Happy Thanksgiving!

Holiday Fund kicks off

SEE BELOW

Los Altos Town Crier

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

Vol. 79 No. 47 • 50 cents | losaltosonline.com | Wednesday, November 25, 2026

2026 Holiday Fund Supports 14 Nonprofits



Town Crier file photo

The Community Services Agency's Food & Nutrition Center is one of 14 nonprofits that the Town Crier will support through its annual Holiday Fund. Above, a volunteer at Community Services Agency moves boxes of produce.

Town Crier's new online giving platform aims to increase participation and campaign success

Fourteen local nonprofit organizations will be better off this year, thanks to the generosity of local residents and community donor funds. The Los Altos Town Crier Holiday Fund has rolled out a new online giving platform that will make it even easier for readers to support the important work of social services providers active in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View.

From hunger relief and veterans support to foster child advocacy, these safety net services depend on community members to fulfill their missions. Now in its 27th year, the Town Crier's holiday fund has raised and distributed more than $3 million to worthy organizations.

This year, the Town Crier established Givally, a new California public benefit organization and online giving platform. Online donations are securely processed directly through Stripe.

See HOLIDAY FUND, Page 6

Mountain View moves forward with residential rezoning map

By Ava Acharya
Town Crier Staff Writer

As part of Mountain View's efforts to increase housing availability, City Council has passed a zoning district update that reassigns certain areas to allow for higher density multifamily housing.

These rezoning efforts have garnered mixed reviews from community members, with many supporting efforts to offer greater housing options while voicing concern surrounding certain logistics.

While the update passed at City Council's Nov. 17 meeting, Councilmember Lucas Ramirez said that this update is far from complete and will require various "clean-up items" to be addressed by council as they come up.

In essence, the zoning map amendment redefined certain areas of Mountain View as R3 and R4 residential. Previously, these areas were only zoned as R1 and R2, which allows for single and double

See REZONING, Page 7

Heavy rains bring local road flooding

Town Crier Staff Report

Heavy storms arrived in the South Bay last week, causing roadway flooding in Los Altos and Mountain View.

A spokesperson for Los Altos said there was some localized street flooding but no downed trees. Drain issues and fallen branches were also reported, with maintenance crews clearing most within 30 minutes. Free sandbags are available from the self-serve station at the Municipal Services Center, 707 Fremont Ave., which is

See FLOODING, Page 8

ALSO INSIDE – November 25, 2026

Business & Real Estate . . 22
Comment 9
Community 10
Datebook 26
Life Celebrations 27
Pet of the Week 3
Public Notices 26
Schools 16
Sports 18
Stepping Out 15
Your Home 21



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Student Art Showcase







Shelly Bowers/Special to the Town Crier

The Los Altos School District Student Art Showcase brought student artwork to Covington Elementary Nov. 18 for an art show, along with music performances and art activities.



Happy
Thanksgiving!

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Los Altos Hills Open Space Committee looks toward new year

By Ava Acharya
Town Crier Staff Writer

Moving into 2027, the Los Altos Hills open space committee is renewing its 2026 goals with an increased focus on recruitment.

Recruitment plays a role in the committee's function, as committee members had difficulty working around each other's schedules in order to reach a quorum. Currently, the open space committee has three vacancies.

"Other people see us as performing an important function, but we're challenged," said committee member Eric Bredo. "When you can't get a quorum, for instance, it gets pretty tricky."

The committee gathered on Nov. 18 for a special meeting, which included in-depth discussion on its goals moving into the new year.

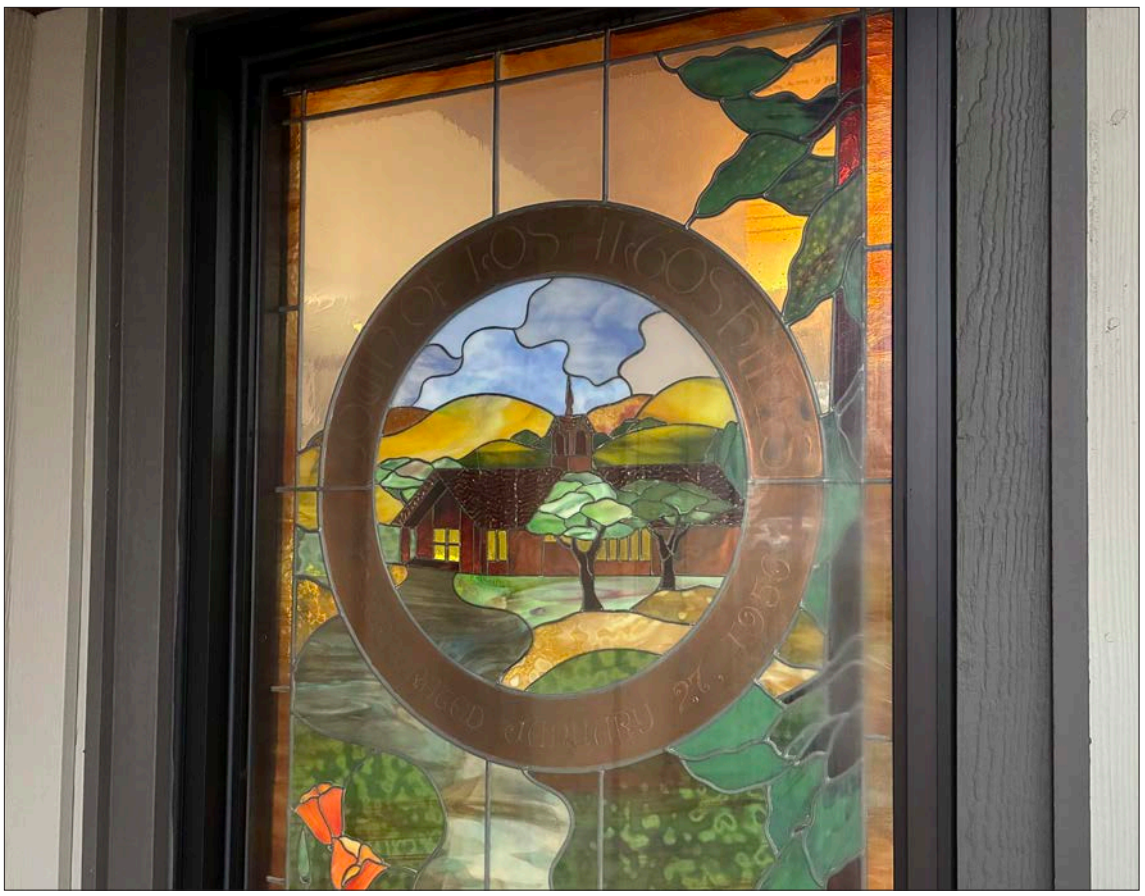
Every two years, the open space committee presents a game plan to City Council that outlines the committee's focus over the next two years.

This presentation also outlines the committee's main function, which centers on conservation of the town's natural environment through open space maintenance and acquisition. Often, this plays a role in housing standards.

The most recent presentation outlined goals for 2026 and 2027. Committee members renewed a majority of these goals, with the addition of recruitment efforts.

Committee chair Anita Baldwin would allow the committee to have more involvement with city projects by way of more regular attendance in various meetings. This would also allow more community members to get involved with local government, Baldwin added.

"It can happen, we can effect change," Baldwin said.



Ava Acharya /Town Crier

The Los Altos Hills town seal depicts rolling hills as a feature of the town's natural environment.

Alongside recruitment, the committee's goals for 2027 include outreach through educational forums and continued coordination with the county Fire District, Grassroots Ecology and City Council on housing policy.

Baldwin noted the removal of Los Altos Hills' bench donation policy from their list of upcoming projects, as that matter has already been worked out.

"The more we do outreach and figure stuff out as a committee, the stronger we will get," Baldwin said.

Los Altos aims to increase budget transparency

By Ava Acharya
Town Crier Staff Writer

Los Altos is preparing to publish a new interactive budget website. Using ClearGov software, the website offers a detailed breakdown of city finances.

This website is part of the Los Altos Financial Commission's updated public communication strategy, with the overall goal of offering greater transparency.

"(ClearGov software) turns our budget into an interactive website where residents can explore revenue and expenditures by department or fund," said finance director Jessie Kim. "The site is not public yet. When it's ready, we'll link it to our budget website and promote it as part of our communication strategy."

Kim presented the website in its current form at the Financial Commission's Nov. 16 meeting. She gave a walkthrough of the website's various pages and menus while commissioners gave feedback on the layout and information.

> 'Anyone who does not have a strong accounting or finance background can easily navigate (the website) in a few clicks. This is the benefit of this model'
>
> **Jessie Kim,** Finance Director

The website's data comes from a compilation of census information and local tax records. It organizes data into four main categories: revenues, expenditures, demographics and projects. It also includes an overview tab with a less detailed summary of information.

On this website, residents will be able to see where city money is coming from, where it is going and how city finances are organized, and the information is presented in a way that is easy to understand, Kim said.

"Anyone who does not have a strong accounting or finance background can easily navigate (the website) in a few clicks," she said. "This is the benefit of this model."

The website is not live yet, as data is still being updated. Once published, it will contain all data for the 2026 fiscal year, Kim said.

Kim added that the goal is to have the website fully published and operational in early 2027. However, she did not give a specific date or timeframe.

Warming centers open across Santa Clara County

Town Crier Staff Report

With the arrival of cold weather and heavy storms, Santa Clara County is advising residents to be prepared for harsh conditions and power outages.

Warming centers, intended to help vulnerable populations in case of emergency, are now open to the public across Santa Clara County.

For more information, visit oem.santaclaracounty.gov/disaster-preparedness/cold-weather-safety.

This Sunday, November 29 at 6pm in downtown Los Altos!

50th LOS ALTOS FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS PARADE

VIEWING GUIDELINES

In the spirit of promoting an environment of enjoyment and safety for all parade spectators and participants, the Festival of Lights Parade Association and the Los Altos Police Department kindly request that you follow these guidelines:

- Placing items on the sidewalks to reserve your spot the day before the parade, including blankets, chairs, stakes, rope, ribbon, signs, or any other such items, is a no-no. Don't do it.
- And puh-leez … do not block the entrances into any place of business!
- If you put out materials to reserve your viewing spot, do not block or interfere with a-n-y area of the sidewalks or streets used by pedestrians, including ramps for wheelchairs.
- Adhesives, including tape of any kind, may not, not, not be used to reserve space for parade viewing on sidewalks, trees, buildings, poles, and/or signs.
- Follow all Police Department instructions, including moving if you are blocking emergency vehicles from entering or leaving the parade route. *Really.*
- Any chairs or personal items placed in roadways while those roads are open will be moved. Because public safety. And they'll get run over.
- Absolutely no viewing/sitting/standing in front of parklets … you'll be *way* too close to the parade route.
- Also, absolutely do not stand in the actual parade route … just don't.
- Don't stand or sit in the plants! Do not.
- Remove your personal materials by 10pm on parade day. Otherwise, pick'em up from Lost & Found at the Municipal Service Center (707 Fremont Road, Los Altos) the next day.

We thank you for your cooperation … now let's enjoy the parade!

LosAltosParade.org



Mountain View extends ordinance blocking ICE facility construction



Town Crier file photo

Mountain View has extended an ordinance aimed at preventing the construction of ICE facilities in the area.

By Ava Acharya
Town Crier Staff Writer

Mountain View's City Council voted to extend a temporary ordinance blocking construction permitting for new detention facilities. This ordinance would prevent construction of a local ICE facility.

Both council and members of the community voiced support for continued action, calling attention to the threat toward public safety posed by ICE activity in the area.

The original ordinance, passed on Oct. 13, would expire on Nov. 27. Now the ordinance has been extended for an additional 10 months and 15 days, set to expire on Oct. 22, 2027. The extension passed unanimously at City Council's Nov. 17 meeting.

Interim City Attorney Jannie Quinn said that the city is working toward permanent change in zoning regulation.

"The community development department and the city attorney's office have prepared a work plan, but additional time is needed to study and draft regulations that could be presented to the environmental planning commission and City Council," Quinn said.

This extension gives the city more time to solidify that workplan.

To read previous reporting on this ordinance, visit losaltosonline.com/news/mountain-view-opposes-ice-detention-facility-construction/article_b05704fd-b289-4441-8f22-9b74c56cfdf7.html.

CA DMV bans Waymos on freeways

By Ava Acharya
Town Crier Staff Writer

The California DMV has issued an indefinite ban on all Waymo self-driving vehicle operations on all state freeways.

A representative from the California DMV cited serious concerns for public safety as the primary reason behind the ban.

The ban took effect on Nov. 11, and will remain in place until Waymo adequately demonstrates increased safety measures, according to the representative.

"The Department determined that Waymo's driverless freeway operations pose an imminent hazard to public safety due to recurring incursions ... despite a prior restriction and corrective actions," the representative said.

The representative pointed to an instance in which three self-driving Waymo vehicles entered a construction closure zone on Highway 101, as well as an additional instance involving California Highway Patrol that occurred on Highway 280.

This ban comes amid Waymo's ongoing efforts to expand operations across the Bay Area.

Waymo's headquarters are located in Mountain View.



Pete Borello/Town Crier

A Waymo self-driving vehicle in Mountain View California.

HOLIDAY FUND

From Page 1

Checks may also be mailed to the Town Crier Holiday Fund at 138 Main St., Los Altos CA 94022. Donors who pay by check will receive a donor acknowledgment letter from the Los Altos Village Fund, an IRS approved 501c3.

The online giving model has been successful in another fund started by the Weeklys Media Group, Santa Cruz Gives, which has in recent years raised more than $10 million through online donations and matched challenge grants.

This year's beneficiaries include Child Advocates of Silicon Valley; the Community School of Music and Arts' Artistic Intelligence program; Community Services Agency's Food & Nutrition Center; the Day Worker Center of Mountain View; Help One Child; Hidden Villa Summer Camps; Hope's Corner; Los Altos Youth Theatre; Mentor Tutor Connection; the MERIT Program at the Krause Center for Innovation; Music for Minors; MVLA Scholars; the Owls Nest Community Resource Center; and the Veterans Resource Center at Foothill College.

Readers can learn more about the work of these organizations at Givally.org and select the ones they want to support – or make a single donation to be equally divided between the 14 groups.

Local philanthropist Anne Wojcicki kicked off the giving season with a $5,000 donation to the Holiday Fund.

Prospective challenge grant contributors may contact giving@givally.org or call Melissa Rodriguez at 650-397-5208 for further information.

Mountain View plans minimum wage increase in new year

Town Crier Staff Report

Mountain View's minimum wage will increase $0.55, or 2.8%, beginning in 2027. In total, minimum wage will go from $19.70 to $20.25.

This increase was determined by the Bay Area's Consumer Price Index (CPI), and will be adjusted continuously.

CPI measures the average change in goods and services over time per specific geographical area.

According to the city's website, this change will take effect on Jan. 1 and affects all minimum wage employees working two or more hours per week.

For more information, visit econdev.mountainview.gov/resources/city-minimum-wage.

REZONING

From Page 1

family occupancy. In contrast, R3 and R4 zones allow for multifamily occupancy, meaning more than two units.

This update has been in the works for quite a while, Ramirez said, pointing to rezoning as one of his priorities throughout his time with Mountain View's city government. The project officially started in 2020, and has since gone through several delays and rounds of city and community feedback.

"I was reviewing the materials, and couldn't help but think how much thought and work and effort has gone into all of this," Ramirez said, thanking city staff and community members for their efforts to give feedback and improve policy.

Ramirez reiterated the need to update and alter policy as necessary, based on further feedback as issues arise.

One such alteration that took place at the Nov. 17 meeting had to do with multifamily rezoning along Starr Way, connected to Miramonte Avenue.

Community members brought up concerns surrounding the transition of smaller streets to multifamily housing. Chris Kirmse, a longtime Mountain View resident, pointed specifically to the rezoning of odd numbered houses on Starr Way.

Kirmse spoke both for himself and on behalf of other community members, ultimately proposing a buffer zone which included R2 zoning for three houses located along Starr Way.

Kirmse drew a distinction between Starr Way and other locations listed on the R3 rezoning map, mainly that Starr Way is a much less busy area.

"We have no sidewalks, we have no storm drains, we don't even have a yellow line down the middle of the street," Kirmse said. "This is a street that was not designed to handle a much larger number of multifamily homes."

> 'We have no sidewalks, we have no storm drains, we don't even have a yellow line down the middle of the street'
>
> **Chris Kirmse,** Mountain View

Kirmse noted the importance of updating policy to accommodate more homes, but stressed the importance of conducting this transition correctly.

"We have been looking for a way to support the city, and the state's, housing goals while still keeping our small street safe," Kirmse said.

Council ultimately accepted this alteration and agreed to allow three addresses on Starr Way to maintain R2 zoning.

The zoning map amendments will be read and discussed again at City Council's Dec. 8 meeting. These changes will go into effect Jan. 7, 2027, although the specifics of new developments are still unknown.

For more information on Mountain View's rezoning efforts, visit wklys.co/mvzoning.

Most Los Altos residents are never asked for their views.



Many City decisions are shaped with very little input from residents who can't take part in meetings or outreach events. This pilot tests a fairer way to hear from **everyone, including you,** on City decisions that affect us all.

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Brion LaPointe

A resident-run pilot unaffiliated with the City or any advocacy group

How the pilot works

1. **Register once (about 2 minutes).** Each address is checked against the City's parcel records to confirm it's inside Los Altos city limits.
2. **Answer a short online survey** on a City issue in December. Results are advisory: a way to hear from more residents.
3. **Your answers stay private.** Results are reported only as totals.
4. **Everyone can see the results.** Participants get them first, by email. The results, and how the pilot works, are posted at **tinyurl.com/BeHeardLosAltosResults**.

Why a pilot?

Public meetings and online comments mostly hear from people with the time and interest to take part. This pilot tests a better way: some households receive a mailed invitation chosen at random, and anyone else can sign up here. Each group is reported separately. If more than 1,000 people register, participants are chosen by a public random drawing. Mailed-invitation households come first. The exact rules are on the registration page.

No cost to take part. **Your information** isn't sold and is shared only with the pilot's service providers for data processing. It's deleted within 90 days after the pilot unless you choose to stay on. **Questions?** brionlapointe@gmail.com

FLOODING

From Page 1

open 24/7 with sand, bags and shovels provided. Mountain View received several reports of minor flooding in public right of way areas, according to communications officer Lenka Wright. Crews responded quickly to clear storm drains in each of those areas, with no downed trees or any major tree issues reported to the city. A power outage in the Cuesta Park area lasted for about two hours Wednesday.

Los Altos Hills City Manager Cody Einfalt noted the town avoided power outages, downed trees and road closures, with only some localized flooding that clogged drains but was cleared in a short time.

"This is all thanks to the excellent work by the town's maintenance crew yesterday and the last few months to clean everything ahead of the storm," Einfalt said.

The Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Management urges residents to avoid driving on flooded roads. Road flooding can cause drivers to get stuck or lose control of their vehicles. Electric vehicles also face a risk of electrical failure, potentially resulting in fires. Dips, low spots and drainage areas are particularly prone to flooding, according to the National Weather Service. The service advises drivers to abandon their cars and retreat to higher ground if flood waters rise above the car. Drivers can lose control of their vehicles in as little as six inches of water.

San Francisco fire officials have issued a warning, particularly in regard to sea water flooding as salt water can interact negatively with lithium-ion batteries used in electric vehicles. This interaction can cause spontaneous combustion.

For more information on flood preparedness, visit oem.santaclaracounty.gov/home.



Peter Brown /Special to the Town Crier

Wednesday's downpour caused flooding on roads in several areas, like on Fairway Drive at Westbrook Drive near Loyola.



Rengstorff Separation Project reaches key milestone

Other Voices

By Sergio Lopez

Work to improve safety for transit riders, pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers alike on the Peninsula has hit a major milestone: The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Board of Directors voted to advance the first phase of the Rengstorff Separation Project, a key infrastructure project for Mountain View and the corridor as a whole. When completed, this long-term investment will separate the Caltrain rail line below Rengstorff, increasing the reliability and safety of our streets for not just local residents, but the region as a whole.

That's because this work, which has been a multi-year, highly collaborative process, involving many different government agencies, will have long-term benefits to regional transportation systems including rail lines, streets, bike lanes and pedestrian access. We have been fortunate to have leaders such as Santa Clara County Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga, who serves on the VTA Board of Directors and is a former Mountain View Mayor; because of her current positions on the Caltrain Board and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, she brings local and cross-agency leadership.

For the Rengstorff crossing, Caltrain, the city of Mountain View and VTA have worked together through a strategic partnership. Caltrain owns the right-of-way in which construction will take place. Mountain View is the sponsoring agency, as well as coordinating with utilities for relocation and leading additional right-of-way acquisition where needed. VTA has stepped in to be the implementing agency for design and construction, along with funding the initial phase to the tune of $42 million (from Measure B local sales tax dollars), with an additional $6 million from the City of Mountain View. Finally, VTA will also provide project oversight.

> VTA was asked to step into this crucial role because of the agency's experience with similar past projects

VTA was asked to step into this crucial role because of the agency's experience with similar past projects. While the project is centered on the Rengstorff crossing, it will provide benefits to the entire region as it will help make Caltrain safer, faster and more reliable. In fact, the project was ranked in the top tier among Caltrain's crossings needing similar improvements, signalling the greatest benefit (additional planned future improvements in this top tier in Santa Clara County also include Churchill Avenue and East Meadow Drive in Palo Alto). Rengstorff is also a key corridor due to the crucial work Mountain View is currently undertaking to study alternate configurations to improve safety and access.

I was proud to study and vote to advance this project at the committee level as well as to vote for its adoption before the full Board of Directors. With this step, the project moves from the planning phase into design, with construction as the next step.

That construction will ultimately require additional funding, which could come from local or state sources. When completed, the Caltrain rail line at Rengstorff and Central Expressway will be lowered beneath the street, while the roadway will remain at approximately its current elevation. The project will also include construction of a new connector to allow access to the residential and commercial area on the western side of Rengstorff, along with a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge parallel to the tracks in order to maintain the east-west connection across the Avenue. When completed, trains will be able to move more efficiently.

Accordingly, moving from design into construction will require additional future partnership and collaboration. Legislative leaders can help support the project's future through planning and coordination with our local and regional agencies. Regardless of the future work to come, the advancement and the funding contribution from VTA marks an important milestone in the future of the Rengstorff area and the region.

Sergio Lopez is chair of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and council member for the city of Campbell.

Peek into the Past



Courtesy of Los Altos History Museum

Since 1977, the Los Altos Festival of Lights Parade has kicked off the holiday season in downtown Los Altos. This year marks the parade's 50th anniversary. It is produced by the Los Altos Festival of Lights Association, a nonprofit, all-volunteer community group. Exotic Silks on State Street sponsored this float in 1996.

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Serving the Greater Los Altos Community since 1947

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Father-son duo build wildlife cam for Cub Scout project



Courtesy of Murray Stokely

Members of Cub Scout Pack 33 of Los Altos test the motion-activated wildlife camera near Mount Hamilton. Father and son Murray and Nolan Stokely, standing at left, built the camera.

By Celine Zhang
Town Crier Editorial Intern

A Raspberry Pi computer, a copper ribbon cable and a $30 camera module. That's all it took for Los Altos residents Murray and Nolan Stokely to build a motion-activated wildlife camera.

Murray and son Nolan, a fourth grader at Loyola Elementary School, programmed the trail cameras using the coding language Python. They introduced the project to Nolan's Cub Scout den over the summer.

"We did it together so that we could do it in very simple steps, so that the kids could understand," said Murray, who leads the fourth-grade den of Los Altos Pack 33.

Murray said he and Nolan decided on the idea after realizing it could count toward two merit badges. The project combined Nolan's interests in Raspberry Pi programming and wildlife, as well as Murray's engineering experience.

"I thought I knew a good progression that a child could understand about how to make it really simple, and I didn't want to just follow some complex tutorial about how to do it," Murray said. "Also because Nolan's been interested in Raspberry Pis all summer, so I've been explaining different things about Python to him. So I knew kind of the right level for a fourth grader."

Nolan and Murray divided the process into five steps, which they taught the other kids in Nolan's den.

See SCOUT, Page 13

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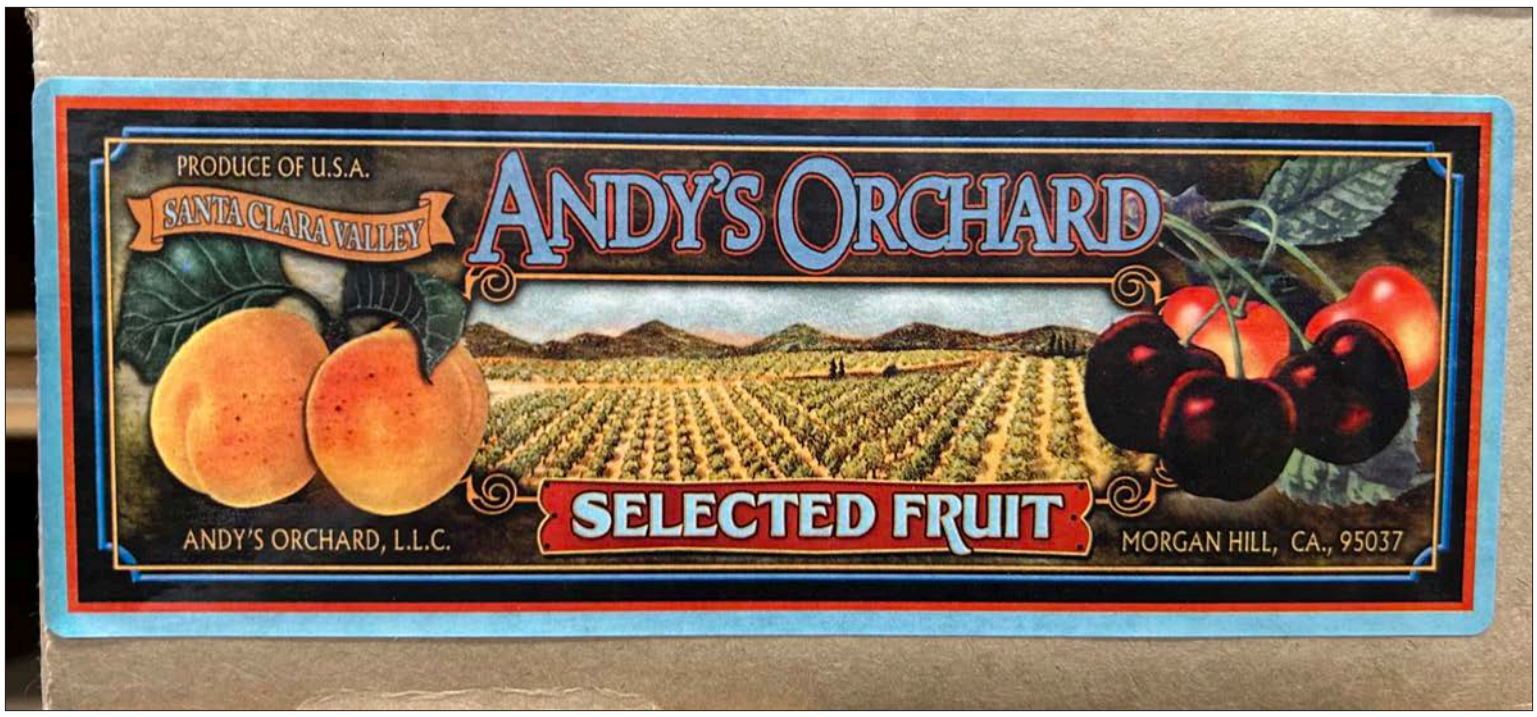
One last Christmas at Historic Andy's Orchard as homes set to replace trees

By Robin Chapman
Santa Clara Valley Lives



Courtesy of Robin Chapman

The label for Andy's Orchard specialty fruit was designed by Andy Mariani himself.

Andy Mariani loves specialty fruit grown in the Santa Clara Valley and has loved it all his life. When an illness almost 50 years ago derailed his career in public administration – for which he earned his master's degree at USC – he persuaded his family to let him work in the Mariani fruit orchard in Morgan Hill. Over the years, as his health improved, he worked until his siblings had all retired. That was when he created Andy's Orchard, a specialty fruit business that has continued to thrive in the midst of the increasingly urban Santa Clara Valley.

Now, Andy and the family have accepted an option from a developer to turn the Marianis' nearly 60 acres of fruit trees into housing. If all goes as planned, this will be Andy's final year on the land his family has owned since 1957. When I spoke to him recently, he was upbeat about this dramatic change – both in his own life and the life of the valley.

"At 80 years old, it will be good to finally have financial security," he said with a smile. "I've never had that. Always had to worry about the next payroll. Why not make a big move like this now?" A recent New York Times article estimates the sale's terms at about $1M per acre. Andy, who has never married, will share the proceeds with his surviving brother and the heirs of his other siblings.

See ORCHARD, Page 12

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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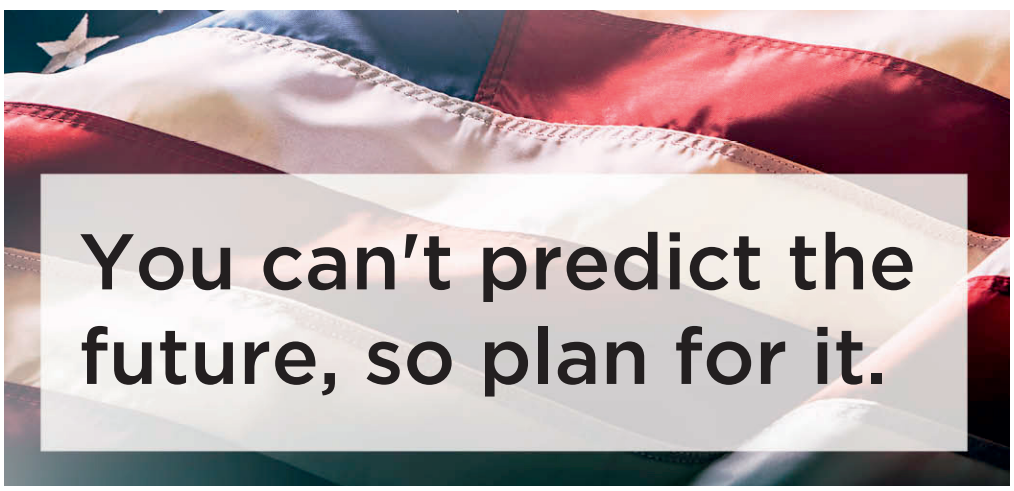



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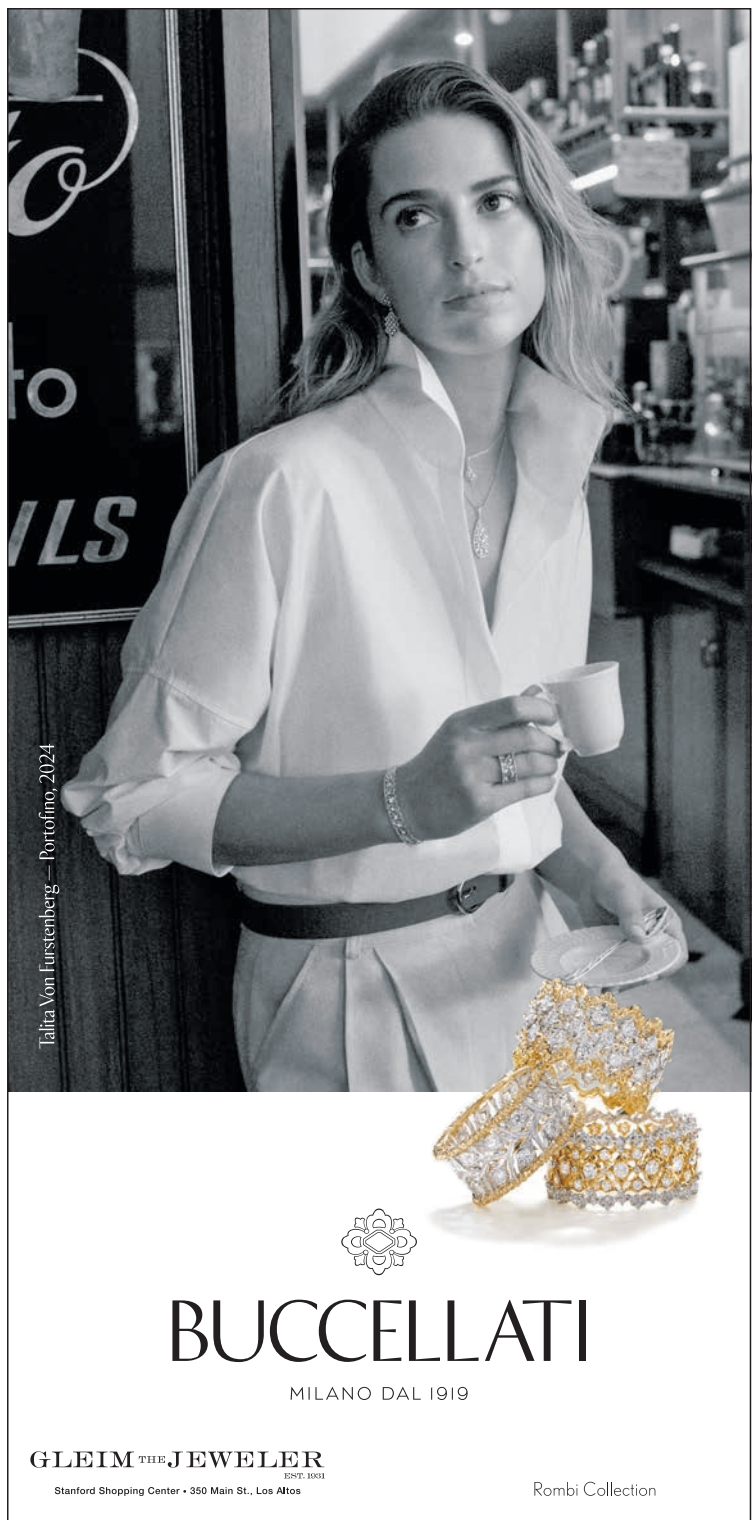

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Courtesy of Robin Chapman

Andy Mariani rides his UTV near the sign that tells locals development is coming to Andy's Orchard, one of the last remaining orchard tracts of its size in the Santa Clara Valley.

ORCHARD

From Page 11

The land around him has been changing for many years and the change only accelerated in the 21st century. The Mariani orchard is now surrounded on three sides by expensive homes. The nearby highways are filled with commuters. Where do you find a tractor repairman in such an environment? It is all evidence that in a place with perfect weather and a booming business climate, more people want to live on the land than want to grow fruit on it – or eat fruit from it. The invisible hand of economics finally pushed the Mariani family to sell.

"I knew the change was coming some years ago," says Andy, "when Turkish apricots began to flood the market. They could produce them in Turkey then for $1 a pound. It cost us $3.50 a pound. Nobody can fight numbers like that."

Andy concedes it is a great loss. "When the day comes and we have to leave? That will be heartbreaking," he says. He will leave behind the family home, where he lives today. Yet he continues to be resilient. He thinks it is good that Los Altos, Saratoga and Sunnyvale have set aside heritage orchards to remember the days when the Santa Clara Valley was the largest fruit producing region in the world – a place writer Wallace Stegner once called "... a brief Eden."

Andy is still planning his special events at the Andy's Orchard store each Saturday and Sunday during the holidays. Santa Claus will join the festivities, Saturday, Dec. 12. In the spring, visitors may want to stop by to see the last season of blooms on his 7,000 trees. In the summer, he looks forward to one final season of specialty fruit tastings. (Come early as the crowds may be large.)

Andy can still smile thinking about the future, perhaps because he continues to lease two acres of orchard land that will not be part of the sale. "I want to continue to have my store. It just won't be here. And that will be okay." He's already adjusting. For his customers in the changing Santa Clara Valley, it may take just a little bit longer.

Robin Chapman is a longtime journalist and the author of three books about California published by The History Press.

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MVLA community campaign aims to expand financial aid for AVID students

By Michelle Jacob
Town Crier Editorial Intern

The Mountain View-Los Altos Foundation has been piloting a community campaign this school year for juniors and seniors in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program to fund students' standardized tests and college application fees.

"$70 for an application fee can make a difference in someone's life," MVLA Foundation Co-Executive Director Margaret Gong said. "It's not a huge ask, but very important to the person receiving it."

Every year, the foundation grants $100,000 toward the program as a whole, which aims to help first-generation high school students prepare for college and future careers. This year, the goal is to raise an additional $20,000 specifically for seniors' college fees as well as tests such as AP and SAT for all grade levels, according to Gong.

Although college application fee waivers are available, they are based on family income and many students are on the border, making them unable to receive that aid, Gong said.

See AVID, Page 14

SCOUT

From Page 10

The first step, which took about four lines of code, was taking a single picture and saving it as a JPEG file. This was an opportunity to test if the hardware – the physical Raspberry Pi components – worked, Murray said.

"They're young, and some of (the kids) aren't interested in programming, so I wanted them to physically manipulate the object and to keep it more interesting for them," he added.

> 'We did it together so that we could do it in very simple steps, so that the kids could understand'
>
> **Murray Stokely,** Los Altos

The next steps were assigning a unique, time-stamped file name to each image, then connecting the camera to a real-time preview. After that, Murray said the kids learned to use loops to take photos repeatedly.

The final step – detecting motion – involved instructing the camera to compare two successive images and measure how many pixels changed. Murray said they experimented with the movement threshold so that the camera would activate no more or less than necessary.

"If you set it too low, then it thinks everything is motion, and it saves a picture like every second, and you have a million pictures that aren't very interesting," he said. "Or if you set it really high, it only notices if (there's) a really big change, like an animal comes right up to the camera."

To prevent the cameras from activating due to wind or lighting changes, Nolan and Murray programmed them to focus on continuous "blobs" of pixels.

"If it sees pixels that are of the same color together, it would detect something," Nolan said.

June Kortz, another Cub Scout and Loyola fourth grader, said she enjoyed the coding side of the project.

"My dad's an engineer, but he's not very good with code," June said. "So it was fun that I knew more about the code than he did, because I was actually the one on the computer helping type in the code."

For fourth grader Vihaan Bobbarjung, the roles were reversed.

"Me and my dad did go over the code of the Raspberry Pi, but I wasn't the one explaining it to him like June," he said. "My dad was the one explaining it to me because he is a specialist in code."

After completing all five steps, Nolan and Murray tested the camera in their backyard. The two of them used green spray paint to hide their container from animals, while other kids concealed theirs with foliage. Murray said he admired the level of attention the children paid to camouflaging.

"My head was all about the programming, and then they're asking for ways to camouflage these and getting all the sticks and stuff," he said. "So I thought that was really creative and fun, that the kids saw the project and problem sort of differently and more completely than I was thinking about it."

About a month ago, the Cub Scouts took their cameras on a camping trip to Joseph D. Grant County Park at Mount Hamilton. The camera caught deer, a cottontail rabbit and a Northern flicker with its wings outstretched.

So far, Murray said the cameras have produced over 95,000 images.

While that's an impressive number, Murray was more excited by the fourth graders' interest in learning to program the cameras.

"In my generation, only very few people would even be doing that in high school, but mostly not until college," he said. "It was pretty impressive that with these low-cost Raspberry Pi educational devices, that it's accessible to fourth graders."

For more information on the trail camera project, see losaltospack33.org/trailcams.







AVID

From Page 12

"It's already so hard to get into college, so applying to just one or two is not going to work," Gong said. "Without the campaign, it lowers the probability of them getting into their dream college."

The funding is also especially significant in light of the University of California (UC) schools considering bringing back standardized testing after ending the SAT and ACT requirement in 2020, according to Los Altos High School AVID teacher Jonathan Kwan.

The campaign comes as the AVID program has doubled over the past decade, increasing the need for funding, according to foundation members. The aim is to ensure that all AVID students facing financial difficulty will continue to receive financial aid from the district.

"This is a really wealthy community, but we still have a fair number of students without resources," Los Altos High School AVID Mentor Program coordinator Laura Schmidt said.

For some AVID students, the campaign means more than securing financial aid.

"Whenever my parents have to pay a fee for a test or class, I feel extremely guilty," Los Altos High junior Brian Hernandez said. "So this financial aid would help relieve that guilt, but also help me succeed in classes and get opportunities to take tests I wouldn't be able to take otherwise."

For others, it makes a difference for their families who are already managing multiple expenses.

"My mom's the one taking care of us, so she would have three children that she would have to pay AP tests for," Los Altos High junior Cynthia Ramirez said. "So, that's a major thing (MVLA) helps out with so she doesn't have to take care of that."

According to Kwan, the funding gives AVID students opportunities they might otherwise miss.

"We try to stretch every dollar to give students opportunities to see a world they dream of and fight for," Kwan said. "The money is going directly to aid students and their chance to go to college."

The first $10,000 raised will be matched by anonymous donors, according to the foundation's website.

To donate and for more information, see mvlafoundation.org/avid.



Michelle Jacob/Town Crier Editorial Intern

Students in Los Altos High School's AVID program work on class projects. The Mountain View-Los Altos Foundation is piloting a community campaign to fund AVID students' standardized tests and college application fees.

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Stepping Out

LA Stage Company puts on 'Dreamcoat' for holidays

By Sana Karkhanis
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Los Altos Stage Company kickstarts the holiday season with a production of Andrew Lloyd Weber's Tony-nominated musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Previewing Friday and opening Saturday, the show runs through Dec. 20 at the Bus Barn Theater.

Based on the story of Joseph from the Book of Genesis, "Joseph" follows the title character's journey from a difficult childhood to a flourishing destiny. Henry Larson plays Joseph in the musical, which tells the story through a diverse range of musical styles, including country, calypso, rap and disco.

For co-director and actor Charles Anthony, who has been acting for about 20 years, this production marks his second time playing Pharaoh in "Joseph," but his first time directing a show. In this new directorial role, Anthony said he was tasked with the challenge of working with the actors to execute a large production in a smaller theater. With a cast of 40-60 people, Anthony added that energy and passion from each actor is integral for achieving a successful performance in limited space.

"I had a concept (that) the only way this would work is if every single person that's in the show is of the caliber that they could lead a show of their own, because there's so many in and outs and things," said Anthony, co-directing with Lysander Abadia. "It's such a huge ask of people. They're not only taking on their role, but they're taking on a choir that we can't have on stage, right?"

Although balancing the demands of a production with other commitments can be difficult to manage, actor Joey McDaniel said he's found the rehearsal process to be collaborative. McDaniel plays Joseph's brother, Simeon. The actor praised the process of working with the music and vocal directors on his big number in Act II.

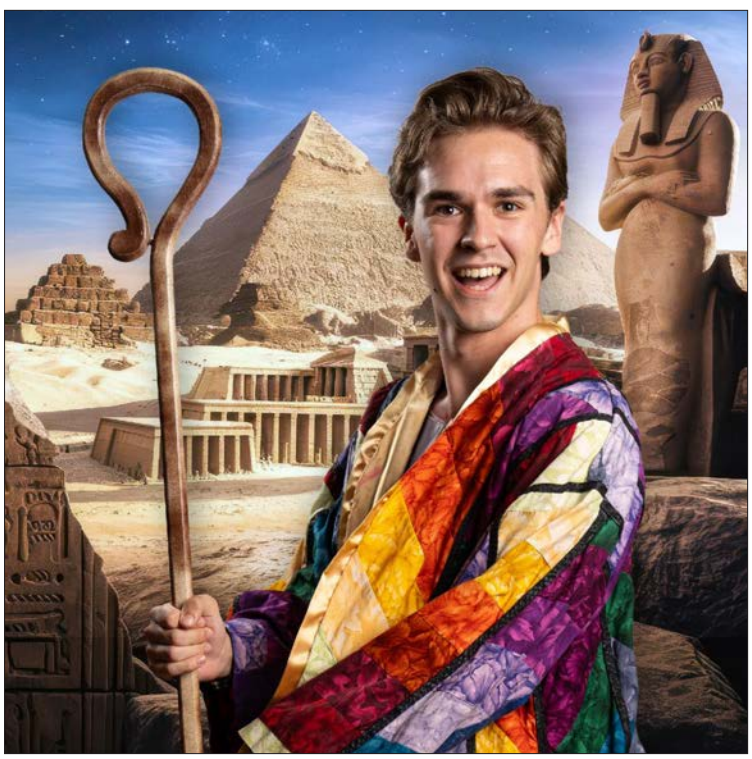
"And it was so collaborative that there was never a question of, 'Hey, I'm going to shut you down. You're just the actor. We're the ones in charge,'" McDaniel said. "And it turned into this beautiful collaborative moment of, 'We're going to make this our version, so it's not going to sound like any of the cast recordings or pro shoots.' And that was wonderful. It felt great to have my voice heard and to have a big hand in that particular number."

Beyond prioritizing connection within the cast of "Joseph," Los Altos Stage Company aims to build community through a partnership with Mountain View-based nonprofit Hope's Corner. Audiences are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys or $25 Walmart or Target gift cards as donations to Hope's Corner, which it will then gift to over 600 children at its annual holiday celebration.

"I do think it is really emblematic of what a good theater group can do," McDaniel said. "It's because we are so human focused. You have to put your phone down. You're watching a human do a very silly song and dance, (and) you have to connect, right? And I think that throughline goes directly to charity work."

Friday's preview and Saturday's opening show are slated for 8 p.m. at Bus Barn, 97 Hillview Ave. Future shows are set for 3 p.m. Sundays and 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. In addition, there will be matinees at 3 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 12 and 19. Tickets to the preview are $14-$42; admission to the other shows is $29-$52.

For tickets and more information, see losaltosstage.org.



Christian Pizzirani

Henry Larson plays Joseph in LA Stage Company's "Dreamcoat."

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Los Altos Town Crier

LASD test scores rise, but gains uneven among student groups

By Julia Baum
Town Crier Staff Writer



Town Crier file photo

About 87% of Los Altos School District (LASD) students met or exceeded state standards in English language arts and math on the 2025-2026 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), according to district data.

More Los Altos School District (LASD) students met state academic standards in English language arts and math this year, continuing a four-year trend of strong districtwide results. But the latest scores also show that some student groups are making progress more slowly than others.

About 87% of LASD students met or exceeded state standards in both subjects on the 2025-2026 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), according to district data. Compared with the previous year, the district saw an increase of nearly two percentage points in English language arts and more than one percentage point in math.

The district said the results, which also include its strongest science performance in the four years presented, reflect sustained efforts to strengthen classroom instruction and student learning.

"We are proud of our students and grateful for the expertise, dedication, and partnership of our educators and families," Greg Drummond, the district's director of teaching and learning, said in an email.

The district also reported gains among several student groups. English learners' English language arts results increased by eight percentage points, while students from socioeconomically disadvantaged households improved in both subjects. Students who have been reclassified as fluent English proficient also made gains in English language arts and math.

But progress was not consistent across all groups. Results for students with disabilities declined slightly, and the district said it has not seen sustained improvement among students who are both Hispanic and socioeconomically disadvantaged.

"Those results remain a priority for focused attention and support," Drummond said.

The district said teachers have been participating in ongoing professional development focused on helping students build a deeper understanding of what they learn. Classroom activities increasingly ask students to investigate questions, explain their reasoning, collaborate and apply knowledge to new situations.

Drummond cautioned that test results cannot establish whether any single initiative led to higher scores. Still, he said the district is encouraged to see academic achievement strengthening alongside the instructional work.

LASD has also added a principal on special assignment to help strengthen student-support systems across its schools. The position focuses on using data more effectively, supporting teacher collaboration, improving communication with families and providing parent education.

See TEST SCORES, Page 17

Pinewood students to present projects at TED-Ed event

Town Crier Report

Pinewood School's Social-Entrepreneurship Program (PSP) hosts its inaugural TED-Ed Student Talks 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, in Los Altos.

According to organizers, seniors in the PSP class will share their current projects with a TED-Ed twist. These social entrepreneurship projects include Zachary's Zees Bees (compostable bee hotels), Aanya Mukherjee's Bloomsy Boxes (mental health awareness nonprofit) and Tesserae Minds, a nonprofit that serves neurodivergent swimmers.

The event takes place in the Bredt Theater at Pinewood's middle campus, 327 Fremont Ave. Space is limited.

For more information, see tinyurl.com/PSPTED.

LASD weighs financial impact of Bullis Charter enrollment

By Julia Baum
Town Crier Staff Writer

The share of Bullis Charter School (BCS) students living outside the Los Altos School District (LASD) has more than doubled in three years, reaching 22% this school year, prompting renewed concerns about the cost to local taxpayers and how much classroom space the charter school should receive.

District officials presented updated enrollment and financial figures to the Board of Trustees at a Nov. 16 meeting, estimating that out-of-district students will account for about $2.64 million in gross property-tax costs this school year. The presentation also cited an approximate net cost of $2.5 million after accounting for other funding.

BCS has 243 students living outside LASD boundaries for the 2026-2027 school year, according to the presentation. The share has risen from 8.78% in 2023-2024 to about 17% last year. Mountain View Whisman School District accounts for the largest group of out-of-district students, with 98, followed by Cupertino with 31, Sunnyvale with 27 and Santa Clara Unified with 25.

The updated gross estimate is higher than the approximately $2 million projected in August, reflecting new enrollment data. It does not account for interdistrict transfers with Palo Alto Unified or a small amount of state funding for students from other districts.

See ENROLLMENT, Page 17

Gardner Bullis walks with Ruby Bridges

Town Crier Report

The Gardner Bullis community came together to honor Ruby Bridges and her courage in helping pave the way for equality in education, walking together in a quarter-mile procession to school Nov. 13.

The morning was a wonderful celebration of community, kindness and inclusion, and a reminder that even the smallest steps can make a big difference.

Students, families and staff gathered at Los Altos Hills Town Hall, dressed in purple. Along the route, signs shared Ruby's story and inspiring quotes, encouraging participants to reflect on her bravery and how fortunate kids are to attend a school where everyone is welcomed and included.

Students proudly carried handmade signs created during their Project Cornerstone lessons, sharing their own messages of kindness, courage and inclusion. Purple flags and bracelets added to the spirit of the morning. Once at school, the community gathered for a special assembly, where sixth-grade students shared more about Ruby Bridges and the lasting impact of her bravery.

TEST SCORES

From Page 16

When students need additional help, the district said it aims to address not only academic skills but also students' engagement and sense of belonging in the classroom.

The goal, Drummond said, is for students to develop strong academic skills along with the confidence, curiosity and independence to apply them.

ENROLLMENT

From Page 16

The presentation also listed about $1.16 million in annual portable classroom rental costs for BCS. More than a dozen people spoke during public comment, many raising concerns about BCS' out-of-district enrollment and its impact on LASD's finances and facilities. Much of the discussion focused on how much space LASD should provide BCS under the state's Proposition 39 facilities process. Several speakers urged trustees to base the district's offer on the charter school's in-district enrollment, rather than providing additional space for students who live elsewhere.

Others called for ending district-funded portable leases for excess capacity or charging BCS market rates for additional space. Some argued that the money could instead support neighborhood school programs, teachers and students, including English-language learners and low-income families.

The debate comes as LASD and BCS move toward a new facilities process. One speaker said BCS had declined a proposed one-year extension of its existing agreement and opted to pursue the Prop. 39 process instead.

> 'We've estimated that it would cost the district roughly $6 million to educate those students," Kam said. "But if you look at how much money we transfer to the charter school, it's much more than that'
>
> **Stella Kam,** Trustee

Trustees thanked residents for their participation, with Trustee Brandon Stroy calling it the largest turnout he had seen at a board meeting. Board President Vaishali Sirkay asked staff to research the historical cost of providing facilities for out-of-district students.

Trustee Stella Kam pushed back on a speaker's argument that BCS saves LASD money by educating students who live within district boundaries. Kam said the district estimates it would cost about $6 million to educate those students in neighborhood schools, but transfers more than that amount to BCS.

"We've estimated that it would cost the district roughly $6 million to educate those students," Kam said. "But if you look at how much money we transfer to the charter school, it's much more than that. So I dispute this claim that the charter school is saving the district money."



Sports

Los Altos field hockey reaches new milestone with CCS win



Shelly Bowers/Special to the Town Crier

Los Altos beat Leigh in the CCS Division II championship game Nov. 14, reaching new heights for the program.

By Curtis Driscoll
Town Crier Staff Writer

The Los Altos field hockey team will soon have a title banner hanging in the gym for the first time.

After years of reaching Central Coast Section semifinals but suffering playoff heartbreak, Los Altos reached a program milestone earlier this month with a CCS Division II title win over Leigh, a milestone Los Altos coach Mary Donahue views as an amazing accomplishment after years of work.

"This year was quite fulfilling for me and the kids," Donahue said.

The field hockey team's season started and ended with a game against Leigh, but with much better results the second time around. Leigh controlled the season opener in a 2-1 win due to Los Altos still getting settled into the year, but Los Altos controlled the tempo in the CCS final, executing well and scoring several nice team goals in a 3-0 win Nov. 14.

The Eagles relied on 12 seniors for leadership and play throughout the season. After a break in October, Donahue challenged the team to raise its mental and physical level for the playoffs, with many players motivated by last year's CCS semifinals loss to Valley Christian.

"The thing I take away from this is they did that," Donahue said. "They put their heads down and worked really hard, and you could see it in the last two weeks of the season. They played such really pretty hockey, and it paid off, so I was really proud of them for doing that."

The Eagles have benefited from recent seeding changes that added a second playoff division in the last few years. Los Altos played in the CCS playoff semifinals several times when it was just Division I but could not advance further, often bowing out to powerhouse Catholic schools like St. Ignatius and Valley Christian or public school powerhouses like Los Gatos. Los Altos made the CCS semifinals last year in Division II but lost in overtime to Valley Christian. This year, No. 2 seed Los Altos beat No. 7 seed Prospect 1-0 in the quarterfinals and No. 3 seed Palo Alto 3-2 to reach the final.

"This two-tier format is actually, I think, more realistic for a lot of our public schools that are in CCS," Donahue said.

Donahue was proud of the group as a whole, with everybody playing their part and giving full effort throughout the season to reach the playoffs. The senior class was also a huge part, with senior midfield captain Chloe Caldbeck, ever-present defender Katarina Smith and forward Naomi Ohye all playing key roles.

"All the kids on this team, I have to say, were the hardest-working in-game team across the season, whether we were doing good or bad," Donahue said. "Those kids worked their butts off."

Donahue believes the experience will help the younger kids and backup players this year as they look to continue the success started this year.

"For sure, the experience was inspirational for everybody, and we have a really solid batch of sophomores on JV that are going to come up and fill the 12 gaps of the graduating seniors," Donahue said.



Jeffery Stone/Special to the Town Crier

The St. Francis boys water polo team beat Clovis 13-5 in the semifinals of the CIF Thursday, eventually going on to win the NorCal Division II championship Saturday against De La Salle.

St. Francis water polo takes home NorCal title

Town Crier Report

The St. Francis boys water polo team emerged as CIF NorCal Division II champions Saturday after an 11-8 title-decider against De La Salle.

The Lancers (21-11) earned the No. 1 seed after finishing third in the West Catholic Athletic League, while the No. 2 seed Spartans (13-16) were champions of the East Bay Athletic League Mountain Division. St. Francis was the No. 4 seed in the CCS Open Division playoffs and qualified for NorCal after reaching the semifinals, losing to eventual CCS Open Division champion Sacred Heart Prep. St. Francis and De La Salle played Saturday at the University of the Pacific in Stockton. St. Francis beat Clovis North and Clovis in the previous rounds to reach the final.

Riding the sneaker wave

By Andy Dolich
Silicon Folly

The word "sneaker" is often attributed to Henry McKinney, an advertising agent for N.W. Ayer & Sons. In 1917, he used the term believing that rubber soles made the shoe's wearer stealthy.

The word was already in use in 1887, when the Boston Journal made reference to sneakers as "the name boys gave to tennis shoes." It originally referred to how quiet the rubber soles were on the ground.

The first basketball shoes were designed by Spalding in 1907, 57 years before Nike was founded as Blue Ribbon Sports. The market for sneakers grew after World War I, when participatory sports became increasingly popular. The U.S. market for sneakers grew steadily as young boys lined up to buy Converse All-Stars (aka Chuck Taylor All-Stars).

My first pair of sneakers were PF Flyers bought in Valley Stream, New York, in 1955 for $7. Today, a new pair of Nikes for kids runs about $75.

Check your bank balance when buying youth sports footwear for Billy or Sue. As their little sports piggies are growing every few months, you'll need soccer cleats, basketball shoes, football cleats, school sneakers, running shoes, sport sandals, hockey skates, figure skates, tennis shoes, golf shoes and even Crocs (to get and from the games in style).

The value of the athletic shoe market for kids 6-18 in the U.S. is valued at around $10 billion.

For years, boys and men's basketball shoes have dominated the market. Times have changed, with new sneaker designs and colors from signature women's brands ushering in a new era.

The rise of girls/women's athletic footwear reflects the growing influence of athletes themselves. As the sports world is growing in leaps and bounds for boys and girls, men and women, so does their effect on the sports culture and the upward pricing for a pair.

The good news regarding outgrown sports shoes is that you can donate them to organizations that will be able to slip them onto kids' soles whose parents might not have the coin to keep up with growing feet.

If you were a recent Powerball winner, I'd suggest you surprise your stylish sports prodigy with a pair of Dior B23 high tops. Starting at around $1,000, they're just a little more than the $7 PF Flyers my parents bought me when I was a kid.

Andy Dolich operates Dolich & Associates, a sports consultancy based in Los Altos.

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TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
HOUSING ELEMENT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

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You are invited to a Resident Engagement Session

WHEN
Thursday, December 3, 2026
6:00 p.m.

WHERE
Town Hall
26379 Fremont Road

What to expect

1. **Learn About the Challenges Facing Us.** What state law requires of the Town, and what happens if it isn't met.
2. **See where we stand.** How Los Altos Hills is doing against its housing goals today.
3. **Explore Our Options.** Most of the evening is for you to ask questions, understand the issues and options the Town faces, and share your ideas.



Attend in person, or scan the QR to the right to join by Zoom

Submit questions you'd like answered at the event by scanning the code to the right or emailing:
lah.housing.implementation@gmail.com

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SECTION 2

Los Altos Town Crier

November 25, 2026

Your Home

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INSIDE

Business & Real Estate
Datebook
Life Celebrations

Seventh-grade student finishes pollinator garden in Los Altos



Photo by Bill Jennings

Seventh-grader Ellie Jennings recently completed a pollinator garden at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos.

By Annabel Chaw
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Inspired by her passion for conservation and desire to raise awareness about pollinator habitat loss, seventh grader Ellie Jennings last month completed a pollinator garden at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos.

The garden includes 52 plants across 17 species, including milkweed, California golden rod, yarrow, hummingbird sage, black sage, coyote mint and California buckwheat, according to Ellie. She added that the garden on the property, also known as El Retiro, qualifies as a Monarch Waystation because it contains 10 milkweed plants, allowing it to be listed in an online registry.

"The garden helps create an environment for monarch butterflies," said Ellie, who attends St. Christopher Catholic Church in San Jose. "As milkweed is the only plant that they can lay eggs on, it's very needed for their survival, (but) it's very scarce in California."

The garden is part of Ellie's effort to support declining pollinator populations, which play a crucial role in the food supply, according to Bill Jennings, Ellie's dad.

Ellie said that planning began in early May, when she created an interactive map with circles corresponding to the size of the plants. The 12-year-old then positioned each plant according to its sun, water and soil space requirements.

"I was a little worried. It's $1,000 worth of plants," Bill said. "But she and (AI chatbot) Claude interacted, built an application and planned the plantings, she made sure they were drought resistant. ... I think just the degree of planning she did was exceptional for anyone, even somebody as relatively young as she is."

Ellie said she selected native California plants because they require less water and provide familiar habitats for local pollinators.

"She'd get to the nursery, and they didn't have all the species she wanted, so she'd have to find a different nursery and/or find substitutes," Bill said. "She adapted. ... She was methodical. It wasn't just haphazard. She would have safety briefings ... and so she was really thoughtful."

The planting process lasted from late September to early October and involved a team of around 20 volunteers, Ellie said.

"I printed out my map of where the plants would go, and I numbered each of the circles, and then I had people place flags based on where the plants would go, and I would give them the plants," Ellie said. "They would dig the hole, and then we would double check which plant went in that hole, and we would put the plant in the right spot, so I made sure that everyone knew what they were doing, and I double checked everything before they continued."

Ellie said that this project helped her understand that individuals can make a difference even by "just doing a little thing." She said that she hopes the garden will raise awareness toward the decline of pollinators, which she described as a "larger problem than it seems," and inspire the community to build similar gardens.

"Even though she's the youngest in the family, she maybe is the bossiest, and she likes to tell people what to do," Bill said. "She spends a lot of time outdoors, and I think that just naturally gave her the confidence to be able to do a project like this."

Bill said Ellie's garden is part of her Eagle Scout Project and can also count toward the Distinguished Conservation Service Award, which only 1,200 scouts have earned in the last 100 years. He said Ellie hopes to earn this award through her work on the pollinator garden and future conservation projects.

Give gifts to build bonds

By Lyn Rogers
Conquering Clutter

"What we don't need in our homes might be exactly what someone else has been praying for." – Unknown

I love giving gifts. It brings me the greatest joy to give a treasure to someone who has been wishing for that item for a long time, or to give necessities to a family in need. To see their smiles or hear the appreciation in their voices is like a dopamine rush to me (no better way to describe it).

Like many people, I'd rather give my pre-loved treasures or untouched gifts to someone who will love them more than I do, instead of just taking them to the local thrift store. I want to be a part of the item's second (or perhaps first) life and share in their pleasure of receiving it.

There are many examples of how you can do this, even if you don't have a special person in mind, but you still want to avoid just dropping items off. There are many groups who hold afternoon tea socials as a fundraiser, but they lack teacups and saucers. Your china cabinet could hold the key to helping them raise significant money for your favorite charity.

Your best friend's son is soon off to college, and you are stuck on a congratulations/going away gift. Your sports or band T-shirts can be sent off and turned into a warm quilt for their dorm room. The local service organization is looking for items for gift baskets for their silent auction, and you realize that you have enough themed goodies to make several baskets. These could be new mugs, unopened coffees, gifted cookies from a recent birthday, a great book and a lap blanket, and you have just made the perfect rainy-day afternoon for a tired new mom.

A local or global crisis can bring a community together. One great way to help is to hold a garage or rummage sale, so funds can be sent to the affected areas. You are doing a great service and also seeing people purchase your donations and exclaim over your collection of knick-knacks, costume jewelry and tools.

When a neighbor is working for an animal rescue or feeding a cat colony, they may request online for extra food and other supplies. Your cat has turned up their nose at seven different brands, and you were wondering what to do with the many cans and bags in your garage. To see the gratefulness on your neighbor's face when you show up with a trunk full of "just-in-the-nick-of-time" pet supplies is an equal gift for the giver, too.

Were you invited to be a bridesmaid and had to buy a dress? Need to get a formal outfit for a cruise? Have a great dress or suit as part of a Halloween costume? Have they been sitting on the far side of your closet for decades, and you know you will never wear them again? Your local high school would be thrilled to offer them to students who wish to attend proms or other dances and lack the money for the appropriate clothes.

"You can always hope and wait for someone to want something in your home, but you cannot wait forever, and sometimes you must just give cherished things away with the wish that they end up with someone who will create new memories of their own." – Margareta Magnusson ("The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning")

Los Altos Hills resident Lyn Rogers is a professional organizer and owner/CEO of Lyn At Your Service. For more information, see LynAtYourService.com.







Photos courtesy of SkinSpirit

Top: Kim Mosley, president of the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce, and Carlos Nusenovich, the lead provider at SkinSpirit's Los Altos location, celebrate the opening at a Nov. 5 ribbon-cutting event.

Bottom: Medical aesthetics clinic SkinSpirit opened in Los Altos Nov. 5.

Skin care clinic opens in downtown Los Altos

By Navya Narayanan
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Downtown Los Altos is home to the newest location of SkinSpirit, a medical aesthetics clinic offering skin care treatments and cosmetic services. The clinic opened Nov. 5 on State Street.

SkinSpirit co-founder and CEO Lynn Hueblein said the Los Altos opening builds on SkinSpirit's longstanding presence in the Bay Area, which began in 2002 in Palo Alto. The Los Altos location marks its 66th clinic in the U.S.

"Our roots in Northern California go back to the opening of our flagship location in downtown Palo Alto, and we have built a wonderful, loyal client base here," Hueblein said. "Los Altos was a natural next step for us, allowing us to better serve this community and provide more convenient access to the exceptional care and medical expertise SkinSpirit is known for in a community we love."

Hueblein attributed SkinSpirit's growth to its focus on innovation, medical expertise and patient care.

"We have grown alongside the medical aesthetics industry by continually evolving, staying ahead of emerging trends, and investing in exceptional medical talent," Hueblein said. "I think our commitment to innovation, ongoing provider education and delivering the highest standard of patient care has really been the foundation of our growth and helped establish SkinSpirit as a national leader in medical aesthetics."

Hueblein added that the company is "very intentional about where we grow, focusing on communities with strong demand and the opportunity to bring in exceptional medical talent, Los Altos was a natural fit... ."

Carlos Nusenovich, RN, is the lead provider at the Los Altos location; Hueblein said he "brings exactly the kind of clinical expertise and personalized approach to patient care that we look for when opening a new clinic."

Nusenovich said his responsibilities extend beyond patient care to mentoring practitioners and maintaining clinical standards.

"I joined SkinSpirit two years ago, and since then, I have been fortunate to build a very successful practice, largely through patient referrals and word of mouth," he said. "That's something I am incredibly proud of because it reflects the trust my patients have placed in me."

Nusenovich emphasized the importance of patient safety and personalized care as he takes on his new leadership role in Los Altos. He anticipates strong demand for treatments addressing sun damage and long-term skin health, particularly given the region's sunny climate and active outdoor lifestyle.

"I believe treatments focused on skin health, prevention and collagen stimulation will be especially popular here in Los Altos," Nusenovich said. "Living in California, we're fortunate to enjoy beautiful weather and an active outdoor lifestyle, but all that sun exposure can take a toll on our skin over time."

Nusenovich highlighted BBL and MOXI as two treatments offered at the clinic to address common skin concerns associated with sun exposure.

"We see concerns like sun damage, pigmentation, redness, uneven texture and premature signs of aging," Nusenovich said. "That's why I'm particularly excited about our BBL and MOXI treatments. BBL uses advanced light technology to target sun spots, pigmentation, and redness, while MOXI is a gentle fractional laser that helps improve skin texture, tone, and early signs of aging."

Nusenovich hopes to establish a welcoming environment where patients feel comfortable discussing their concerns and receiving personalized care.

"More than anything, I want our patients to leave feeling that they're in great hands," Nusenovich said. "I want them to feel welcomed from the moment they walk through our doors, to know that we're genuinely listening to their concerns, and to feel comfortable asking questions. Whether someone is coming in for their very first aesthetic consultation or has been receiving treatments for years, I want them to feel that their care is personal and never rushed."

Beyond providing aesthetic services, Nusenovich said the clinic plans to become an active participant in the downtown community.

"Ultimately, we want to be good neighbors and stewards to the community," Nusenovich said. "We want to support local businesses, participate in community traditions and build genuine relationships with the people who live and work here. As we grow, I hope we're contributing to the continued success and energy of downtown Los Altos."

SkinSpirit is located at 359 State St. It is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, see tinyurl.com/SkinSpiritLA.



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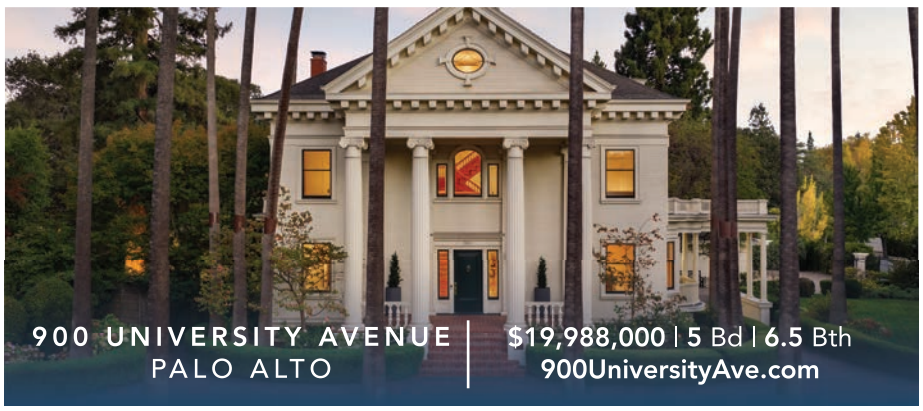

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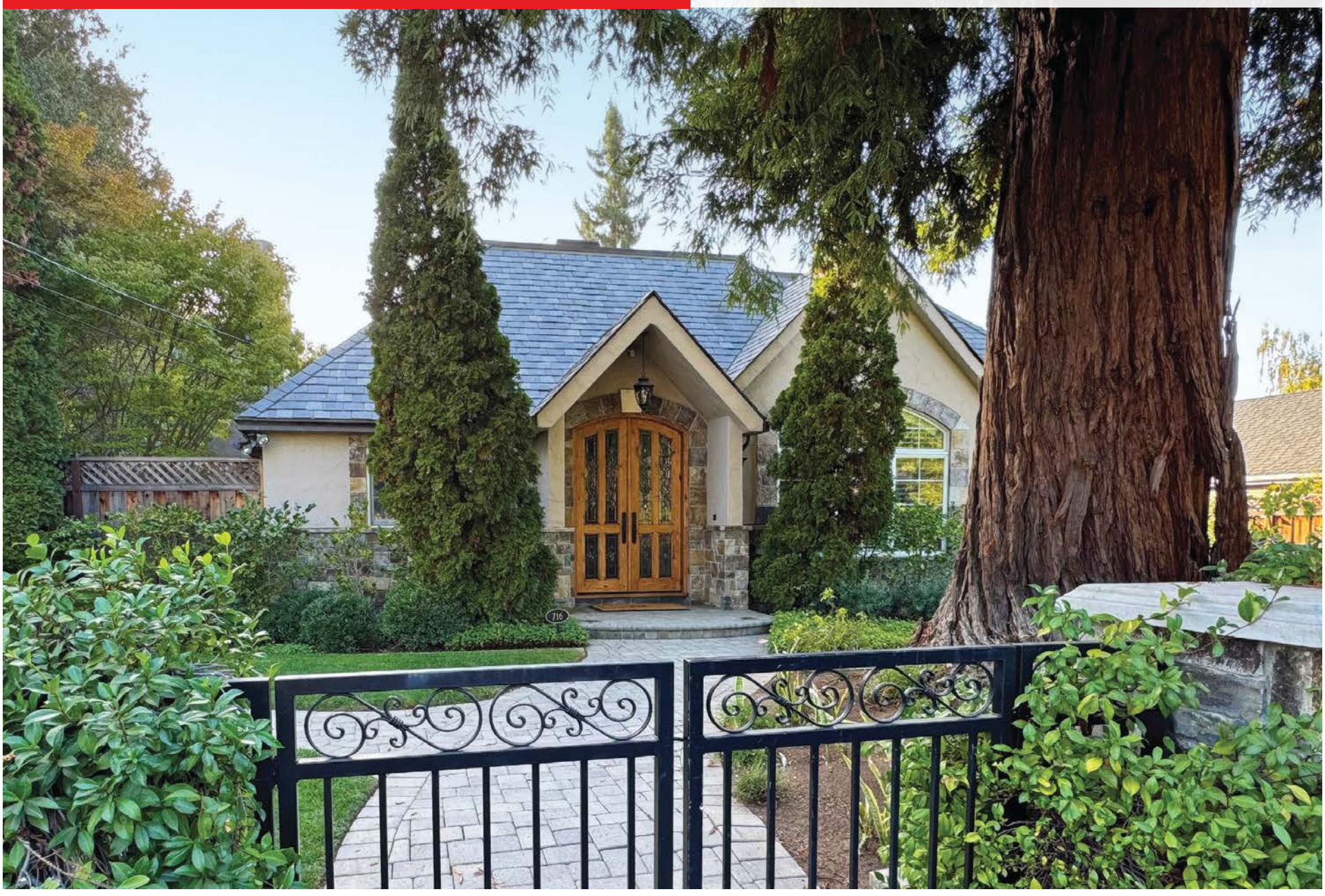

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Datebook

Datebook is a free listing of events, groups and meetings in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View run by nonprofits. It is always available online and runs on a space-available basis in our weekly print edition. To be considered for inclusion, send your notices via email to avaa@latc.com and include a contact name, phone number and fee to participate (if applicable).

EVENTS

Small Business Saturday. Nov. 28. Downtown Los Altos. Show your support for small local businesses. Make a pledge to shop small in downtown Los Altos. Meet your friends to sip a latte, and then explore more than 140 unique restaurants, boutiques and salons. Bring the family for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Stop by Veterans Community Plaza at Main and State streets between 11am and 2pm and receive something special to show people you value the importance of small businesses in our community. For more information, visit downtownlosaltos.org/event/small-business-saturday/.

Arts Los Altos Downtown Los Altos Walking Tour. Dec. 4, 5-6pm. 169 State St., Los Altos. Meet at the Mandahlia sculpture. Join volunteer docents for a guided walk through downtown's murals and sculptures. To sign up, or learn more, visit artslosaltos.org/walkingtours.

Los Altos First Friday. Dec. 4, 6-9pm. Downtown Los Altos. Los Altos First Fridays are community-building events held during the evenings of the first Friday of the month in downtown Los Altos. It is a great opportunity to shop, dine and explore what downtown has to offer. Many downtown merchants extend their hours, offer complimentary refreshments and provide fun and interesting in-store activities. Music on the streets livens the evening, and Los Altos' many fine restaurants are open. Bring your family. Invite your friends and neighbors. Catch-up with people you haven't seen for a while. For more information, visit losaltosfirstfriday.fun/.

Holiday Tree Celebration. Dec. 4, 6-8pm. Veterans Community Plaza, corner of Main and State streets. A celebration of the holidays with music and performances from local students, and trolley car rides around downtown. After the performances, stick around and celebrate the arrival of Santa Claus, who plans to be available for pictures until 8pm. Bring your own camera. For more information, visit downtownlosaltos.org/event/holiday-tree-celebration/.

Selfies with Santa and Santa Paws. Dec. 5, 4:30-6:30pm. Rancho Shopping Center, Foothill Expressway and Springer Road, Los Altos. A festive evening of holiday cheer, including selfies with Santa, photos with Santa Paws (bring your pets), kids activity station by Art Buzz Kids, hot chocolate, peppermint mochas, holiday cookies and candy canes, with a tree lighting at 5:05pm. Bring your phones and cameras to snap the ultimate holiday photos. Pet photos hosted by Los Altos Veterinary Clinic. For more information, visit visitrancho.com/events.html.

Holiday Market. Dec. 10 and Dec. 17, 4-8pm. 170 State St., Los Altos. Get in the spirit of the season at the annual downtown Los Altos Holiday Market on State Street. Enjoy live music and visits with Santa as you shop for holiday gifts and stocking stuffers from

See DATEBOOK, Page 27

Public Notices

Los Altos School District
PARCEL TAX EXEMPTION

The Los Altos School District parcel tax exemption application for the 2026-2027 fiscal year (which will go into effect FY 2027-2028) is available for District residents who meet certain requirements. The deadline for the exemption is June 30, 2027. To see if you are eligible for the Senior Exemption (Measures H and A) or the SSI/SSDI Exemption (Measure A), please see the eligibility requirements and download the exemption forms on our website, www.lasdschools.org, or contact Carol Pairis-Brown at the Los Altos School District at 650-947-1150 prior to June 30, 2027.
(Pub 11/25)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF BETTY JANE COSTALES CASE NO. 26PR203778

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of:
BETTY JANE COSTALES
A Petition for Probate has been filed by JAMES B. COSTALES in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA.
The Petition for Probate requests that JAMES B. COSTALES be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court on 02/01/2027 at 9:01AM in Dept. 2 located at 191 NORTH FIRST STREET, SAN JOSE, CA 95113.
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner: MARINA MODLIN, 800 W. EL CAMINO REAL, STE. 180, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040, Telephone: (800) 991-3070
11/25, 12/2, 12/9/26
CNS-4095973#
LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER
(Pub LATC 11/25, 12/2, 12/9)

Notice to Contractors
Los Altos Police Department Renovation and New Construction
CF-10015

CITY OF LOS ALTOS
SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

1. Description of Work: The City of Los Altos is seeking a qualified architectural / engineering consultant to design a new police station and refurbish the existing Los Altos Police Department facility at 1 N. San Antonio Road. The project has a combined design and construction budget of about $30,000,000. The consultant will first validate the approved feasibility study and program requirements. It will also assess the existing site, including surveys, utilities, geotechnical conditions, and security vulnerabilities. From there, the consultant will develop the design through schematic design, design development, and construction documents at the 50%, 90%, and 100% stages. The design will consolidate operations, harden technology and dispatch infrastructure, improve safety and security, and add employee wellness spaces. It will also allow for future growth and maximize the usable area of the new building within the budget. Throughout, the consultant will manage the schedule and budget through cost estimating and value engineering. The new building will be adjacent or adjoined to the existing one, and police operations must continue during construction.

Beyond design, the consultant will support permitting and agency coordination, along with bidding and procurement. Bidding support includes the pre-bid conference, bidder questions, addenda, and bid analysis. During construction, the consultant will provide administration services from Notice to Proceed through Final Completion. These include meeting facilitation, RFI and submittal review, site observations, and change order evaluation. The consultant will then support project closeout, including substantial and final completion inspections, punch-list verification, operation and maintenance manual review, and warranty coordination. Final deliverables include record drawings in PDF and BIM/CAD formats, updated record specifications, and a digital archive of project files. Notice to Proceed is anticipated in April 2027, with project completion in June 2030.

2. Location of Work: 1 N San Antonio Rd, Los Altos, CA 94022

3. Contract Documents: Proposals must be submitted on the City's bid portal. A copy of the plans (half-size) and specifications shall be obtained from the office of the City Engineer, City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California, 94022 for a non-refundable fee of $100 or visit the City's bids and vendor management portal hosted by PlanetBids to download the PDF file(s) (https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/71685/portal-home). Copies may also be inspected at the office of the City Engineer. To the extent required by Public Contract Code section 20103.7, the City will also make the Contract Documents available for review at one or more plan rooms.

4. Labor Compliance. Pursuant to paragraph 7-1.01A, Labor Code Requirements, of the General Provisions in these specifications, Contractor/Consultant is required to comply with California Labor Code Section 1770, et seq.

Pursuant to Labor Code sections 1725.5 and 1771.1, all contractors or subcontractors bidding on public works projects must be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). No contractor or subcontractor may be listed on a bid proposal for a public works project unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations [with limited exceptions from this requirement for bid purposes only under Labor Code section 1771.1(a)].

No contractor or subcontractor may be awarded a contract for public work on a public works project unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the contractor registration requirements mandated by Labor Code Sections 1725.5 and 1771.1 shall not apply to work performed on a public works project that is exempt pursuant to the small project exemption specified in Labor Code Sections 1725.5 and 1771.1.
This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

5. Pre-bid Site Review: A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and Site Walk will be held at 1 N San Antonio Rd, Los Altos on the following date(s) and time(s): December 14th, 2026 at 10:00am. Each and every Bidder must attend the Pre-Bid Conference and Site Walk. Prospective Bidders may visit the Project Site without making arrangements. Proposals will not be accepted from any Bidder who did not attend the Pre-Bid Conference and Site Walk.

6. Location of Proposal Submittal and Date and Time of Opening: The City accepts electronic submittal of bids only. Proposals shall be submitted electronically to the City's bids and vendor management portal hosted by PlanetBids at https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/71685/portal-home on or before

January 22nd 2027 at 3:00 pm

The PlanetBids contract ID for this project is (CF-10015). The Bidder's PlanetBids vendor identification number may also be necessary for the Bidder's Security.

Each Proposal received before the Proposal submittal due date will be automatically opened and unsealed by PlanetBids at the time of the Proposal deadline. Proposals received after the Bid submittal due date will be rejected. Proposals shall be valid for sixty (60) calendar days after the Bid opening date. Proposal results (not verified) will be published.

7. Award of Contract: Said Proposal will be presented to and considered by the City Council at a regularly scheduled meeting. The City shall award the Contract for the Project to the proposal whose evaluation scored highest based on the evaluator's criteria.

8. Time of Completion of Work: The work shall be completed over the course of several years with a detailed schedule being provided by the consultant as part of the project work. Rough schedule assumes construction completion in summer of 2030.

9. Rights of the City: The City reserves the right to cancel the project, and to reject any or all bids if not satisfied as to the price for the work or the responsibility of the bidder. The City also reserves the right to waive any informalities according to law.

10. Project Administration: All questions relative to this project prior to the opening of bids shall be in writing submitted through the PlanetBids portal no later than **December 18th, 2026** at 3:00 pm.

Special direction is directed to Section 2 of the General Provisions for full directions as to bidding.

Dated: November 25th, 2026

/s/ Tyler Botkin P.E.
Capital Improvements Project Manager
(Pub LATC 11/25, 12/2)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILTIES COMMISSION (CPUC)

On or around November 15, 2026, Cal Water will file Advice Letter 2605 requesting authority to increase revenues to recover recently completed and previously authorized infrastructure improvements. In the advice letter, Cal Water requests additional revenue of $171,192, or 0.27% of currently authorized revenue in the Los Altos District. If approved, effective January 1, 2027 the water bill of a Los Altos residential customer with a 5/8" x 3/4" meter who uses 9 CCF of water (which is 9,000 cubic feet, or approximately 6,732 gallons) per month will increase by $0.55 or 0.55%. Although previously authorized by the CPUC in Decision 24-03-042 as part of the utility's triennial rate review process, the project's cost could only be recovered through a rate increase after it was completed.
A copy of Advice Letter 2605 will be available on the internet at https://www.calwater.com/rates-advice-letters/ (please select the Los Altos Suburban from the drop-down menu), and may also be obtained from the company's local offices by calling (650) 917-0152. You may also contact the company's headquarters by mailing the Rates Department at 1720 North First Street, San Jose, California 95112-4598, or by calling (408) 367-8200 and asking for the Rates Department.
Cal Water offers many programs to help you manage your water bill including a low-income Customer Assistance Program (CAP), water-saving appliance/device rebates, and other conservation programs. Please visit our website at www.calwater.com to take advantage of these opportunities.
Protests and Responses. Anyone may respond to or protest this filing. A response supports the filing and may contain information that proves useful to the CPUC in its evaluation. A protest objects to the filing in whole or in part and must set forth the specific grounds on which it is based, and shall provide citations or proof where available to allow staff to properly consider the protest. The grounds for protests are: 1. The utility did not properly serve or give notice of the filing. 2. The relief requested in the filing would violate statute or CPUC order, or is not authorized by statute or CPUC order on which the utility relies. 3. The analysis, calculations, or data in the filing contains material error or omissions. 4. The relief requested in the filing is pending before the CPUC in a formal proceeding, or 5. The relief requested in the filing requires consideration in a formal hearing, or is otherwise inappropriate for the filing process, or 6. The relief requested in the filing is unjust, unreasonable, or discriminatory (provided that such a protest may not be made where it would require relitigating a prior order of the CPUC).
A response or protest must be made in writing and received by the Commission's Water Division by December 15, 2026, the end of the comment period. The response or protest should be sent to the CPUC (by email to water.division@cpuc.ca.gov, or by mail to the Tariff Unit, Water Division, 3rd Floor, CPUC, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102) and to Cal Water (by email to cwsrates@calwater.com, or by mail to the Rates Department, California Water Service Company, 1720 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95112).
11/25/26
CNS-4095876#
LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER
(Pub LATC 11/25)

local vendors at this European-style night market. For more information, visit downtownlosaltos.org/event/holiday-market/.

CSMA Merit Scholars Winter Concert – Community School of Music and Art Fall Concert series. Dec. 11 at 7:30pm. Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. CSMA Merit Scholar student ensembles and soloists perform favorite selections in the popular annual event. Experience the joy of music from these outstanding rising stars. Reserve tickets at arts4all.org/events.

Family Fun Days: Winter Wonderland. Dec. 12, 10am to 1pm. Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Join Community Services and the Los Altos Library for a series of Family Fun Days at the Los Altos Community Center. These free, themed events are held on select Saturdays and are packed with arts and crafts, games, movies, a scavenger hunt and more. It's the perfect opportunity for families to come together and enjoy a day of fun and creativity. For more information, visit losaltosca.gov/329/Family-Fun-Days.

Los Altos Hills County Fire District brush and yard trimmings collection event. Dec. 19, 9am to 2pm. Foothill College, Parking Lot 1. 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. GreenWaste is excited to continue partnering with the Los Altos Hills County Fire District to continue providing free brush and yard trimmings collections. For more information, visit lahcfd.org/programs-for-residents/monthly-drop-off/.

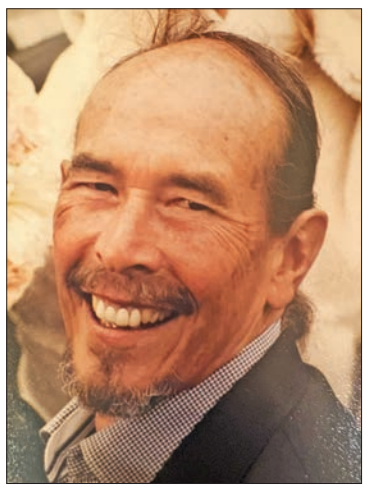
Pathfinders 2027, Compass High School fundraiser. March 6, 5-8pm. Crowne Plaza Palo Alto, 4290 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Compass High School's annual community celebration and fundraiser. Join the Compass community for an evening of meaningful conversation and shared dining, featuring a special talk by Isabelle C. Hau, Executive Director of the Stanford Accelerator for Learning and author of "Love to Learn." Celebrating neurodivergent students, belonging, and the Compass community. Every gift directly supports Compass students, educators and programs this year. Tickets are $150 through Jan. 31, then $175. Sponsorships are $500. For more information, visit compasshigh.org/pathfinders-2027.

Coffee Together. First Tuesday of every month, 1:30pm. Red Berry Coffee, 145 Main St. Group for widowed and divorced folks over the age of 60. Combat the loneliness epidemic by taking a small step in connection. Meet others navigating life after 60 without a partner. For more information, check out instagram.com/coffeetogetherlosaltos/

To find more upcoming events,groups and meetings, see losaltosonline.com

Life Celebrations

DR. ROBERT LOGAN LAROQUE



June 25, 1945 – July 24, 2026

Dr. Robert "Robbie" LaRoque died July 24, 2026, at his longtime home in Los Altos, California. He was 81.

Born on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in northeastern Montana, Robbie remained deeply proud of his Montana roots and Native American heritage throughout his life. After graduating from high school in Kalispell, he attended the University of Chicago, where he competed in cross-country and long-distance track and earned his degree in biochemistry. He then completed his medical degree at Stanford University School of Medicine with support from a Bureau of Indian Affairs educational grant for Native American students.

After completing his medical training at Stanford and UCSF he spent more than 30 years practicing radiology in the San Francisco Bay Area. He served for more than two decades at O'Connor Hospital in San Jose, including as Chairman of Radiology followed by 10 years at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara.

In 1981, Robbie married Gail Gobrecht. During their 45 years together, they built a life filled with family, travel and adventure. Robbie was an accomplished runner, skier and surfer who ran multiple sub-three-hour marathons, skied around the world with close friends and surfed Santa Cruz and Hawaii. His cabin at Kirkwood near Lake Tahoe became a treasured gathering place for family and friends.

He was passionate about vintage automobile racing and raced historic cars, including a 1966 Can-Am Lola T70, with his longtime friend and crew chief Roger Hamlin. His interests also extended to Buddhist philosophy and the Tibetan refugee community. He and Gail were longtime supporters of the Siddhartha School in India and traveled there to celebrate the graduation of its first class of Tibetan students.

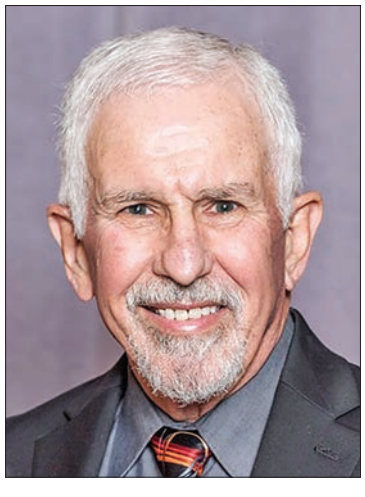
Above all, Robbie took great pride in his family. He shared his love of the outdoors and exploration with his children, Elly and Sam, through road trips, skiing, rafting, hiking, fishing and countless other adventures. Becoming a grandfather brought him the greatest joy of his life.

Robbie is survived by his loving wife, Gail; his daughter, Elly and her husband, Jefferson Simmons; his son, Sam and his wife, Christy Hagan; four grandchildren, Jacob, Ben, Dean and Frankie; his sisters Ann Bennett and Kathy Garrett; and his two goddaughters, Wendy Garland and Erica Hayward.

As Gail remembers him, "Rob was loving, humble, adventuresome, and thoughtful throughout his life, even through his final challenges with ALS. He lived life to the fullest and taught those around him to love and live life with the same values."

In lieu of flowers, donations in Robbie's honor can be made to the Oglala Lakota College (www.olc.edu/support-olc/) or the Natural Resources Defense Council (action.nrdc.org/donation).

BERT EDWARD LOUGHMILLER



January 29, 1942 – October 26, 2026

Bert Edward Loughmiller, beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend, passed away peacefully at home in Los Altos on October 26, 2026.

A man of great faith, he will be dearly missed by his family and friends who will remember his kindness, sense of humor and legendary story telling. His passion for life and the love he had for those closest to him inspired all those who knew him.

Born in Rocky Ford, Colorado, to Roy and Lorena Loughmiller, Bert was raised with a strong work ethic as the son of a carpenter and a school cook. His family later moved to Eugene, Oregon, where he graduated in 1960 as part of the first class of the new North Eugene High School. Bert went on to attend Oregon State University, joining the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering then went on to earn his MBA. It was during his years at Oregon State that he met the love of his life, Kaye Bailey, marking the beginning of a cherished partnership spanning 61 years of marriage.

Though Bert achieved notable career success through his engineering and business acumen, his true passion was fully realized in his family life and post-retirement pursuits. He poured his heart into creating lasting memories with his loved ones, from organizing longstanding family reunions in Sunriver, Oregon, to enjoying fun-filled trips to Maui. He coached his children's soccer teams, shared his love of Hawaiian slack-key guitar, wrote remarkable annual Christmas letters and offered ever-present wise counsel. A devoted father to Carrie and Jason, Bert was also proud of his grandsons Ben and Ian, to whom he gave boundless love. He was renown for crafting three dimensional cakes based on the boys' chosen themes for their birthdays.

His best job ever came in retirement, that of teaching woodworking to four-year-olds at the Children's Center Preschool. He loved working with the children, teachers and parents who truly appreciated his dedication. Being "Teacher Bert" touched his heart.

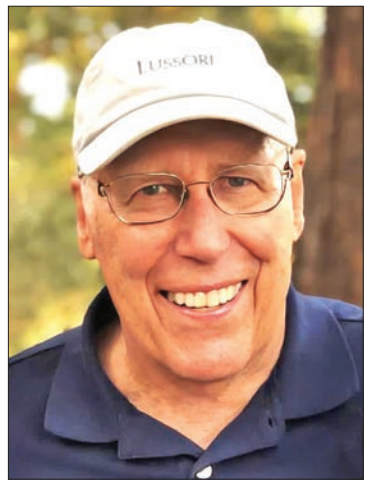
Bert also reconnected deeply with Oregon State University in retirement, serving many years on the OSU Foundation Board and the Engineering Dean's advisory council helping to cultivate a top-tier engineering school.

Bert is survived by his wife Kaye; his children, Carrie Goodwin (Mike Hiddleson) and Jason Loughmiller; his grandsons, Ben and Ian Goodwin; his brother and sister-in-law, Bruce and Sharon Bailey; his sister-in-law Sandra Bailey; and many loving nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters Amy and Mary, and his brother-in-law Brian Bailey.

Remembrances can be made to the Bert and Kaye Loughmiller Catalyst Scholar Fund at Oregon State University Foundation, with the fund name in the memo line. (4238 SW Research Way, Corvallis, OR 97333). This program supports high achieving College of Engineering students with significant financial need pairing financial support with mentoring, community building and experiential learning, helping promising students thrive at Oregon State and prepare to become the next generation of engineers.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 5, at 11:00 at Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Avenue, Los Altos, with a reception to follow at the church.

WILLIAM JANNEY STEINMETZ



June 3, 1937 – November 10, 2026

William Steinmetz, 89, a longtime Los Altos resident, passed away November 10, 2026. A Duke graduate and Air Force veteran, he worked at Hewlett-Packard and Four Phase Systems (Motorola). Son of photographer Joseph Steinmetz and brother of author Lois Duncan, Bill was known for his kindness, creativity, humor, and lifelong curiosity.

He is survived by daughters, Ashley Belanger (Matthew) and Heidi Lovette (Irby); and grandchildren, Jamie Lovette, Delaney Belanger and Shane Belanger.

Full obituary, photos, and memories:

https://everloved.com/life-of/william-bill-steinmetz/



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