending on their size.

For more recipes and information, visit casweetpotatoes.com.

Recreate the taco truck experience at home

StatePoint

There's no better treat than Mexican street fare, thanks to the complexity of its flavors and the freshness of its ingredients. And this summer, it's easier than ever to recreate the taco truck experience at home.

While the rich, slow-cooked flavors of Mexican cuisine can sometimes take hours to prepare, a new line of cooking and simmer sauces from Cholula can help you recreate these complex flavors without the time-consuming process. Bringing its signature balanced heat to 11 new products crafted with authentic Mexican flavor, convenience and versatility in mind, Cholula can help you go way beyond taco Tuesdays to whip up a broader spectrum of Mexican cuisine in your own kitchen.

To get you started, Cholula is sharing this mouth-watering recipe for Quesabirria Tacos, a crave-worthy spin on classic birria. These cheesy, crispy ta-

cos are filled with tender shredded beef made with Cholula Birria Cooking & Simmer Sauce, then fried until golden. Serve with warm consommé on the side for dipping for the ultimate flavor experience.

Ingredients:

- 3 pounds beef chuck roast, cut into 2-inch chunks
- 1 bottle Cholula Birria Cooking & Simmer Sauce
- 16 corn tortillas, warmed
- 4 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- Chopped fresh cilantro
- Fresh lime wedges

Instructions:

1. Place beef and cooking sauce in electric multifunction cooker. Close lid. Set valve to seal.
2. Cook on high pressure for 45 minutes. When done, quick-release the pressure. Open lid once pressure inside pot is completely released. (Follow

See TACO TRUCKS, Page 30



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Food and Wine

TACO TRUCKS

From Page 29

manufacturer's safe operating instructions.)

3. Skim fat from surface of cooking liquid and reserve, transferring to shallow dish or pie plate. Transfer beef to large bowl and coarsely shred using two forks. Mix shredded beef with reserved cooking liquid as directed.

4. To assemble tacos, heat large non-stick skillet on medium heat. Dip one side of a 6-inch corn tortilla into pie plate with reserved fat to coat lightly. Place fat-side down in skillet. Sprinkle tortilla with 1/4 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese and layer with about 1/4 cup of shredded beef. Cook just until cheese is melted. Sprinkle with cilantro, drizzle lightly with lime juice and fold tortilla in half to enclose filling. Cook just until browned on both sides. Repeat with remaining filling.

5. Serve with additional lime wedges and remaining sauce for dipping.

Craving a spicy, yet refreshing beverage to wash these delicious tacos down? Follow this Magonadas recipe from Cholula. From the icy, sweet

mango, to the fresh lime juice and uniquely salty, sweet, tangy and spicy flavors of Cholula Chamoy Sauce, it's easy to see why this Mexican dessert is so popular.

Magonadas Ingredients:

- 16 ounces frozen mango chunks
- 2 cups mango nectar
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 1 cup ice cubes
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar or agave nectar
- 1/2 cup Cholula Sweet & Spicy Chamoy Sauce, plus more to rim glasses
- Finely chopped fresh mango
- Lime wedges or wheels
- Tamarindo candy straws

Chili Lime Seasoning Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons McCormick Chili Powder
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- 2 teaspoons granulated sugar

Instructions:

1. Place frozen mango, mango nectar, lime juice, ice and sugar in blender. Cover and blend on medium until smooth.

2. Mix all Chili Lime Seasoning ingredients in small bowl.

Spoon about two tablespoons Chamoy on small shallow plate. Place seasoning mixture on another small plate. Dip rims of two large beverage glasses into Chamoy, then into seasoning mixture to coat.

3. Fill glasses 1/3 of the way with Magonada mixture. Drizzle with some of the Chamoy. Repeat layers until glasses are full. To serve, top with chopped mango and garnish with lime wedges and Tamarindo candy straws.

Helping you achieve restaurant-level authentic Mexican flavor at home, the offerings from Cholula include simmer sauces like Fajita Cooking and Simmer Sauce, drizzling sauces like Cilantro Lime Cremosa Sauce, fan-favorite toppings like Chili Crisp Sauce and seasoning mixes based on popular Latin dishes. For recipes and cooking inspiration, visit cholula.com.

"Americans are craving adventurous taste experiences, and Mexican cuisine is leading the way," says Valda Coryat, North America vice president of Marketing for McCormick & Company. "Now, home cooks have the ingredients they need to authentically explore the distinctiveness of Mexican cooking in their everyday lives."

To pitch a story for Food & Wine, email section editor **Brandon Roth** at brandonr@latc.com.



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Food and Wine

GIN

From Page 28

which turns out to be the ideal complementing flavor to my zero-proof version of G&T.

Elderflower gin and tonic

Three ingredients, ice and you're ready to exhale. This G&T is everything you want in a hot August, Saturday drink. It's a great way to welcome friends and kickoff an evening of summer entertaining.

- 2 ounces gin
- 4 ounces Fever-tree elderflower tonic water
- 1 thinly sliced piece of cucumber

• Ice
Add ice to a gin and tonic, old fashion or bubble shaped wine glass. Add gin, tonic water and stir to combine. Using

a vegetable peeler, thinly slice a long piece of cucumber. Fold and add garnish drink.

Zero-proof passionfruit gin and tonic

I'm always looking for flavorful ways to cut back on my alcohol intake. With thrilling alcohol-free options on the market, this goal is tastier than ever.

- 2 ounces zero-proof gin, such as Ritual brand
- 4 ounces tonic water
- 1 passionfruit – or 1 ounce passionfruit puree
- Juice of 1/2 lime

Add ice to a gin and tonic, old fashion or bubble shaped wine glass. Add gin, tonic water, passionfruit and lime. Stir to combine. (Note: passionfruit may be strained if desired.)



LOMB/A DOBE STOCK

Food and Wine columnist Christine Moore offers readers gin and tonic options for summer.



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Business & Real Estate

Pour Decisions Craft Coffee & Beer opening in Mountain View

By Lisa Zivanic
Town Crier Editorial Intern

There will soon be a shop in Mountain View that not only offers coffee in the morning, but also beer.

“We’re the only place that you can really actually get good craft beer at 7 a.m. without having to go to a dive bar or a casino,” said Vince Cao, co-founder of Pour Decisions Craft Coffee & Beer. “But again, it’s a fun environment. So, typically on weekends, you’ll see kids having our lemonades, the mom or dad will have a coffee and another person will have a beer all at the same time.”

Cao and company have been doing this in San Jose since 2023. The Mountain View location is set to open by the end of August at Grant Park Plaza, with a Fremont shop slated for the fall.

“What makes us really special is our ability to just serve really great coffee, craft coffee and other drinks that are non-beer, and it’s a fun environment,” Cao said. “... We really pride ourselves on customer service, and we’re big on supporting the community. So we can’t wait to be in Mountain View and really get involved with the community itself and supporting the other local businesses.”

Based on Cao’s love for coffee and beer, the entrepreneur said Pour Decisions offers a family and pet-friendly space for craft coffee and beer fanatics. It serves a wide assortment

of rich Vietnamese coffees, matcha lattes, beers and non-caffeinated drinks.

Cao said the shop’s most popular drinks include the Banana Matcha, Peanut Butter Latte, Strawberry Lychee Lemonade and their Hawaiian Latte, which is often accompanied with the ube cream add-on. Non-alcoholic drinks cost \$3.75-\$7.95, while beers are \$5-\$10.

Cao said opening in Mountain View brings the business closer to its largest catering customers, including Google, TikTok and Facebook. Such companies order from 50 to 3,000 drinks.

“I’m very familiar with Mountain View, growing up in the Bay Area, and then also working for Google for a year, a long, long time ago, and then also having Google as one of our biggest customers right now in terms of catering,” Cao said. “... Being in Mountain View allows a lot of our customers that have been requesting us to be there, an opportunity to visit us for our coffee, mainly. So, this is a great opportunity.”

While Pour Decisions had already announced its second location would be in Fremont, Cao said “Mountain View basically came out of nowhere.” After he and his partners pulled out of a deal to open in Castro Valley, they learned of a space in Mountain View and promptly grabbed it. Since it’s smaller in size, Cao said they chose to prioritize opening the Mountain View shop before the Fre-



COURTESY OF POUR DECISIONS CRAFT COFFEE & BEER

Pour Decisions Craft Coffee & Beer offers such selections as banana matcha and latte.

mont location.

Cao said that while outdoor seating will be available in Mountain View, the shop will adopt a largely grab-and-go model due to limited indoor seating. Occupancy is limited to about 10 people, which is approximately one-third of the indoor capacity of the San Jose location.

Those visiting either location can expect phin-drip coffee sourced from beans grown in Vietnam. Hello Em, a Seattle-based company with ties to a farm in Vietnam, roasts and ships its beans to Pour Deci-

sions weekly. For espresso-based coffee drinks, Cao said his company sources beans from Fulcrum Coffee Roasters, another Seattle-based company.

As for the beer, Pour Decisions offers an array of craft brews from companies such as Russian River Brewing Company, BarrelHouse Brewing Co. and Laughing Monk Brewing. There are also ciders and seltzers on the menu.

Food offerings include pastries, burritos and empanadas.

“So, everything that we do in terms of our offerings, espe-

cially on the baked goods and the pastries, are all local, independent businesses,” Cao said.

These include Sweet Dragon Bakery, Eizel’s Bakery, Bibo’s NY Pizza and Hella Dac Biet Foods. Cao said the plan is to work with additional bakeries and restaurants close to the Mountain View location.

Pour Decisions will be located at 1040 Grant Road, Ste. 300, formerly occupied by the açai bowl concept, Bowl of Heaven.

For more information on Pour Decisions, visit pourdecisionscraft.com or [@pourdecisionscraft](https://www.instagram.com/pourdecisionscraft) on Instagram.

Should your dollar hedge your foreign bonds?

By Artie Green

A well-diversified investment portfolio should at least include bonds as well as stocks. And in the case of bonds, you will discover that there are more sub-asset classes than there are for stocks.

Today I’m focusing on bonds issued by foreign governments. One of the challenges with those kinds of bonds is that as a retail investor it can be difficult (and expensive) to buy them.

In addition, there’s a risk associated with bonds denominated in foreign

Nest Egg Briefs

currencies that you don’t face when investing in U.S. bonds, namely currency risk. If the currency of the country from which you purchased the bonds drops in value relative to the U.S. dollar, any return from the bonds will be reduced by the same degree as the currency devaluation. (The opposite is also true when the local currency exchange rate improves.) Fortunately, there are ways around

both these challenges. There are numerous mutual funds and ETFs available in the U.S. that invest in foreign bonds quite efficiently, making it easy to add some to your portfolio. And some of them utilize what is called dollar hedging to eliminate currency risk, while others do not. Is it better to invest in a dollar-hedged foreign bond fund or to stick with those whose returns additionally fluctuate based on currency exchange rates?

Let’s start with a brief explanation of the way dollar hedging works. As an example, we’ll look at Japanese sovereign bonds and will pretend that the current

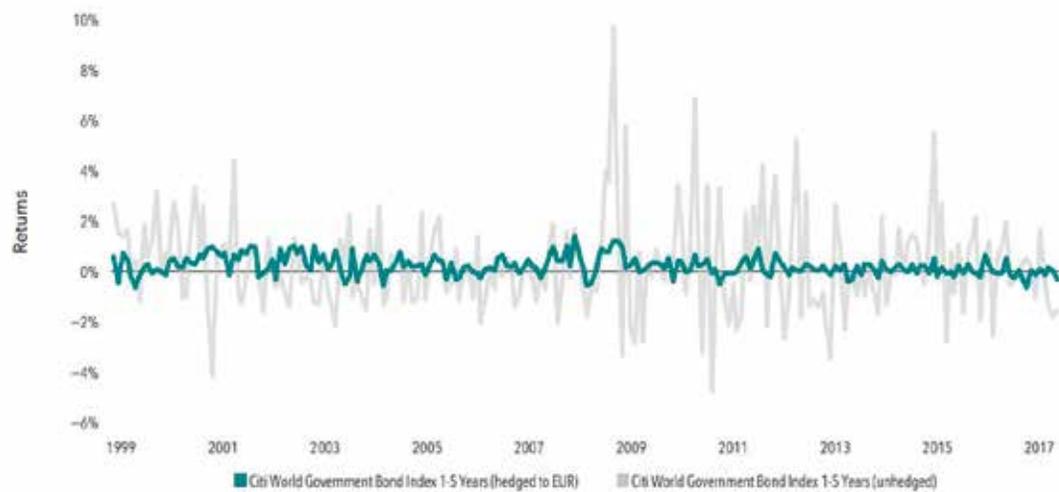
exchange rate is one hundred yen to the dollar.

Suppose a mutual fund wants to buy a ¥100,000 Japanese government bond maturing in one year with a coupon rate of 10%. The most common way to hedge against currency risk is to purchase both the bond (using \$1,000 converted to yen) together with a forward contract agreeing to sell ¥110,000 for U.S. dollars one year from now at today’s exchange rate. When the fund sells the bond the following year, it also simultaneously closes out the forward contract.

See GREEN, Page 33

Exhibit 3: Hedged vs. Unhedged International Government Bond Returns

1999-2017



GREEN

From Page 32

Those two actions effectively eliminate any currency impact on the expected return of the bond. The purchaser will get a 10% return on their investment in dollars, less the cost of having purchased the forward contract.

If foreign bonds can be boosted as well as reduced based on currency exchange rate changes, why bother to hedge against them at all? Why not just live with the losses or

enjoy the extra gains from any currency movements?

It's because bonds are typically used to stabilize portfolio returns by injecting much lower volatility than other asset classes. Unfortunately, currency fluctuations are much more volatile than bond price fluctuations.

See the chart above put together by Sam Instone at AES wealth. The light gray line shows the returns from an unhedged international government bond index over a recent

20-year period in Euros (for a European investor). The blue line shows the same returns over the same period but using an index hedged against the Euro. Note that although the average annual return of both indices is almost the same (2.9% versus 3.0%), the hedged index has significantly lower volatility (1.3%) as compared to the unhedged index (6.5%).

Los Altos resident Artie Green is founder of Cognizant Wealth Advisors. For more information, visit cognizantwealth.com.

Transactions

Los Altos

1700 Parkhills Avenue, Hubbard Living Trust to Truequality LLC for \$3,600,000

1425 Cedar Place, Ekuan Family Trust to Y. & J. Huang for \$3,710,000

655 Berry Avenue, Cassin Trust to G. & K. Nurge for \$3,802,500

481 San Luis Avenue, Lamerdin Living Trust to Akdemir Family Trust for \$4,150,000

484 Orange Avenue, V. & T. Tan to M. & A. Khan for \$4,500,000

1018 Loma Prieta Court, Lane Living Trust to R. & S. Gupta for \$4,650,000

945 Carmel Court, Smith Living Trust to Y. & Y. Yang for \$4,660,000

1666 Kensington Avenue, Tawakol Trust to Gaw 1994 Trust for \$7,001,000

Los Altos Hills

11633 Dawson Drive, Collins Living Trust to Z. & C. Zhang for \$4,600,000

25870 Westwind Way, Alfnito Living Trust to J. & M. Klein for \$5,225,000

Mountain View

2255 Showers Drive #124, A. Winders to S. & J. Yen for \$675,000

505 Cypress Point Drive #138, Mewes Living Trust to M. & A. Currier for \$697,000

1101 West El Camino Real #219, S. An to J. Thompson for \$800,000

1920 Silverwood Avenue, T. Zhao to A. Sugumar for \$1,000,000

1947 San Luis Avenue #10, S. & D. Kim to A. & K. Khare for \$1,146,000

928 Wright Avenue #406, R. Tan to Queiroz Family Trust for \$1,250,000

139 Pacchetti Way, M. Chen to A. & M. Woods for \$1,400,000

366 Sierra Vista Avenue #1, X. Wu to J. & C. Bryant for \$1,405,000

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\$4,988,000 | 4 BD | 4.5 BA | 1.17 Acres



Experience the perfect blend of tranquility and convenience with this expansive home nestled on over an acre of serene, private grounds, offering stunning bay views. Featuring a 3-car garage and a shimmering pool, this property provides a peaceful retreat with easy access to all the amenities Silicon Valley has to offer.

Join us for an open house on Thursday, August 14th, from 5:00-7:00pm, or over the weekend from 1:30-4:30pm.



Scan the QR code to learn more or visit 25850vinedo.com



Brittany Kodweis | REALTOR® | DRE 01902411
650.269.5489 | brittany.kodweis@compass.com

Alex Kodweis | REALTOR® | DRE 02013185
650.269.9249 | alex.kodweis@compass.com

Cindi Kodweis | REALTOR® | DRE 01120838
650.279.6333 | cindi.kodweis@compass.com

OPEN SAT & SUN August 16 & 17, 2:00 – 4:00pm



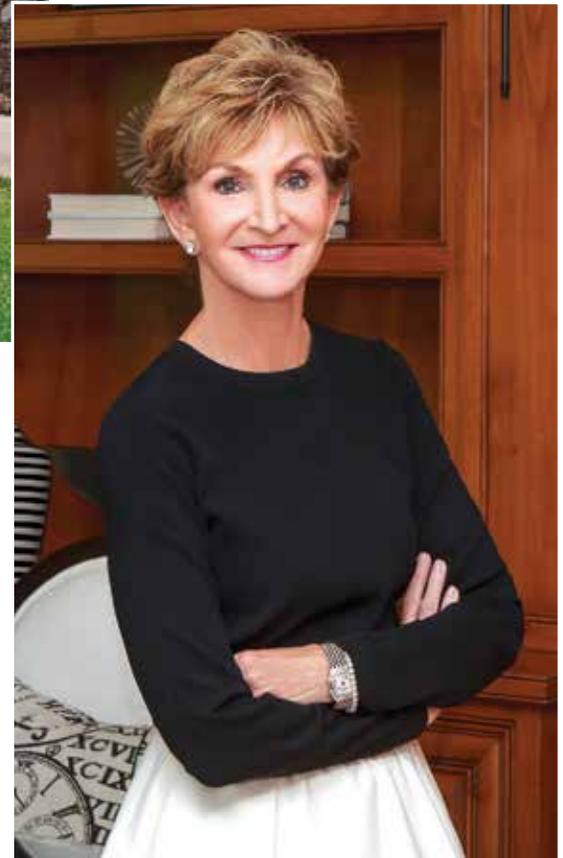
Kathy Bridgman's

**NEW LISTING
OF THE WEEK**

Fresh Updates and a Fantastic Location 663 Camellia Way, Los Altos

- Beautifully updated mid-century home
- Great location just one mile from the Village
- Almost one-quarter acre (approximately 10,080 square feet; not verified by Compass)
- 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths on one level
- Approximately 2,044 square feet of living space (not verified by Compass)
- Freshly painted inside and out plus new lighting
- Beautifully refinished hardwood floors, many with inlaid feature strips
- Spacious living room with fireplace
- Flexible formal dining options in either living room or in the family room with fireplace
- Well-appointed kitchen with skylight, greenhouse window, island with counter seating, and high-end black stainless steel KitchenAid appliances
- Primary suite with a just-completed remodeled bath
- Laundry room with office center and half-bath
- Attached 2-car garage
- Private rear yard with expansive deck, patios, and lawn
- Top-rated Los Altos schools

Price upon request | 663Camellia.com

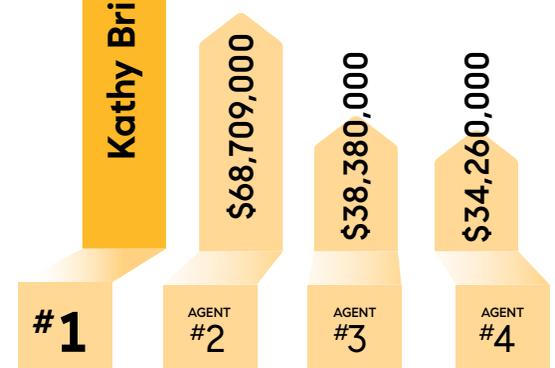


KATHY BRIDGMAN
BROKER ASSOCIATE

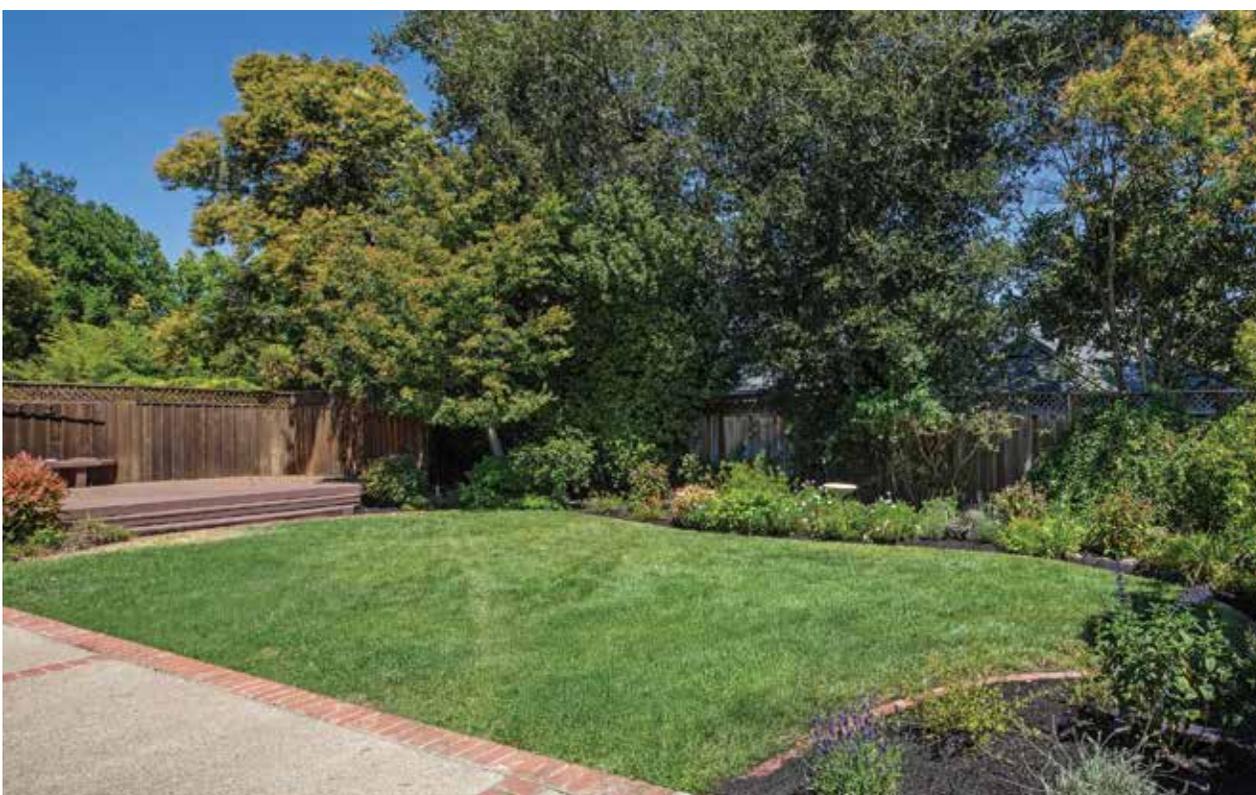
Kathy Bridgman: \$189,415,000

**#1 Individual Agent
Los Altos &
Los Altos Hills, 2024**

The Results Are In . . .
Kathy remains the leader in LA/LAH sales by an individual agent.
Work with the best in 2025!



Per MLS reported sales volume for LA/LAH. 2024



650.868.7677

License #01189798

kathy@kathybridgman.com

kathybridgman.com

COMPASS



Gardener's Paradise a Stone's Throw From Downtown

1 Hampton Court, Los Altos

4 BD | 2.5 BA | 2,335 SF | \$4,998,000

OPEN SAT & SUN 1:30-4:30 PM

In prime downtown Los Altos, only a block from the Village, this beautifully remodeled ranch home blends classic appeal with modern luxury. The light-filled living dining great room is ideal for gathering with family and friends. Cooking is a pleasure in the elegant chef's kitchen which opens to the outdoor entertaining deck and cozy family room. Work from home and distance learning are perfectly accommodated in the comfortable front office while the primary suite with its sumptuous designer bath provides a serene retreat at the end of the day. Exquisitely curated gardens surrounding the home create a lush landscape of climbing roses, manicured paths, and a flourishing orchard which invite true California outdoor living year-round. Become a part of the community and enjoy top rated schools, Lincoln Park, boutiques, cafes and the famous First Friday Monthly Music festival, all in close proximity!



COLLEEN FORAKER

DRE# 01349099
 Realtor®
 M: 650.380.0085
 colleen.foraker@compass.com



CAROLYN AARTS KEDDINGTON

DRE 01490400
 Realtor®
 650.946.8122
 carolyn.keddington@compass.com

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CLASSIC LOS ALTOS HOME ON SUBDIVIDABLE LOT

730 MORA DRIVE, LOS ALTOS



Main Level: 4 Beds | 3.5 Baths | ±3,671 Square Feet
Garden Level & Basement: 2 Half Baths | ±915 Finished Square Feet | ±1,450 Unfinished Square Feet
Detached 3-Car Garage: ±715 Square Feet
Lot: ±1.63 Acres
Offered at: \$6,350,000



THE DREYFUS GROUP

Golden Gate | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Michael Dreyfus
650.485.3476
thedreyfusgroup@ggsir.com
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SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE
730MoraDrive.com

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Home is *more* than an address It's where *life* happens

A home holds more than furniture. It holds your stories, your next chapter, your life in motion. With trusted local insight and the global reach of Christie's International Real Estate, we're here for more than the logistics – we're here for you through every move and change that shapes your life.

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SERENO.COM | DRE 02101181

JUST LISTED

390 CHERRY AVENUE ■ LOS ALTOS

open house

SAT 8/16 ■ SUN 8/17
2-4PM



\$4,695,000

3 BEDS + OFFICE ■ 2.5 BATHS ■ 1,797 SQ FT ■ 12,375 SQ FT LOT

Situated on a coveted North Los Altos street, this updated home blends comfort and style with new systems throughout—roof, copper plumbing, HVAC + A/C, double-pane windows, and more. An impressive vaulted wood-beam ceiling anchors the living space, while the refreshed kitchen opens to an expansive backyard ideal for entertaining or relaxing. Top schools: Santa Rita Elementary, Egan Jr. High, and Los Altos High.

www.390Cherry.com



#112 IN THE U.S.
OUT OF 1.5M AGENTS

OVER \$1 BILLION
IN PROPERTY SALES

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SERENO



This information was supplied by third party sources. Sales Associate believes this information is correct but has not verified this information and assumes no legal responsibility for its accuracy. Buyer should verify accuracy and investigate to Buyer's own satisfaction.

JUST LISTED

1011 VIA DEL POZO ■ LOS ALTOS

open house

SAT 8/16 ■ SUN 8/17
2-4PM



\$4,798,000

4 BEDS ■ 2.5 BATHS ■ 2,377 SQ FT ■ 12,726 SQ FT LOT

Extensively updated and tucked on a quiet North Los Altos cul-de-sac, this turnkey home offers a spacious, sun-filled layout with seamless indoor-outdoor flow—plus an oversized yard with mature landscaping, a sunroom, and a shaded pergola under towering redwoods. Modern upgrades include newer kitchen and baths, newer HVAC, EV charging, Anderson French doors, and more, all just steps from the Sweet Shop and Palo Alto bike path. Top-rated Los Altos schools: Santa Rita Elementary, Egan Jr. High, and Los Altos High School

www.1011ViaDelPozo.com



#112 IN THE U.S.
OUT OF 1.5M AGENTS
PER REALTRENDS, 2025

OVER \$1 BILLION
IN PROPERTY SALES

650.773.8000

REALTORNICKFRENCH.COM

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DRE#01350085 | 467 FIRST STREET #200 | LOS ALTOS, CA 94022

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YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS



DeLeonRealty_USA



23171 MORA GLEN DRIVE | \$7,888,000 | 5 Bd | 5.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS | 23171MoraGlen.com



Notice to Buyers:
Although a good buyer's agent can add significant insight and value, you are not required to use one to purchase a DeLeon listing. If you would like to submit an offer to us directly, please contact the DeLeon Buyer's Team at **650.543.8528** and we will waive 100% of the buyer's-side commission.



706 N SAN ANTONIO RD | \$5,748,000 | 4 Bd | 5.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS | 706NSanAntonio.com



28500 MATADERO CREEK LN | \$9,398,000 | 6 Bd | 9 Bth
LOS ALTOS HILLS | 28500MataderoCreek.com



1271 PETERSEN COURT | \$5,095,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS | 1271Petersen.com



12355 STONEBROOK COURT | \$9,988,000 | 6 Bd | 9 Bth
LOS ALTOS HILLS | 12355StonebrookCt.com



27500 LA VIDA REAL | \$39,988,000 | 5 Bd | 12 Bth
LOS ALTOS HILLS | 27500LaVida.com



240 3RD STREET #301 | \$5,988,000 | 2 Bd | 2.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS | 240Third.com

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Michael Repka (DRE #01854880) **650.488.7325**
 中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun (DRE #01933274) **650.785.5822**
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YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS



DeLeonRealty_USA



927 CONTINENTAL DRIVE | \$4,988,000 | 4 Bd | 4.5 Bth
MENLO PARK | 927Continental.com



779 HOLLY OAK DRIVE | \$3,988,000 | 4 Bd | 2 Bth
PALO ALTO | 779HollyOak.com



40 TAGUS COURT | \$6,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
PORTOLA VALLEY | 40Tagus.com



789 UNIVERSITY AVENUE | \$5,488,000 | 5 Bd | 4 Bth
PALO ALTO | 789University.com



579 GLENBROOK DRIVE | \$5,988,000 | 6 Bd | 4 Bth
PALO ALTO | 579Glenbrook.com



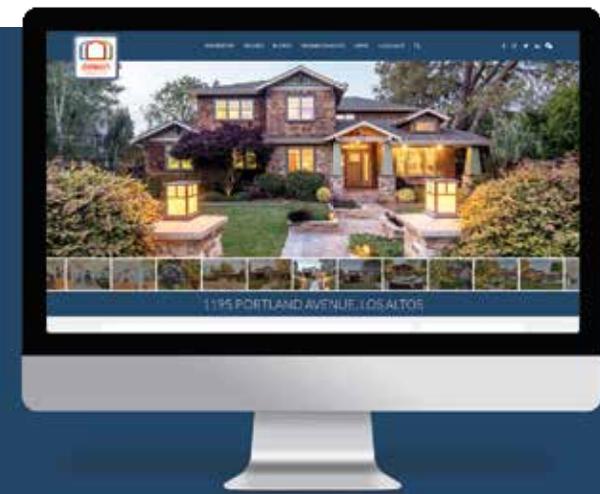
86 RITTENHOUSE AVE | \$4,888,000 | 5 Bd | 3 Bth
ATHERTON | 86Rittenhouse.com



1932 EMERSON STREET | \$9,988,000 | 6 Bd | 6 Bth
PALO ALTO | 1932EmersonStreet.com



756, 758, 760 WAVERLEY ST | \$3,088,000 | Triplex
PALO ALTO | 756-760Waverley.com



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR
MORE DETAILS OR VISIT US
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中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822
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Public Notices

ENRIQUE TREE REFERRAL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN718618

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ENRIQUE TREE REFERRAL, 3440 Chapala Drive, San Jose, CA, 95148, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: married couple. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Abel Enrique Pineda Herrera, 3440 Chapala Drive, San Jose, CA 95148, Iris Yessenia Bautista Martinez, 3440 Chapala Drive, San Jose, CA 95148. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 08/01/2025. /S/ Abel Enrique Pineda Herrera / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/07/2025. (08-13,20,27-25,09-03-25)

198-T

BAY AREA COOLING & HEATING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN718402

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: BAY AREA COOLING & HEATING, 5479 Ellyridge Dr, San Jose, CA, 95123, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a general partnership. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Nangiyalai Khairy, 5479 Ellyridge Dr, San Jose, CA 95123, Mohammad Qadir Faiez, 5479 Ellyridge Dr, San Jose, CA 95123. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/29/2025. /S/ Nangiyalai Khairy / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/29/2025. (08-13,20,27-25,09-03-25)

197-T

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS NOTICE OF PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING FOR GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT, ZONING AMENDMENT, AND REZONING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Clerk of the Town of Los Altos Hills, State of California, has set after the hour of **6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025** in the **Council Chambers of Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road**, Los Altos Hills, California, as the time and place for consideration of the following:

Subject: Consideration of and recommendation to City Council regarding a General Plan Amendment to the Land Use Element, a Zoning Amendment to establish Multi-Family Development Standards and Multi-Family Objective Design Standards, and Rezoning of certain parcels identified in the Town of Los Altos Hills 2023-2031 Housing Element from Residential-Agricultural (R-A) to Multi-Family (MF), Multi-Family Overlay (MFO), and Floating Multi-Family Overlay (FMFO) zones; File #GPA25-0002, MCA25-0003. Review and adopt a resolution making a recommendation to the City Council on proposed General Plan-Land Use Element Amendments, Zoning Amendments, and Rezoning of certain parcels to Multi-

Family, Multi-Family Overlay, and Floating Multi-Family Overlay zones. CEQA Review: Exempt pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.085 and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3)

A digital copy of the meeting agenda and staff report will be available on the Town's website by the end of the day on August 29 2025, at <http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov>. If you have any questions or need additional information about the foregoing actions for consideration, please contact the Planning Department at planning@losaltoshills.ca.gov.

All interested persons may appear and be heard at said time and place. Written communications should be filed at Town Hall prior to the date of the hearing. Court challenges to the action of the Planning Commission, or City Council may be limited to issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence received at Town Hall at, or prior to, the time of the public hearing. Further details may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office at 650-947-2513.

To attend the meeting in person: City Council Chambers, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022

To provide Public Comment in person: Members of the public wishing to speak are requested to complete a speaker card and submit it to the Community Development Director at the meeting.

To participate in the meeting via Zoom Video Conference, please follow the instructions below: Public comment will also be accepted via email at planning@losaltoshills.ca.gov prior to the start of the meeting. Written comments will be posted on the website and distributed to the Council. If you choose to email your comments, please indicate in the subject line "FOR PUBLIC COMMENT" and indicate the item number.

If you wish to submit a public comment during the meeting, please use the following information. Before speaking, please identify yourself by name and where you reside. The Planning Commission meeting will be accessible via zoom at the following location:

<https://bit.ly/LAHP-RegularMeeting>
Webinar ID: 899 6476 5820
Password: 609916
Phone: (669) 900 6833

Public testimony will be taken at the direction of the Planning Commission Chair and members of the public may only comment during times allotted for public comments. This meeting will be broadcast via live-stream service at <http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov>.

Marco Ahumada
Administrative Clerk/Technician
Town of Los Altos Hills
NOTICE DATE: August 13, 2025
(08-13-25)

196-T

SIERRA PROPERTIES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN718511

The following person (persons)

is (are) doing business as: SIERRA PROPERTIES, 330 Sierra Vista Ave, Mountain View, CA, 94043, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a trust. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Jean L.Y. Garrett Trustee, 730 Sharon Park Dr, Menlo Park, CA 94025, Stephen C Garrett Trustee, 730 Sharon Park Dr, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 03/01/2006. /S/ Stephen C Garrett Trustee / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/04/2025. (08-13,20,27-25,09-03-25)

195-T

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

The following person(s) / registrant(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business name statement that was filed at the County Clerk's office. New Generations International, 1905 Sherman Street, Suite 200-1652, Denver, CO 80203 Filed in Santa Clara County on: 08/28/2024 Under File No. FBN642951 Full Name of Registrant(s): New Generations, 1905 Sherman Street, Suite 200-1652, Denver, CO 80203 This business was conducted by: a corporation This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Santa Clara County on Jul. 11, 2025. Regina Alcomendras County Clerk-Recorder Santa Clara County File No. FBN717890 (08-13,20,27-25,09-03-25)

194-T

FUEL GOOD NUTRITION FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717358

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: FUEL GOOD NUTRITION, 388 Santana Row, 2327, San Jose, CA, 95128, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Meghan K Brown, 388 Santana Row, 2327, San Jose, CA 95128. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/22/2025. /S/ Meghan Brown / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/24/2025. (08-06,13,20,27-25)

193-T

RONNOCO PROPERTIES OF PALO ALTO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN718168

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) RONNOCO PROPERTIES OF PALO ALTO, (2) RONNOCO PROPERTIES OF LOS ALTOS, 25605 Fernhill Drive, Los Altos Hills, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence ad-

dress of the registrant(s) is (are): Bider David, 3000 Sand Hill Road, 1-250, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/09/2005. /S/ David Bider / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/23/2025. (07-30-25,08-06,13,20-25)

192-T

LAWZA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN718164

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) LAWZA, (2) LAWZA BAKERY, 213 Ramona Street, Palo Alto, CA, 94301, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Nawale Hinde Franklin, 213 Ramona Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Nawale Hinde Franklin / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/22/2025. (07-30-25,08-06,13,20-25)

191-T

Enounce FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717904

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Enounce, 272 Del Monte Ave, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Virentem Ventures, LLC, 272 Del Monte Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 03/01/2015. /S/ Donald J. Hejna, Jr. / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/14/2025. (07-30-25,08-06,13,20-25)

190-T

ANGELS PRO CLEANING SERVICE LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717842

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ANGELS PRO CLEANING SERVICE LLC, 1807 Bradford Way Apt A, San Jose, CA, 95124, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): ANGELS PRO CLEANING SERVICE LLC, 1807 Bradford Way Apt A, San Jose, CA 95124. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/01/2025. /S/ Heydi Timotea Garcia / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/10/2025. (07-30-25,08-06,13,20-25)

186-T

Sunny Realty and Loan FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN717936

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Sunny Realty and Loan, 13690 Calle Tacuba, Saratoga, CA, 95070, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Yongwei Zhang, 13690 Calle Tacuba, Saratoga, CA 95070. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/30/2012. /S/ Yongwei Zhang / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/15/2025. (07-23,30-25,08-06,13-25)

185-T

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PETITION OF PETER FORD WATSON ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME 25CV470477

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioner: Peter Ford Watson filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name:

a. Peter Ford Watson

Proposed Name:

a. Clover Ford Watson

2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING 10/14/2025 at 8:45 a.m. Room: Probate (b) The address of the court is: 191 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

3. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Altos Town Crier Date: 07/14/2025

/s/ LE Jacqueline Duong
Judge of the Superior Court
(07-23,30-25,08-06,13-25)

183-T

Datebook

Datebook items are run on a space-available basis for entertainment, events, classes and groups run by nonprofits in our circulation area (primarily Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View). The deadline is noon Tuesday for the next week's paper. Submit notices via email to bruceb@latc.com and include a contact name, phone number and fee to participate (if applicable).

EVENTS

Los Altos Main Library. All events held in the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, unless otherwise indicated. **Monday Meditation & Mindfulness**, 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Los Altos Main Library, 7 p.m., Woodland Library, 1975 Grant Road. **Poetry Community Hour Open Mic**, 7 p.m., first Monday of every month; **Bay Area Games Day**, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., third Saturday of every month. Other events: **All About Bees**. 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday (Aug. 14). Longtime beekeeper, Enrico Reineri, will share all he knows about bees, bee products, keeping a hive and more. **Open Space Odyssey**, 6-8 p.m. Aug. 19. A Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District representative will explore the history, flora and fauna and the ongoing preservation of the local region's open spaces. **Little Windows to Wonder: How We See the World Art Exhibit**. RIVERBIEN's group art exhibition will be on display for the month of August. **Latinx Rock From the 1950s through the 1980s**, 7 p.m. Sept. 4. For Hispanic Heritage Month, rock historian and author Richie Unterberger presents "La Bamba: Latinx in Vintage Rock, Pop, and Soul," featuring and discussing film clips of Latinx performers from the 1950s through the 1980s, highlighting Latinx music from San Francisco and Los Angeles. Programs are free and open to the public. Information: (650) 948-7683, scld.org.

Come meet Congressman Sam Liccardo, representing District 16, 2:30-4 p.m. Aug. 17 at the Mitchell Park Community Center in Palo Alto. Doors open at 2 p.m. Liccardo grew up in Saratoga and served as mayor of San Jose for eight years. Advance registration is required. Attendees can submit written questions for the Congressman. Information: bit.ly/Dist16.

CLUBS/GROUPS

Friendship Force of the San Francisco Bay Area: Let's Eat Out. 11:30 a.m. today (Aug. 13). Attendees buy lunch at Michael's at Shoreline Restaurant, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd., in Mountain View. Discuss promoting peace and friendship by hosting travelers or being hosted in a home for one week. Information: Dee Gustavson, (650) 961-3539.

American Association of University Women - Silicon Valley Branch. Open to women (and men) with a college degree who are interested in equity for women and girls. Information: (650) 464-2830, siliconvalley-ca.aauw.net.

Los Altos Hills Club. Historic social club promoting friendship and social contacts among women with a Los Altos Hills mailing address. Activities include luncheons, book groups, bridge and card games. Information: (650) 948-5382, jensensylvia@hotmail.com.

Los Altos-Los Altos Hills Newcomers Club. Non-profit organization, builds vibrant friendships in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills through special interest and social activities. Information: losaltosnewcomers.org.

Crossword Answers

1	P	2	A	3	Z		4	P	5	A	6	R	7	C		8	R	9	10	11	U	E				
12	O	S	U				13	A	C	H	E					14	O	R	N	E						
15	S	I	L	16	E	N	C	E	R						17	N	E	C	K							
18	E	N	U	M	E	R	A	T	19	E	D															
				20	I	D	E								21	D	E	22	23	24	R	E				
25	N	O	E	L						28	D	E	A	D	L	O	C	K								
31	O	A	K							32	S	I	T	B	Y					33	M	M	E			
34	I	T	E	35	R	A	T	E	S											36	Y	E	P	S		
37	R	Y	D	E	R										38	O	N	E								
										40	J	A	41	C	42	K	L	O	N	43	44	45	D	O	N	
46	A	47	L	48	O	E									49	E	N	V	I	S	A	G	E			
50	M	A	R	C											51	D	O	E	S				52	H	R	S
53	A	N	A	T											54	E	T	S	Y				55	L	E	S

Sudoku Answers

1	7	6	5	9	2	4	3	8
5	3	4	8	6	7	9	2	1
8	2	9	1	4	3	5	6	7
6	8	1	9	3	5	7	4	2
9	4	2	7	8	6	3	1	5
7	5	3	2	1	4	8	9	6
4	1	7	3	2	8	6	5	9
3	9	5	6	7	1	2	8	4
2	6	8	4	5	9	1	7	3

Find A Word Answers

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

OBITUARY NOTICE

SUZANNE BAILEY SPANGLER



March 7, 1934 -
July 30, 2025

We are saddened to announce the passing of Suzanne (Sue) Bailey Spangler, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend, who passed away peacefully at the age of 91.

Born in Los Angeles, CA, on March 7, 1934, Sue was a proud Stanford alumna with a spirit of adventure. She loved traveling the world with her husband, Martin J. Spangler, (including their adventures in the Air Force as newlyweds) and also with her sisters. She was a strong supporter of her family traveling the world too. Sue and Marty, were longtime owners of the family business, Spangler Mortuaries, serving their community with compassion and care. Married for 70 years, they built a life rooted in love and service.

A woman of deep Christian faith, Sue found joy in studying the Bible and sharing its teachings. She was actively involved in her Bible Study and always offered a listening ear, a kind word, or a prayer. Her home was a place of warmth and welcome, filled with laughter, love, and family. She was an avid game player - Bridge and Mahjong being favorites, and she spent hours on end with dear friends and family, playing various card games. She was a life-

long learner who had more books than could ever be counted.

Family was the most important thing to Sue. The time that she invested with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be cherished forever. She is survived by her husband, Martin J. Spangler (Marty); her sisters, Linda Keene and Joan Hobin; three of her four children, Jim (Jane) Spangler, Linda (Tom) Cave, and Kristen (Charles) Bauer; 14 beloved grandchildren: Jake, Nick, Chris, Samantha, Starr, Kelly, Steven, Joyah, Jenni, Chloe, Isaiah, Ian, Annalee, and Benaiah. She is also survived by 13 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son, Scott Spangler, with whom she is now reunited.

A service to celebrate her life will be held at the Los Altos Chapel of Spangler Mortuaries on Friday, August 15, 2025 at 10am, followed by a reception at the Los Altos Country Club. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to one of your favorite charities.

Suzanne Bailey Spangler leaves behind a legacy of family, faith, and love. She will be lovingly remembered and deeply missed by her family and community.

LORRAINE KORPONTINOS



August 25, 1940 -
July 23, 2025

Lorraine A. Korpontinos passed away peacefully on July 23, 2025, surrounded by family. She was born in San Francisco, California August 25, 1940, and raised in Millbrae. A proud graduate of Cappuccino High School, Lorraine went on to earn her Associate Degree in Dental Assisting.

Lorraine was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend. She is survived by her two beloved children, Stephanie and a son, as well as six cherished grandchildren and a treasured great-grandchild.

A lifelong resident of the Bay Area, Lorraine found joy in traveling the world with her husband, George Korpontinos. Together, they made lasting memories visiting Lake Tahoe, Hawaii, and Reno—where she especially enjoyed playing the slot machines. Lorraine loved real estate, entertaining family and friends, and, above all, spending time with her grandchildren.

Her warmth, kindness, and generous spirit touched the lives of many. Lorraine's final resting place will be at the Greek Orthodox Memorial Park, 1148 El Camino Real, Colma, CA 94014.

She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.





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Michael Repka (DRE #01854880) 650.488.7325

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Audrey Sun (DRE #01933274) 650.785.5822

Seller's Bill of Rights

Silicon Valley sellers deserve better – better marketing, better support, and better results. No games. No hidden agendas. Just clear, honest commitments. Our **Seller's Bill of Rights** isn't fluff – It's a promise.

- I. **Fair Deals Only** – No double-ending. Our buyers get free representation on our listings.
- II. **Legal Help** – Free access to a licensed CA attorney.
- III. **Best Marketing** – Better than any comparable listing.
- IV. **Full Exposure** – On MLS, Zillow, Redfin & more.
- V. **Massive Visibility** – Weekly ads, professional video, 3D tour, custom site.
- VI. **Design Support** – Designer + handyman guided preparation.
- VII. **Free Staging** – Always included.
- VIII. **Paid Inspections** – We cover property & pest reports.
- IX. **Flexible Listings** – Auto-expire after 39 days unless renewed by seller.
- X. **Elite Teamwork** – Full in-house team working for you.



Discover the full details about our Seller's Bill of Rights

Closed Doors May Cost You More

Don't *Trust* a Brokerage That Prioritizes Commission Over Clients

Some brokerages pressure sellers to keep listings hidden from buyers who are not represented by that same brokerage on the buy side. While this "office exclusive" approach can dramatically increase the brokerage's chances of collecting both sides of the commission, it often comes at the seller's expense – reducing exposure, limiting competition, and ultimately lowering the final sales price.

DeLeon Realty welcomes competition from all buyers, irrespective of their choice of agent. And if a buyer isn't represented, Ken DeLeon's Buyer's Team will represent them on our listings – at no cost to either the buyer or the seller. Simply put, we always put our clients' interests first.



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