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Los Altos Town Crier

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

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WEDNESDAY • February 25, 2026

Los Altos welcomes Lunar New Year



S.M. LIEU/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Los Altos Mayor Sally Meadows (top right) and Vice Mayor Larry Lang (bottom left) initiated dragon dances by dotting the dragons' eyes during a Spring Festival put on by the city of Los Altos and the Greater Los Altos Chinese Association Sunday. The celebration included creating Chinese calligraphy, dances and more.

Storms cause minimal city-wide damage, but some still affected

By Christina Casillas and Giuseppe Ricapito
Staff Writers/editorial@latc.com

A winter storm swept through the local area last week, bringing with it precipitation and chilly temperatures that forced residents to bring out their down jackets and umbrellas. Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View fared well overall, but some residents – not so much.

From Feb. 11 to Feb. 20, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View have received approximately three inches of rain, based on data from the National Weather Service.

Pacific Gas and Electric customers experienced outages across the Bay Area. At the outage peak, approximately 17,390 of the 23,761 outages in the Bay Area were along the Peninsula. Exact numbers during that time for Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View were unavailable.

In addition to the outages, Los Altos Hills experienced the most impacts from the storm.

“The town of Los Altos Hills experienced several impacts from the recent winter storms, including several downed trees, debris in roadways, scattered power outages, and small localized

flooding,” officials said in the town’s Feb. 19 weekly newsletter. “Over the past two days, PG&E crews have been actively working throughout the area to assess damage, patrol lines, and restore service as quickly and safely as possible. The response effort was coordinated with town staff and public safety partners to address hazards and stabilize affected neighborhoods. We appreciate PG&E’s continued support and the patience of residents while restoration and clean-up efforts continue.”

Lenka Wright, Mountain View chief communications officer, said the city didn’t have “any notable storm-related impacts.”

The situation was similar in Los Altos. Earlier last week, Los Altos City Manager Gabe Engeland said the city had “... some minimal flooding in parks.” In an email Friday, he added that some tree limbs had fallen, but nothing major had occurred.

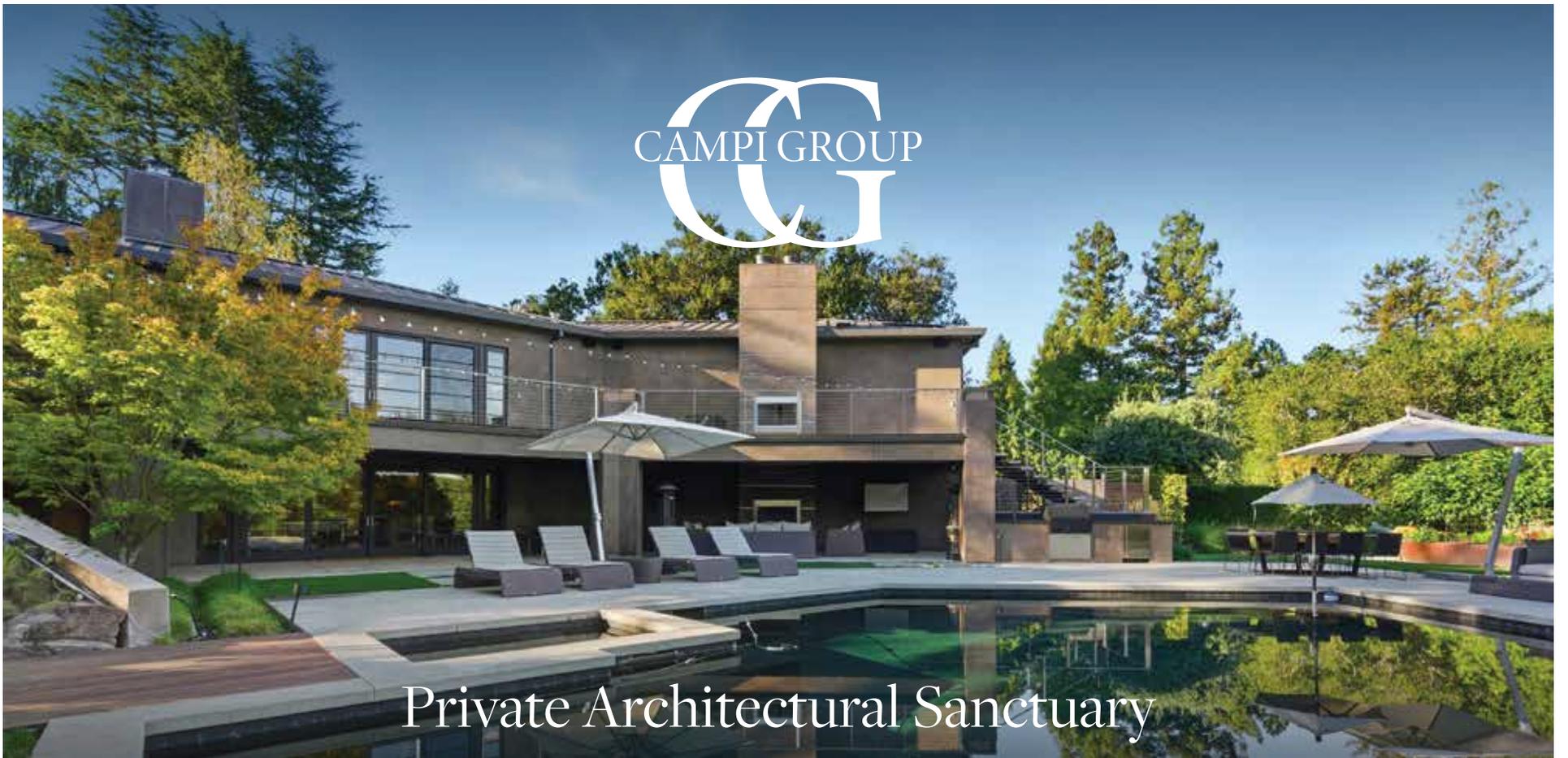
But some residents didn’t fare nearly as well as their neighbors.

Ellen Schwarz, a resident on Eureka Court in Los Altos, lives on a cul-de-sac of six homes just a short way off of Grant Road. Just

See **STORM**, Page 4

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Pet of the week: Meet Shadow



PHOTO COURTESY OF PETS IN NEED

Want someone who will follow you on all your adventures? Meet Shadow. This 3-year-old, 60-pound adventure buddy is ready to go home, explore and cuddle. To learn more and visit him at the Palo Alto Shelter, visit tinyurl.com/shadowthepup.

Correction

A previous version of the Feb. 18 story "LASD considers moving students around" misattributed a quote about the need for additional sites to former board president Sangeeth Peruri. The speaker was a parent during public comment.

Correction

A previous version of the Feb. 18 story "Finance director says Los Altos FY 2025-2026 budget stable, strong" misattributed a presentation to Los Altos Finance Manager Bo-Kyoung Kim. Los Altos Finance Director Jessie Kim gave the presentation.



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News

STORM From Page 1



HOWARD BISCHOFF/TOWN CRIER

A tree fell atop a home on Eureka Court during last week's storm.

before dawn Feb. 19, while Schwarz was asleep, she said her neighbor described what sounded “like a bomb going off.” Less than an hour later, Schwarz saw the damage: A gigantic tree trunk had crashed down on top of her neighbors’ roof, breaking glass as it loomed into the home. The family who lives there – a young family with a child – could not use the kitchen or their utilities due to the risk, Schwarz said.

“This happened in the dark and you couldn’t really see anything until you got some light. When it was light you saw how bad it was,” she said.

The night before, there had been lightning, thunder, and swooshing, gusty winds. Sporadically, there would be downpours of precipitation, she said. After the treefall and throughout the day, workers from PG&E were toiling through the storm to regain power for the family, she said. Workers from Davey Tree Service were tasked with removing the tree. Schwarz praised the emergency responders for their quick response during the crisis, she said.

“I think people really need to check their trees. There’s another in this neighborhood that looks like it is sick,” she said. “People need to be aware.”

If you have an idea for the News section or would like to comment on its content, email Christina Casillas at christinac@latc.com.

Hills considers adding emergency manager

By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

Los Altos Hills is exploring hiring a full-time emergency manager to better plan and prepare for disasters, although financial questions for the position remain an obstacle.

The town is looking into a full-time position instead of its previous practice of hiring part-time consultants due to a growing need to plan, implement and evaluate emergency preparedness. Issues like wildfires, PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs events and storms are some examples city staff cited, along with addressing limitations in staff time and capacity. More hours from a full-time worker are needed to properly update emergency operation plans, city staff said.

At its Feb. 10 meeting, the council agreed that planning for emergencies was its topmost priority, but it had questions about position costs and getting more details. The council tasked staff with looking into cost-sharing the position with the Los Altos Hills County Fire District. It also asked staff to look into cost-sharing with the city of Los Altos for a full-time position, along with more information about the role.



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

The town of Los Altos Hills is considering adding an emergency manager for disaster preparation.

Vice Mayor George Tyson wanted to see more input and definition for the actual responsibilities, points of contact and collaboration before he agreed to anything.

“I would not, today, and I don’t know

that we could, approve this position, but I would say, I’m interested in bringing that forward after a little bit of review,” Tyson said.

See HILLS, Page 5

How does law enforcement police self-driving cars?

By Amalia Tormala
Town Crier Editorial Intern

With Waymo’s autonomous cars approved for deployment across California and taking over local streets, police departments are beginning to keep an eye out for malfunctioning cars.

The Bay Area Waymo fleet – encompassing San Francisco, the Peninsula and parts of the South Bay – consisted of 800 cars as of August, according to a San Francisco Examiner report (Waymo declined an interview request).

Yet, even with the cars’ increased presence in the area, the city of Mountain View’s Chief Communications Officer Lenka Wright said in an email that problems with Waymo have been “infrequent.”

Wright said there was a recent “minor issue” that caused Waymo cars to be “confused” at a flashing traffic light where construction was taking place.

“Multiple Waymo cars ...



PETE BORELLO/TOWN CRIER

A Waymo self-driving car navigates the streets of Mountain View.

were stuck within the intersection when the signal was in flash mode,” Wright said. “Staff contacted Waymo directly with the concerns and were told that their engineers would be notified.

Approximately 10-15 minutes after contacting Waymo, the cars were cleared from the intersection, according to Wright.

Monica Leon, Mountain

View’s police media and community relations analyst, said in an email that the Mountain View Police Department maintains a “direct law-enforcement contact” at Waymo and reports any improper driving to this contact. This includes malfunctions – like that of the aforementioned flashing red light – and other behaviors like speeding.

Leon noted that Waymo

has historically responded to these malfunctions by dispatching engineers who then remove the autonomous cars by manually driving them out of the area.

Kevin Vitorelo, a traffic officer with the Los Altos Police Department, said Waymo support can also be contacted by tapping on a car’s window

See WAYMO, Page 7

Proposed MVLA credit cap sparks health classes concerns

By Julia Baum
Staff Writer/juliab@latc.com

A proposal to cap the number of graduation credits students can earn outside the Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District sparked debate last week, with much of the discussion focused on access to health courses.

Introduced at a Feb. 9 Board of Trustees meeting, the proposal would require students to complete most core graduation requirements within the district.

Students would be limited to 40 credits of out-of-district coursework and required to take core classes – including English, social studies, math, science, world language, physical education and health – at MVLA schools before seeking outside options. Students could still pursue outside courses for credit recovery or to raise grades.

The proposal would formalize district practice and make clear when students can turn to outside courses for required graduation credits.

District officials said the proposal mirrors guidance from the California School Boards Association and would ensure consistency across school sites.

Much of the discussion focused on how the proposed credit limits could affect student access to health classes, a concern amplified by recent changes to the district's ethnic studies requirement.

Current freshmen, however, are enrolled in a yearlong ethnic studies course, which can complicate scheduling for those wishing to take health courses earlier.

Trustees and parents debated how the credit cap could affect course scheduling and student flexibility.

Parent Evan Torrie urged the board to reject the regulation, arguing it would limit student options and give MVLA stricter rules than neighboring districts.

“There is no restriction in the California Education Code limiting out-of-district courses only to students with six classes or prohibiting out-of-district credit for core courses,” Torrie said. He added that principals and the superintendent should retain flexibility to approve exceptions.

Board President Thida Cornes suggested allowing ninth graders to enroll in accredited online health courses, citing limited district capacity and the importance of early access.

“Health is very important,” Cornes said, arguing that delaying access until senior year diminishes its value.

Other trustees emphasized consistency and quality control. They said students seeking MVLA diplomas should complete core coursework in district programs and raised concerns about expanding access to outside online providers without thorough review.

Currently, students can take health courses through the district's adult school program, but the program typically serves students 16 and older and has about 50 available seats. Staff said the age limit is a district practice rather than a state requirement.

Administrators noted equity concerns if younger students were allowed into the limited adult school program.

Student trustees were divided. One backed the two-year core course requirement in the district. Another pointed to scheduling challenges and the 16-year-old minimum, saying students with jobs or full schedules may have difficulty fitting in health.

While several trustees expressed support for formalizing the alternative credit policy, the board was divided over whether to change restrictions on outside health courses in the short term.

Trustees did not take a vote and are expected to revisit the proposal at a meeting in March, leaving questions about student access to health courses unresolved.

agency preparedness, managing the town's Emergency Operations Center and working with local and national government officials. Other issues, like training staff and updating policy, planning and mass notification systems, are also a priority. The town has relied on contracted consultants since 2012, and past recruitment has also been an issue, with previous requests for proposals for the position resulting in few qualified candidates. The current consultant, Victoria Bebee, has asked to be phased out, city staff said. The town could also maintain its current consultant emergency management role instead of hiring a full-time employee.

Council appointments

At the Feb. 10 meeting, the Los Altos Hills City Council appointed John Lewis to the Los Altos Hills Pathways Committee on a four-year term, while the council also reappointed Anita Baldwin and Viggy Mokkarala to the Open Space Committee.

HILLS

From Page 4

The town had previously considered a cost-sharing arrangement with Los Altos. Most neighboring jurisdictions with an emergency manager have salaries ranging from \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Councilmember Stanley Mok said the town had been lucky to have only small disasters and felt it needed to take time to prepare for bigger, catastrophic events that could occur in the future. He suggested working with the fire district to come up with potential job-sharing options.

“I think that the responsibility should be shared in some fashion,” Mok said. “I also think that it may not be a full-time employee for us, but it will be a full-time employee for our city, that's what I believe. I think that if we do this, we can catch up on the things we are behind on.”

The role would involve coordinating emer-

Writers Week 2026 presents

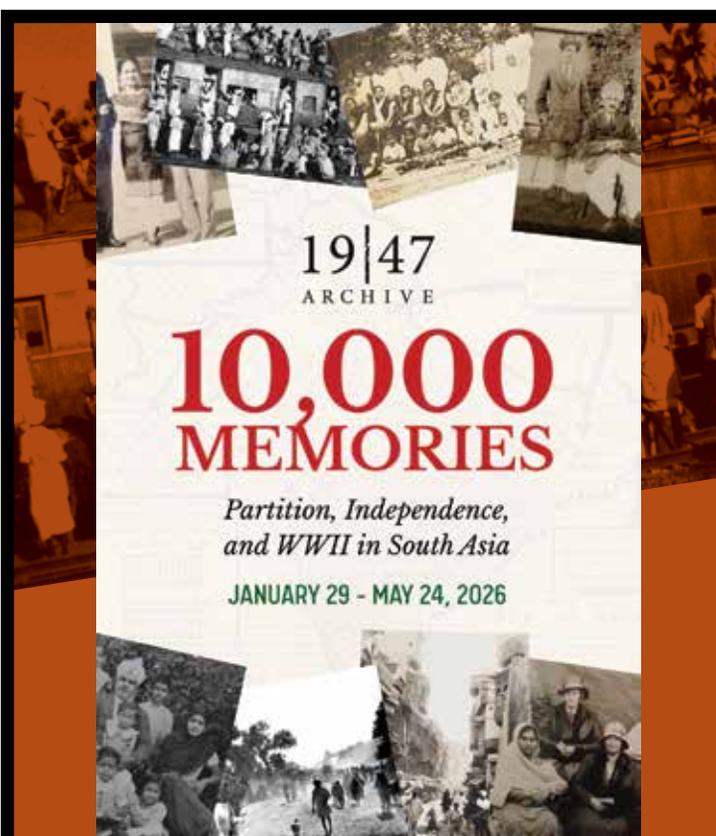
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News

News Briefs

Lot 12 closed for affordable housing project



MAP COURTESY OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Mountain View's lot 12 (the orange lot) is permanently closed. Instead of parking, the 1.56-acre lot will be the site of affordable housing.

Lot 12 in Mountain View is officially closed, the city announced last week.

The lot is located across from City Hall and the Mountain View Public Library, between California Street and Bryant Street.

The city-owned, 1.56-acre parking lot has closed for the construction of an affordable housing project as of 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 20, according to a city press release.

The affordable housing project is 120 units and five stories tall. The project will be deed-restricted to households earning 60% of area median income or less, except for one manager's unit.

The soundbound lane of Bryant Street will be closed for the duration of the construction period. Visitors are encouraged to use nearby parking garages and surface lots as parking alternatives.

Public survey available for Rengstorff safety project

Officials in Mountain View are conducting a public survey this month to identify safety and beautification improvements for Rengstorff Avenue.

The project is intended to evaluate environmentally friendly transportation concepts which include bicycle facility upgrades, intersection improvements, green streets, speed management and pedestrian improvements. It will extend from El Camino Real to Leghorn Street via Rengstorff Avenue, which is approximately 1.7 miles.

The Rengstorff Avenue project is one of the city's capital improvement programs currently underway this year. Following the study, there will be a design project to evaluate locations and specifics of the improvement plan.

The city is hosting a community walk and bike ride on Feb. 27 at 7:45 a.m., starting at the Mountain View Community Center, to review the location for the improvements.

A public survey is available online. The survey asks users about the frequency and kind of transportation they use while on Rengstorff Avenue. It further asks about potential safety challenges and polls users about the new

additions that would improve the look and feel of the thoroughfare.

At a meeting on June 24, 2025, the City Council authorized the city manager to execute a professional services agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, a Bay Area consulting firm, to provide professional services for the study to not exceed \$352,000.

In September 2024, the city approved \$352,000 in grant funding from the California Department of Transportation for the project, in order to determine new bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements. The council has also approved \$71,600 from the Transportation Reserve Fund to the project.

The survey can be found at tinyurl.com/RengstorffAvenueSurvey.

California makes opting out from data brokers easier



SCREENSHOT FROM STATE OF CALIFORNIA DROP WEBSITE

DROP provides California residents with more data autonomy.

The State of California just dropped a new tool residents can use to get a better grip of their online personal information – the Delete Request and Opt-out Platform (DROP) – which came as a result of the Delete Act, spearheaded and authored by State Senator Josh Becker. Becker represents Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View.

DROP allows residents to request that their personal data be removed from more than 500 data brokers. DROP sends a single request on behalf of a resident to the data brokers, which are required to begin processing the requests in August, and must delete the resident's information within 90 days. Mountain View City Councilmember Lucas Ramirez encouraged residents to sign up for DROP, privacy.ca.gov, in his Feb. 22 newsletter.

DROP helps limit the information that data brokers can both collect and sell about people, including personal information like social security numbers, search history and data about children, according to the DROP government webpage.

When data is no longer sold, residents will have fewer spam calls, emails and texts, and they'll be safer when it comes to AI impersonations, fraud, identity theft or leaked or hacked data. Ads will also be less targeted and content will be less personalized, according to the same webpage.

News

CUSD Board ratifies SEIU agreement and approves management raises

By Julia Baum

Staff Writer/juliab@latc.com

Covered employees will see a retroactive 2% salary bump after the Cupertino Unified School District Board of Trustees unanimously ratified its 2020–2025 agreement with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) at its latest meeting.

The agreement authorizes a salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2025, with payments to be issued immediately. Classified and SEIU salary schedules passed without opposition.

The board also considered whether management employees without negotiated contracts should receive the same 2% raise as other employee groups. District administrators noted that the executive cabinet is excluded from this increase and that approximately \$28,000 associated with executive-level raises was removed from the budget. Management employees at the senior director level and below are included in the raise.

Some director-level salaries exceed \$150,000, meaning a 2% increase represents a substantially larger dollar amount than the same percentage applied to lower-paid employees. Trustees described this as a financial and structural concern, noting that the 2% raise for management is discretionary because these employees are not covered by negotiated bargaining agreements such as SEIU.

Administrators clarified that management employees advance annually on a step-and-column system, contingent upon satisfactory performance evaluations conducted by supervisors. Unlike SEIU and other bargaining units, management does not have a negotiated contract requiring across-the-board raises.

Historically, however, the district has granted management employees salary increases comparable to other employee groups. The board does not evaluate management performance, which remains the responsibility of the superintendent, and the discretionary raise is separate from step-and-column progression.

Several trustees expressed discomfort with singling out management employees for criticism, stressing that principals, supervisors and directors play vital roles in supporting students and staff. Trustee Long Jiao highlighted principals' deep connections with students, noting, "One thing I was really amazed was a lot of principals, they can just randomly walk over and the principal just call their name, okay, yes, they know almost every student," to illustrate the significance of their contributions to campus communities. Trustees also cautioned against framing "management" as a negative label, emphasizing that all district employees' work contributes meaningfully to student outcomes.

Board Vice President Ava Chiao voted in favor but indicated that future raises for management would warrant closer consideration given ongoing budget concerns. "I have previously agreed to this, so I'm going to say yes, but in the future, I'm going to reconsider, just because of realizing where everything is at," Chiao said, noting that her decision is not personal but based on logistics and broader considerations.

Board President Satheesh Madhathil concluded the discussion by stating that all district employees "should be appreciated for the work they're doing," and that compensation decisions are intended to support morale and motivation across the organization.

lo said. "However, it's going to involve the DMV directly. And as of right now, the DMV has not released any information on how the process is going to work, or what it's going to entail."

Although Jonathan Groveman of the Department of Motor Vehicles declined an interview, he noted in a statement that the DMV has the authority to investigate any situations involving the operation of autonomous cars on public roads.

The statement also said the incidents the DMV regularly reviews with autonomous car manufacturers include operations around construction zones, extreme driving behavior, crashes, cars impeding traffic interactions with vulnerable road users and other safety-related situations.

Presently, manufacturers are only required to report crashes during testing and disengagements of autonomous cars, according to the DMV. Crashes that occur under a testing permit must be reported within 10 days. Disengagements – when a safety driver is required to take control of an autonomous car – are reported annually by Jan. 1. All collision and disengagement reports are made public on the DMV's website.

WAYMO

From Page 4

or scanning a QR code on the exterior.

"It's a little difficult with autonomous cars right now, and we hope that eventually they do the right thing, safely, as they're supposed to, because all the electronics are supposed to follow the rules of the California Legislature," Vitorelo said. "However, in Los Altos, we haven't had many instances of Waymo (cars) not following the rules of the road."

Vitorelo noted that Mountain View police have reported to Waymo several instances of its autonomous cars misbehaving.

In terms of policing these cars, what remains up in the air is the process by which city officials issue citations to autonomous cars, according to Leon.

Vitorelo said the California Legislature does not allow law enforcement to ticket driverless cars. Per current law, a ticket must be issued to an actual, physical driver. However, Assembly Bill 1777 – already signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom – will allow law enforcement to issue warnings of noncompliance to autonomous car companies.

"It will go into effect in July 2026," Vitore-

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Comment

Reflections stemming from my 60th high school reunion

By Nancy Ginsburg Gill

When I retired in 2010 from my job as Director of Foothill College's Writing Center, I started volunteering with the AVID program at my alma mater, Los Altos High School, to help motivated, low-income students with their personal statements for their college and financial aid applications.

Last spring as my 60th high school reunion approached, I became fixated on thinking about how much the school, the students and the times have changed since I graduated in 1965.

In August as I gathered with old friends, we all agreed that in many ways, the world is better now. In 1965, females were still expected to wear torturous clothing like girdles and garter belts. And no matter how cold it was outside, female students and teachers were not allowed to wear pants to school.

And it certainly is a better world for young people who know they are gay. No longer must they remain in the closet terrified that someone will guess. Teachers who are gay

can now be open about their sexual orientation and no longer worry that they will be fired if anyone finds out.

Most of our parents smoked and no one wore seat belts or bicycle helmets. And, we were far more segregated racially and ethnically. The 1965 yearbook shows that virtually all the students were white. While racial discrimination still endures, I think it's safe to say that today no Black family would be hounded out of Los Altos as an African American doctor and his family were in the mid-1960s when they bought a house near the Los Altos Country Club.

However, most of us agreed that a high marginal tax rate that kept the pay of the top earners from skyrocketing was one of the best parts of the '50s and '60s. A relatively narrow wage gap made housing in Los Altos affordable to school teachers, policemen and airline pilots as well as doctors, attorneys and engineers.

Our most interesting conversations centered around comparing what the world was like for us as we were leaving high school to what today's high school and col-

lege students face.

As seniors, we had much less to be terrified of than do today's high school students. Granted, growing up in the '50s and '60s we were taught to duck and cover in case of a nuclear attack. And by the time we graduated, most of my friends had started questioning America's involvement in the Vietnam War, and, inspired by Martin Luther King Jr. and the 1963 March on Washington, we were also marching locally to support the Civil Rights Movement.

Other Voices

However, we were basically optimistic. Oblivious of the toll that our reliance on coal and gas was beginning to have on our planet, we assumed that our only challenge was to hold our politicians accountable for the rights of others both domestically and internationally. We were convinced that our activism would improve the world, and few of us worried about the future of our planet or even democracy itself.

When we went to our very affordable colleges with no

worries about paying off college loans, we had the luxury of majoring in whatever interested us most – whether it be history, philosophy or anthropology – assuming that with a college degree we could get a gratifying job that would allow us to buy a comfortable house or rent a roomy apartment wherever our jobs took us.

Now, 60 years later, students face a far scarier world. They learn how to respond to the very real threat of an active shooter on campus. The impact of climate change is undeniable.

They can no longer assume that democracy, the laws of the land and constitutional rights will prevail. They see no evidence that the separation of powers will protect us from corrupt, autocratic politicians. Many of them live in fear that members of their families – whether documented or not – will be detained and deported by ICE because of the color of their skin.

Yet, I take heart when I read some of the essays the students bring to me. They learn in their classes to envision ways in which they can use their education to

reduce pollution, to stem the tide of climate change, or to discover new cures for our worst diseases. A few aspire to go into law or politics so they will be able to fight for the rights of their parents and peers. Some, inspired by the supportive teachers they have been blessed with, are determined to become teachers themselves so that they can, in turn, inspire the next generation of students from low-income families.

They still believe that achieving their parents' dream of having them be the first in their family to graduate from college will lead to good-paying jobs so they can make life more comfortable for their hard-working parents.

I hope that in 2085, if Em, Ozzy and Alejandro and other members of the class of 2025 meet for their 60th high school reunion, they can look back and see that their optimism has proven to be well-founded and that despite the frightening times of 2025, their generation has found ways to save the country and the world from the threats that my own optimistic generation could never have imagined.



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Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

The 1940 Los Altos merchants' "Annual Bargain Day Sale" was very popular with these shoppers at the J&S Market. The market's Main Street location is now occupied by the Post restaurant.

Community

Iranian scholar explains why he thinks Iran's regime is on the brink of collapse

By Nancy Ginsburg Gill

Iranian scholar Abbas Milani gave his Feb. 3 Morning Forum audience a timely explanation of the factors that have brought Iran's Islamic regime to near collapse.

Milani is the director of Stanford's Hamid and Christina Moghadam Program in Iranian Studies, co-director of the Iran Democracy Project and a research fellow at the Hoover Institution. He is the author of more than 20 books, along with 200 articles and book reviews.

Milani admitted that the last "two or three weeks have been the most troubling times of my life," as the government has killed many thousands of Iranian protesters and imprisoned and injured many more. Because the government has

closed down all forms of communication, no one knows the extent of its brutality.

Milani explained that – unlike many Iranians – he had no illusions about how the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which overthrew the Shah, would turn out. Milani, imprisoned in 1974 by the Shah's government for teaching a class about Marxism at Tehran University, shared a cell block with many of Iran's current leaders. He knew how bad Iran's future would be under these "murderous, malicious men."

Yet Milani is confident that Iran's current government is at its lowest point economically, domestically and internationally in its 46-year-old history, and that the future will bring better times for Iran and the region.

One indication of the govern-



COURTESY OF KATHRYN TOMAINO

Iranian scholar Abbas Milani

ment's failure, Milani said, is that unprecedented numbers of Iranians from all classes and all parts of Iran participated in the January protests. "We are seeing in Iran," Milani explained, "un-

der the leadership of our women, the most important civil disobedience since the civil rights movement under MLK."

The brutal use of violence against its own citizens by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's government demonstrates the regime's desperation to reinstate fear. Because the government shut down all internet services and other forms of communication, no one knows exactly how many protesters were killed.

The willingness of protesters to risk their lives to bring down their leaders – 2,000 old men completely out of touch with what Iranians want and need – stems from the government's disdain for human rights, especially for women, and the complete collapse of Iran's economy.

According to Milani, the regime's attempt to make Iran

completely sectarian, operating under Sharia law, has been a complete failure. Most Iranians mock everything associated with Islamic fundamentalism; respect for the clergy has dwindled. Although 60% of the top college graduates are women, no women have been given positions in the government. Polls show, added Milani, that fewer than 10% of the public want a religious government.

The collapse of the Iranian economy, explained Milani, is due primarily to the regime's delusional determination to invest billions of dollars in enriching uranium to compete with Israel as a nuclear power. Its obsession with destroying Israel has led to crippling sanctions from Western nations and missed

See FORUM, Page 10



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Mountain View High School junior wins DAR essay contest



COURTESY OF DAR LOS ALTOS CHAPTER

Kaelyn Tan, center left, a Mountain View High School junior, celebrates winning the DAR essay contest with Los Altos Chapter Regent Melanie Ercoli, Mountain View Mayor Emily Ann Ramos and essay contest chair Sally Wood.

By Ann Hepenstal

The Los Altos Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recently announced the winner of their Patriots of the American Revolution high school essay contest.

The winner, Kaelyn Tan, was awarded a pin, a certificate and a \$200 cash prize for her essay "A Revolutionary Mind: Mercy Otis Warren's Fight for Liberty Through Literature."

Kaelyn Tan is a junior at Mountain View High School and a Mountain View resident. She is an editorial intern for the Los Altos Town Crier and has written several articles for the paper. Mountain View Mayor Emily Ann Ramos presented Kaelyn with a special certificate of recognition from the city, in honor of her contest win.

The Patriots of the American Revolution essay contest encourages high school students to learn more about the history of the American Revolution and the men and women who played a role in it. The students were asked to select a real person from the era of the American Revolution (1773-1783) and to write an essay discussing how that person influenced the course of the American Revolution and the contribution they

made to the founding of a new nation. This person could be well-known or an everyday man, woman or child who supported the American Revolution in ways large or small.

To participate in next year's Patriots of the American Revolution contest, visit losaltos.californiadar.org. The website will have due dates, essay topic and contest entry information in late August or early September. The Los Altos chapter's essay contest is open to students in grades 9 to 12 who live in or attend school in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View or Sunnyvale.

The Los Altos Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, founded in 1950, focuses on education, local historic preservation projects, genealogy research, environmental conservation, service to veterans and other community projects. DAR is a nonpartisan volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, education, and historic preservation. Any woman 18 years or older is eligible to join if she can prove lineal descent from a supporter of the American Revolution (through military service, financial donations such as donativos at the California presidios, food supply, government service or other support.)

Visit losaltos.californiadar.org to learn more.

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FORUM

From Page 9

opportunities to create a vibrant economy.

In the last three years, Iran's international proxies like Hamas, Hezbollah and Syria's President Assad have also lost much or all of their power, thus greatly contributing to Iran's loss of regional influence. Even its allies like China, which has been buying Iranian oil at bargain prices, know the regime can't survive.

Milani admits that he can't predict what will happen in the short term, e.g., whether Trump, in exchange for the

regime's ending its nuclear enrichment program, will give Khamenei's regime "a lifeline" that will allow it to survive a little bit longer. However, he does know that the U.S. military "can't solve our problems. The Iranian people," he said, "must deliver freedom for themselves."

Milani is confident that when Iranians get the government they deserve, one that will rationally take advantage of having the world's second-largest gas reserves, the country's economy will rebound very quickly. Iranians are "an extremely educated and entrepreneurial people," as many Iranians who are part of the Iranian diaspora

have demonstrated through their successes throughout Silicon Valley and much of the rest of the world.

Even if they don't return to their native land, Milani predicted, members of the Iranian diaspora will use their expertise, money and connections to turn Iran's economy around. And, Milani added, Iran will become one of the most visited tourist spots in the Middle East.

Milani ended his talk with the optimistic message, "Next year in Tehran."

Morning Forum is a long-standing speaker series. For more information, visit morningforum.org.

Community

2 local high school alums on Morning Forum agenda

Town Crier Report

The spring session of the Los Altos Morning Forum will include talks by Katie Anderson, Los Altos High School graduate (class of 1993), and Jose Antonio Vargas, Mountain View High School graduate (class of 1999).

Anderson will speak to the Forum on March 3. She graduated from Almond and Egan prior to Los Altos High School. Her father, Hardy Jones, made the sculpture mascots for each of the Los Altos schools. Her experience at Los Altos High prepared her for Stanford and a Fulbright Scholarship in Australia. She credits her three years in Mock Trial at Los Altos High for giving her confidence in public speaking, experience with team work, and a foundation for her success as an author,

consultant and professional speaker.

Vargas, who will speak to the Forum on March 17, is a journalist, filmmaker and immigration rights activist. Sent from the Philippines to live with his grandparents at age 12, he attended Crittenden Middle School and Mountain View High School. His high school English teacher introduced him to journalism, and in 1998 he began an internship at the Mountain View Voice. Vargas was part of The Washington Post team that won the Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Reporting in 2008 for coverage of the Virginia Tech shooting online and in print.

Morning Forum is a long-standing speaker series. For more information, visit morningforum.org.



COURTESY OF MORNING FORUM

Top: Katie Anderson
Bottom: Jose Antonio Vargas

Union Presbyterian Church seeks choral singers

Town Crier Report

Union Presbyterian Church of Los Altos, located at 858 University Ave., invites singers to participate 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays to learn choral works for a presentation on Maundy 7 p.m. Thursday, April

2. The presentation will be accompanied by an instrumental ensemble and narrated to tell the centuries-old Easter story of humanity's need for a Savior and God's purpose fulfilled.

For more information, contact Jamie Mulfinger at worship@unionpc.org.

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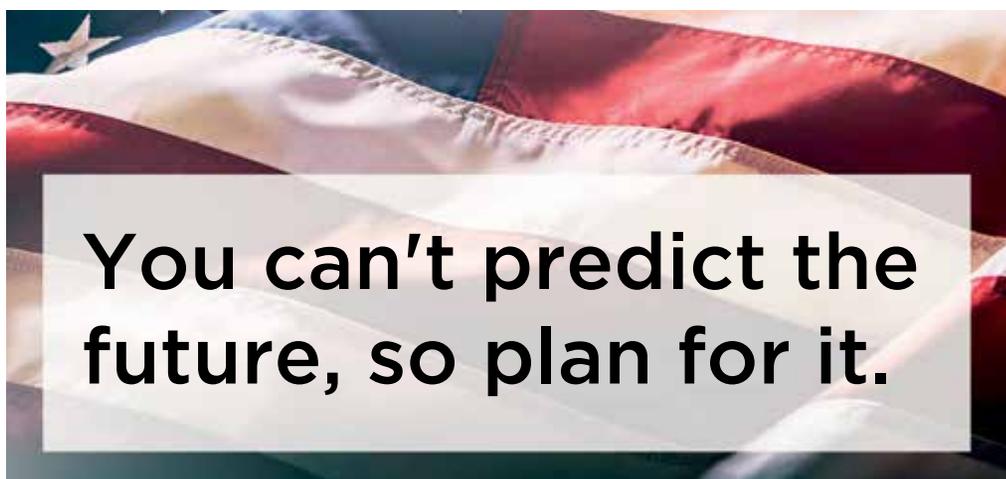
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Schools

Teen runs bakery to raise money for Hunger Project

By Ananya Kota
Town Crier Intern Editorial

From buttery, glazed scones to a display of delicately crispy Croque-mouches, the Sweet Sensations Bakery offers all kinds of treats for customers. As a nonprofit, it also treats The Hunger Project, which receives all of the proceeds.

St. Francis High School junior Avani Thakur founded the Sweet Sensations Bakery a year ago, and she runs it by herself.

“Baking was always something pretty close to my family,” Thakur said. “But I think it (my passion) really began during COVID, when we were in the pandemic.”

Thakur began baking by following YouTube tutorials, she said. Eventually, she moved on to online baking classes and shared the results with her neighbors and friends.

“People always told me, ‘You should sell these instead of just giving them to us for free,’” Thakur said. “But it was COVID back then ... I didn’t really think much of it.”

However, as Thakur entered high school, she realized she wanted to transform her hobby into something bigger. Since launching Sweet Sensations Bakery as a sophomore, Thakur said she has raised more than \$1,000 for The Hunger Project, a global nonprofit that feeds those in need.

“It’s been great seeing that we are able to help millions of people across the world through the money,” Thakur said.

Beyond offering Thakur’s treats, the Sweet Sensations Bakery website has two subsections – The Sweet Chronicles and Sustainably Sweet. The Sweet Chronicles has an array of articles written by Thakur, with topics ranging from recipe tutorials to food reviews. Sustainably Sweet offers links to eco-friendly baking supplies for customers who want to try their own hand at baking.

Thakur has been recognized for her work as a baker and student. She was a quarterfinalist for The Greatest Baker Competition and also nominated to be a Carson Scholar, an honor rewarding teens for community service and academic dedication.

“I think that what she’s trying to do is awesome, and how she incorporates her love for baking into this,” Suzanne Errecart, one of Sweet Sensations Bakery’s first customers, said of Thakur. “She’s not only doing what she loves, but also helping the less fortunate, which I truly love and appreciate.”

In the future, Thakur hopes to expand her generosity and raise money for local community organizations and potentially collaborate with other small businesses.

“I’m extremely grateful for all the awards, money and stats, but I think being able to help other people was the goal,” Thakur said. “Through the bakery and through my passion of baking, I’ve been able to accomplish that.”

For more information, visit thesweetsensationbakery.com.



COURTESY OF NIDHI THAKUR

St. Francis High School junior Avani Thakur founded the Sweet Sensations Bakery and has raised more than \$1,000 from sales for The Hunger Project, a global nonprofit that feeds those in need. She was also a quarterfinalist for The Greatest Baker Competition.

Los Altos High’s ‘Alibis’ opens Thursday in Eagle Theater

Town Crier Report

Los Altos High School’s Broken Box Theater Company stages its production of “The Alibis” later this week at the Eagle Theatre, 201 Almond Ave.

The show is a collection of dark comedies about what happens when a person’s alibi is

worse than murder.

Each of the seven short plays, all directed by students, reveal the suspect’s secret.

Performances are set for 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Tickets are \$5.49 for students and \$11.20 for general admission.

For tickets and more information, visit tinyurl.com/the-alibis.

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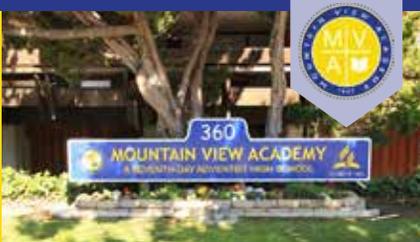
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Sports

MV boys basketball gets CCS playoff win over Los Altos

By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

A dominant second quarter from Mountain View, thanks to a locked-in defense, helped it earn a 53-42 CCS Division I playoff rivalry win over Los Altos Saturday.

A fast start for Los Altos saw it take a 15-10 lead at the end of the first quarter, but Mountain View went on a 22-8 run in the second quarter, with Mountain View coach Kevin Mack crediting the team's defense for being the catalyst.

"When we are locked in defensively, and we are doing the right things in the gaps, and we are recovering and active and aggressive, good things happen," Mack said.

Los Altos went on a 6-0 run to open the second half to bring it to 32-31, but Mountain View responded with an 11-0 run to bring the lead back into double digits at 43-31. Los Altos, playing a day after a play-in game win over Branham the night before, could not overcome a fresh Mountain View, which did not have to play in the first round. Los Altos coach James Reilly noted the team needed a few baskets to keep it close in the second half but could not get them, and the team's tired legs affected shot selection as the game went on.

"I feel like we settled a little bit in a sense of, we were a little bit tired, so we took the first shot, rather than the best shot," Reilly said.

Mountain View point guard Roshan Ramachandran was the offensive force for the Spartans in the second half, scoring 11 points in the second half.

"Tonight, he was huge in that third quarter and fourth quarter," Mack said of Ramachandran. "Not even thinking, just making the right plays and attacking the rim, so it was good to see him do that. I feel like he has been doing that more consistently lately."

No. 9 seed Mountain View (11-14) will now move on to



ALAN HWANG/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Mountain View guard Noah Shahraz attempts a layup during the game against Los Altos Saturday in the CCS Division I playoffs. Mountain View won thanks to a 22-8 run in the second quarter.

play No. 2 seed Los Gatos away 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Los Altos' season is over, but Reilly said the team has made as much improvement over the year as any team in his 17-year coaching career at Los Altos.

"The guys were fantastic, they really improved," Reilly said of the season. "We had a lot of injuries and illness, everybody has some of that, we had a lot of that, and we really improved, it was a rewarding season."

Prep Sports Summary

Girls Basketball

St. Francis (19-6) beat St. Ignatius 52-49 in the first game of the CCS Open Division girls basketball pool play round Friday. St. Francis is the No. 5 seed in Pool A and faces No. 1 seed Archbishop Mitty Monday (after the Town Crier print deadline). The team with the best record in Pool A and Pool B, respectively, over three games, will meet in the final.

No. 7 seed Pinewood (20-5) lost to No. 3 seed Archbishop Riordan 58-46 in its first CCS Open Division Pool B game. Pinewood visits No. 2 seed Woodside Priory 7 p.m. Monday (after the Town Crier print deadline) in the second game of the opening round, followed by hosting No. 7 seed Alisal 7 p.m. Wednesday.

No. 4 seed Los Altos hosts No. 5 seed Salinas in the CCS Division I quarterfinals 7 p.m. Tuesday (after the Town Crier print deadline).

Boys basketball

The St. Francis boys basketball team plays Woodside in the Division II CCS quarterfinals 7 p.m. Tuesday (after the Town Crier print deadline). St. Francis (9-16) is the No. 3 seed and had a bye in the opening round of the Division II playoffs.

Host Pinewood beat University Prep Academy 63-37 Saturday in the Division

V second round. No. 5 seed Pinewood will travel to play No. 4 seed Crystal Springs Uplands 7 p.m. Tuesday (after the Town Crier print deadline).

Girls soccer

No. 6 seed Los Altos lost to No. 3 seed Archbishop Mitty 4-3 on penalty kicks Saturday in the CCS Division I quarterfinals.

No. 1 seed St. Francis beat No. 8 seed Carlmont Saturday in the Division I quarterfinals Saturday, advancing on to play No. 4 seed St. Ignatius at St. Francis 7 p.m. Tuesday.

No. 2 seed Mountain View lost 2-0 to No. 7 seed Menlo-Atherton Saturday in the Division II playoff quarterfinals.

Boys soccer

No. 3 seed Los Altos lost to No. 6 seed Leigh Saturday 2-0 in the CCS Division I boys soccer quarterfinals, with Leigh now going on to face Mountain View Tuesday.

No. 7 seed Mountain View beat host No. 2 seed St. Ignatius 2-1 Saturday in the CCS Division I boys soccer quarterfinals. St. Ignatius missed two penalties, including one in the final minutes of the game. Mountain View (16-3-2) will now play at No. 6 seed Leigh (16-3-0) 7 p.m. Tuesday (after the Town Crier print deadline).

No. 8 seed St. Francis lost to No. 1 seed Everett Alvarez 3-0 in the Division I quarterfinals. St. Francis (14-5-2) finished in second place in the West Catholic Athletic League.

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Stepping Out

TheatreWorks' 'Primary Trust' features kindness, human connection

By Grace Lin
Town Crier Editorial Intern

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents the regional premiere of "Primary Trust" March 4-29 at the Lucie Stern Theatre in Palo Alto.

Written by Eboni Booth and directed by playwright and director Jeffrey Lo, the comedic drama follows a bookstore worker in New York whose life is turned upside down after he's

laid off.

William Thomas Hodgson stars as Kenneth, the 38-year-old who suddenly finds himself looking for work. When he finds a job at a bank, Kenneth is forced to confront his past trauma and rediscover himself.

When Lo and Hodgson read the play after it won the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Lo said they were both in tears and eager to be a part of a production of it.

Lo described "Trust" as a play about someone who needs the help of human connection and kindness to overcome hardship.

"I was just so taken (aback) by the kindness and the heart that this play holds within itself and its characters," Lo said. "Little gestures and interactions can reverberate into enormous positive things for people's lives. That idea felt like an important reminder and message for all of

us to sit with as we navigate the times we live in."

Lo added that, as a Filipino American, he was excited to learn from the actors and take on a new perspective, as most of the characters in "Trust" are African American. That includes Kenneth, a Black man who lives in a predominately white town.

Lo and Hodgson said "Trust" explores a wide range of emotions and themes, including loneliness, the Black experience, mental health, grief and kindness – all while including moments of humor.

"This play is challenging on an emotional level. It goes from comedic to warm to dramatic in a matter of minutes, and to be able to ... find the balance of how we want to do that requires really smart and hardworking actors," Lo said. "There's also a kindness in all of these characters that I want to spill off the stage – I want the audience to really feel that. I wanted actors who led with their heart and soul, which I have with all of these performers."

While kindness and human connection are at the center of the "Trust," Hodgson said the play doesn't feel overly dramatic.

"It talks about something that's really important and makes me feel more connected to humanity, but it's not saccharine," Hodgson said. "It's easy to watch, like a musical. Musicals talk about really deep things, but they're kind of lightweight and fun. This play is really fresh, young and easy."

He added that "Trust" challenges the cast and excites the audience through its creative



PHOTO BY TRACY MARTIN

William Thomas Hodgson stars as Kenneth in TheatreWorks' "Primary Trust" playing March 4-29 at Lucie Stern Theatre.

staging. Lo noted that one actor plays nearly 20 characters in a short amount of time, requiring quick wardrobe changes.

"There are rhetorical devices and staging devices that make (the play) feel larger than life – there's some magical realism that's never really explained," Hodgson said. "There's lots of time jumping, kind of an improv style and actors changing characters live on stage."

Lo said audiences can ultimately expect a heartfelt and engaging experience through the play's rich emotional range and passionate actors.

"People have said that this play feels like a warm hug, and we could all sort of use that right now. Audiences will be reminded of the power of community and the power of the human spirit to help and support one another," Lo said.

For times, tickets (\$34-\$115) and more information, visit tinyurl.com/PrimaryTrust.

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<p>Los Altos Lutheran Church Rejoice in the Word + Sent in the Spirit</p> <p>10AM In-Person & Online</p> <p>VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.LosAltosLutheran.org</p> <p>460 S. El Monte Ave. (at Cuesta) 650.948.3012 office@losaltoslutheran.org Email the office for the Worship Zoom Link</p>	<p>Christ Episcopal Church <i>Inspired Worship. Relevant Preaching. Transcendent Music.</i></p> <p>Sunday Services In Person</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service (also via Zoom)</p> <p>Childcare provided on Sunday mornings during 10:15 service 1010 Border Road Los Altos 650-948-2151</p> <p>www.christchurchlosaltos.org</p>			
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Getting organized for tax season: How and where to start

By Lyn Rogers

Tax season is upon us, and the question to ask yourself is, are you prepared? At least, do you have all the needed papers together in order to file? Or are they in various locations, and it will take a search and rescue team to locate them in time?

Please note: It's vitally important that you consult your accountant or tax preparer about the specific paperwork you need for your personal or business taxes. They will give you a more extensive list, depending on your unique circumstances.

If you are a macro organizer and find it hard to file all year round, it's OK to have one box for paycheck stubs, another for receipts, the third for letters thanking you for your generous contribution, and so on. The important thing to remember is, don't just add all papers together in random piles all over the house! If you are finding that this is your current situation, make a plan for the rest of the year so you have less stress at tax time next year.

Generally speaking, you will need multiple folders for several categories.



JDFWFO/ADOBE STOCK

Getting prepared for tax season may seem daunting – but it doesn't have to be.

This is for gathering everything together in one place, but keep the categories separate. The first file will contain everything related to income earned.

This includes not just employment, but also winnings and profits from sales.

You may then need folders for child-care, educational, medical and/or busi-

ness expenses. It's important to save the receipts all year long. A great way to get the whole family involved and to teach life skills is to enlist an older child or teen to help you sort receipts by category and then by date. This strengthens their reading and math skills and helps them to feel more confident when their time comes to file taxes.

Most tax preparers will not accept hard copies of your records, so now is the time to invest in a scanner. Prices vary widely, but not only is this a great investment for other needs, it may be a business office deduction (ask your accountant to be sure). You can also take papers to an office supply store that offers that service, but then you'll spend a lot of time there with a possible line behind you, and I think it's less stressful to take your time at home.

Filing papers in folders or boxes every time they come into your home or office keeps you on top of things, the paper piles lessened, and most of all, you won't have the sheer panic in your eyes and voice saying, "Where on earth did I put that paper?"

Drought-tolerant blackhawks big bluestem is dynamic addition to landscapes

By Melinda Myers
Special to the Town Crier

No matter your garden style, you are likely to find a place for this year's Perennial Plant of the Year, blackhawks big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii* 'blackhawks'). You'll enjoy the beauty it adds to your gardens and the low maintenance it requires to thrive.

This cultivar of our native big bluestem provides vertical interest, motion and bold color to the landscape. Its leaves start out dark green and develop reddish-purple tips throughout the growing season. Flowers appear in August; by September the leaves and stems of the plant turn a deep purple hue.

Hardy in zones 3 to 9, it prefers full sun and adapts to a wide range of soil but may flop in fertile, moist conditions. Once established, it is drought tolerant. Make sure it receives needed moisture and proper care for the first two years while developing its robust, more drought-

tolerant root system.

In addition to drought tolerance, blackhawks big bluestem has no major pests or disease problems. Just cut it back to the ground in late winter before new growth begins. Its overall excellent performance made it one of the top-rated ornamental grasses in the Chicago Botanic Garden's Evaluation Study of Hardy Ornamental Grasses.

Big bluestem was the dominant grass of the prairies and largely responsible for the formation of prairie sod. This drought-tolerant grass is a host plant for many skippers and provides shelter and food for songbirds. It grows 5 to 8 feet tall and reseeds readily, making it hard for many home gardeners to include in their landscape.

It is smaller in size than the big bluestem species, just 5 feet tall and 24 inches wide, making it more suitable for home landscapes. Use it as a screen, backdrop in garden beds or as part of mixed borders. It combines nicely with other perennials, like Zagreb threadleaf coreop-

sis, calamint, liatris, Rudbeckia, sedum, asters and more.

Blackhawks big bluestem, like other Perennial Plants of the Year, was selected for its low maintenance, pest and disease resistance and ability to thrive in a wide range of climates. It joins past winners like little bluestem, butterfly weed, Millenium allium, American Goldrush Rudbeckia and Amsonia hubrichtii. These winners are selected by Perennial Plant Association members, which include hundreds of horticulture experts like landscapers, designers, professors, plant breeders, growers, retailers and public garden curators. You can find out more about this non-profit program and past Perennial Plants of the Year at perennialplantoftheyear.com.

Look for opportunities to include this year's Perennial Plant of the Year in your gardens. You'll enjoy its beauty and the benefits it provides whether your gardens are informal, naturalistic or a cottage-style.

Melinda Myers has written

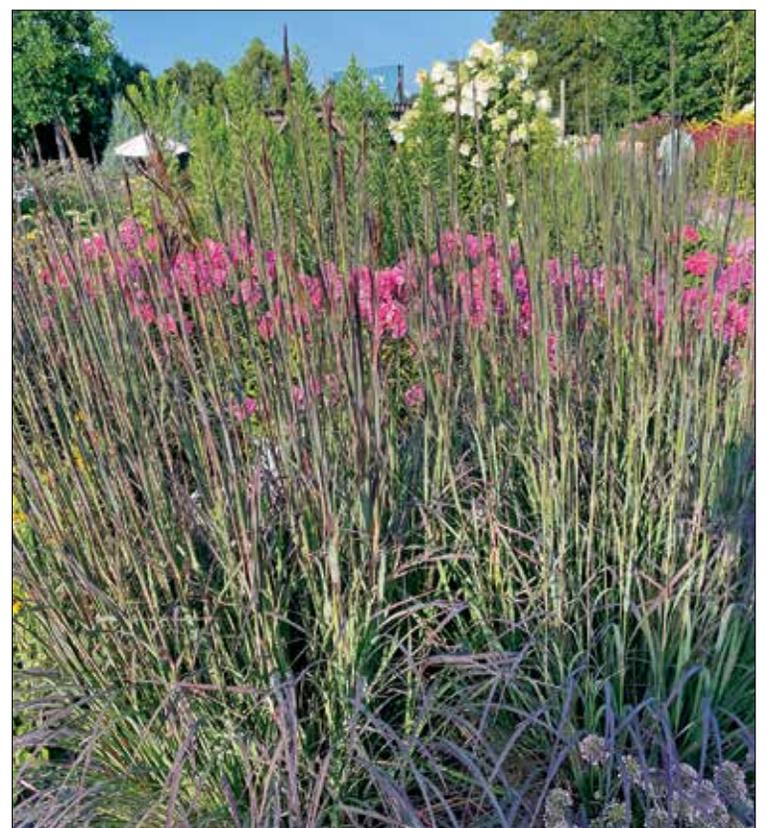


PHOTO COURTESY OF MELINDA MYERS

The blackhawks big bluestem is this year's perennial plant. Hardy in zones 3 to 9, it's drought tolerant and enjoys full sun.

more than 20 gardening books and hosts the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. For more information, visit MelindaMyers.com.

Have a comment or idea? Reach out

If you have an idea for Your Home or would like to comment on its content, email section editor Christina Casillas at christinac@latc.com.

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What to know before building a backyard chicken flock



ANNEBEL146/ADOBE STOCK

Backyard chickens have grown in popularity – approximately 11 million U.S. households have them.

Statepoint

About 20 years ago, chickens – long a staple of farms and homesteads – began showing up in urban and suburban yards. They enabled city dwellers to source homegrown food, provided a touch of nature amid the urban jungle, and have continued to rise in popularity ever since. According to the American Pet Products Association's 2025 State of the Industry report, 11 million U.S. households own backyard chickens, a 28% increase from 2023.

Caroline Komar-Steiner, a Team Lead at the Tractor Supply store in Antioch, Illinois, is a passionate chicken expert who regularly guides individuals into the world of chicken ownership. She and her husband have been raising poultry since 2018, and she describes it as one of the most rewarding things she has ever done. "Raising those chicks and getting your first eggs is an 'eggsperience' unlike any other," she said.

To ensure new chick owners can enjoy that experience, Komar-Steiner hosts regular Chickens 101 sessions at the store. The first thing she always tells people is to find out if their town or neighborhood allows chickens. Some have restrictions, so it's best to find that out on the front end. Then she asks them why they want chickens. Is it for their eggs? For meat? Will they be purely ornamental? "That steers me toward what they're looking for," Komar-Steiner said.

To help you get started, Komar-Steiner is sharing these basics for preparing for and caring for chickens:

1. Assess your space: Chicks need a temperature-controlled space until they are fully feathered, usually about six weeks. Komar-Steiner recommends finding a warm, draft-free area. She sets her brooder up in her basement. The chicks grow quickly, so it's important to determine where you'll put your coop and have it ready to go. The chickens will also need a heat source in winter to

stay warm and prevent their water from freezing.

2. Get supplies, then chicks: It's a good idea to buy all your equipment and supplies before bringing chickens home. You'll need a brooder, shavings, heat lamps or brooder plates, a perch so they can learn how to roost, a feeder and a waterer. Komar-Steiner recommends adding an electrolyte to the chicks' water to give them an extra edge. You'll also need chick grit, feed and a thermometer.

3. Remember, they are living things: People often get excited about the idea of a steady supply of eggs, but like all living things, chickens require care. Before leaving home for an extended time, make sure someone is available to check on their food and water, especially in winter and summer. And like other animals, chickens are at risk of getting sick. Tractor Supply carries a wide variety of products to support chicken health.

Even after having chickens for a time, customers still frequently have questions, especially when it comes to adding to their flock, which leads Komar-Steiner to a critical point. "It is imperative that you do not put baby chicks in with adult birds," she said.

Chickens view new animals as either food or intruders. Komar-Steiner's recommendation is to wait until they are large enough to hold their own, usually around three months. Additionally, introducing new adult birds requires an integration process.

With 30 chickens and five turkeys of her own, Caroline is an excellent resource for poultry advice, especially during Tractor Supply's annual Chick Days event. Customers can purchase baby birds in store and enjoy new products, new breeds and special offers. The products and insight to keep chickens happy and healthy are available year-round at Tractor Supply and TractorSupply.com.

Before you build a backyard flock, get the equipment and know-how you need for successful chicken ownership.



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Business & Real Estate

Los Altos Chamber of Commerce shows signs of distress

Financial position raises questions of organization's sustainability and oversight

Town Crier Report

Recent nonprofit financial filings and local reporting may indicate the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce is facing significant financial strain, with indicators suggesting heightened insolvency risk if conditions do not improve.

According to the Chamber's most recent IRS Form 990 filings, its financial position declined sharply in 2024. The organization reported approximately \$303,000 in revenue and about \$369,000 in expenses, resulting in a net operating loss of roughly \$65,000. Net assets were reported at approximately negative \$61,000.

A negative net asset position means liabilities exceed assets, a condition commonly associated with cash-flow challenges and long-term viability risks for nonprofit organizations. The filings are publicly available through nonprofit databases including Candid (candid.org).

"The Chamber of Commerce is guided by integrity, collaboration, and transparency. We also recognize diversity and inclusion as important community values," Kim Mosley, Los Altos Chamber of Commerce presi-

		Prior Year	Current Year
Revenue	8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	106,712	120,520
	9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	143,050	143,100
	10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	2,062	908
	11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	-80,322	38,812
	12 Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	171,502	303,340
Expenses	13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3)	0	0
	14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0	0
	15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)	248,822	247,418
	16 Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0	0
	b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25)		
	17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e)	135,514	121,297
	18 Total expenses. Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	384,336	368,715
19 Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	-212,834	-65,375	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	140,792	71,666
	21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	136,780	133,029
	22 Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	4,012	-61,363

2024 CHAMBER TAX FILINGS ACQUIRED FROM PROPUBLICA

Net assets for the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce were negative \$61,363, based on 2024 tax filings.

dent and CEO, said in an email statement to the Town Crier. "Like many nonprofit organizations and small businesses, we have navigated financial challenges in the post-pandemic environment. Throughout this time, our Board has remained engaged and committed to strengthening the organization and supporting our mem-

bers."

What this means

Sustained operating losses combined with negative net assets can signal limited financial reserves and reduced flexibility to meet ongoing obligations. Nonprofit governance experts generally consider such condi-

tions warning signs that may require restructuring, additional funding or cost reductions.

While nonprofit chambers of commerce do not typically pursue Chapter 7 liquidation, persistent deficits and negative net assets are

See CHAMBER, Page 18

What young folks need to know about workplace retirement savings

Statepoint

Workplace retirement savings plans are an excellent way to invest in your future, and the earlier you start, the more opportunity your savings have to grow. Typically automated through payroll deductions, contributions to a plan like a 401(k) or 403(b) are tax-advantaged and easy to make.

Recent research by Edward Jones and Morning Consult shows that three in five Americans who have access to a workplace retirement plan contribute, however 59% of all Americans' employers do not offer one, leaving a gap in financial access and education at a critical entry point for investing. For local business owners – who are responsible for creating two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. economy,

according to the National Business Association – implementing retirement savings benefits can be challenging. Fortunately, new efforts are being made to support businesses of all sizes in helping their employees reach their financial goals.

"Edward Jones is in the process of expanding its retirement plan product shelf offered through our more than 20,000 financial advisors to include Nationwide and Voya. The firm has also invested in new technologies like Aboon, which streamlines retirement plan design and administration, and Addition Wealth, a digital financial wellness platform providing personalized financial education for clients. With our vast branch network in 68% of U.S. counties, we are well-positioned to serve small- to mid-size businesses in need of workplace solutions,

and ultimately, their employees," said Alyssa (Lysa) Harper, principal and head of the Workplace Segment at Edward Jones.

"Local business owners are the backbone of communities. We're hopeful the investments we are making will meet more people where they are and offer more business owners and their employees the advice, products and education they need throughout their financial journey," Harper added.

If you are offered a workplace retirement plan, following these tips can help you make the most of it:

Start now. Savings can grow over time, making it valuable to start as early as you can – even if you're decades away from retirement.

Start with the match. At a minimum, contribute enough to your employer's retirement sav-

ings plan to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered. Ultimately though, you'll want to develop a personalized goal, with saving 10% to 15% of your income being a great milestone to work toward.

Make progress. Consider increasing your savings rate by 1% each year. Some plans even offer an auto-escalation option, making this easy.

Leverage windfalls. Reserve a certain dollar amount or percent of future pay raises, bonuses or financial windfalls to go toward your retirement savings.

Get assistance. Fifty-two percent of Americans say advice from a financial advisor would make them more likely to participate in a workplace retirement plan, according to research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult. Reach out to a financial advisor who can review your sit-

uation and provide personalized recommendations for you.

A workplace retirement plan can be a key part of a retirement savings strategy. Fortunately, new solutions being offered to businesses of all sizes are expanding access to retirement savings plans to more working Americans.

Reach out!

If you have an idea for Business & Real Estate or would like to comment on its content, email section editor Christina Casillas at christinac@latc.com.

Transactions

Los Altos

746 University Avenue, Kaye Living Trust to Painted Rock Dr LLC for \$5,000,000

Los Altos Hills

23423 Toyonita Road, Forster Family Trust to Ying Family Trust for \$5,475,000

12690 Dianne Drive, A. & A. Wadhwa to Iyer Trust for \$8,355,000

Mountain View

278 Monroe Drive #8, Paulus Family Lp to S. & H. Fan for \$751,000

49 Showers Drive #N268, Gray-Moin Trust to Tonini-Boutacoff Family Trust for \$930,000

49 Showers Drive #D460, J. Tao to Dewald-Dwek Family Trust for \$1,600,000

800 Rebecca Privada, Rybolt Living Trust to P. & H. Neben for \$2,400,000

700 Farley Street, S. Bolandi to L. & M. Mitic for \$4,350,000

Cupertino

10777 West Estates Drive, Zca Homes LLC to L. Xiao for \$3,088,000

10161 Stern Avenue, F. Kao to Y. &

Z. Zeng for \$3,738,000

21630 Edward Way, A. Kharbanda to B. & Y. Ping for \$4,000,000

21084 Marcy Court, Kimura Trust to N. & H. Xie for \$4,230,000

Total sales

Los Altos

Total sales: 1
Amount: \$5,000,000

Los Altos Hills

Total sales: 2
Lowest sale: \$5,475,000
Highest sale: \$8,355,000
Average sale: \$6,915,000

Mountain View

Total sales: 5
Lowest sale: \$751,000
Highest sale: \$4,350,000
Average sale: \$2,006,200

Cupertino

Total sales: 4
Lowest sale: \$3,088,000
Highest sale: \$4,230,000
Average sale: \$3,764,000

- CalREsource

CHAMBER

From Page 17

widely recognized indicators of financial distress. As of early February, there are no confirmed reports of a bankruptcy filing or court-supervised insolvency proceeding involving the Chamber.

In previous public discussions, the Chamber has asked the city of Los Altos to continue contractual funding support, citing “incredibly tough times” affecting operations. Those statements align with the financial data showing continuing deficits.

The city has provided funding in recent years for the Chamber’s magazine and the LEAD program. The LEAD program helps locals who want to lead and better the local community in some capacity through seminars and workshops. City officials have indicated the Chamber may no longer be involved with LEAD, citing concerns about how funds were used. No formal enforcement action has been publicly announced.

Payment concerns

Several local vendors and Chamber partners have raised concerns about unpaid obligations. Allegations include unpaid bills related to the August 2025 Charity Golf Tournament at Los Altos Golf & Country Club, nonpayment to the printer of Los Altos Magazine and rent reportedly owed to Santa Clara County that is more than eight months overdue. Those claims have not been publicly resolved in available filings.

“The Board is actively engaged in both short- and long-term strategic planning. We continue to maintain positive relationships with our vendors and are meeting our commitments under existing agreements,” Mosley said in an email to the Town Crier.

Foundation questions

Additional concerns have been raised regarding the compliance status of the Chamber’s affiliated foundation. Records from the California Secretary of State’s office previously listed the foundation as noncompliant due to missing filings or unpaid fees.

Despite that status, the foundation has promoted events including the Charity Golf Classic and the 75th Anniversary Community “Brick” program as charitable initiatives. Questions remain about whether required state forms were filed, whether associated fees were paid and how charitable representations were reviewed.

The Chamber has stated that the foundation supports LEAD, First

Friday and the Veterans Community Plaza, while the golf tournament and Los Altos Magazine remain Chamber programs.

Membership revenue

Membership dues are a primary revenue source for chambers of commerce. Local sources report that paid membership has declined since 2022 and that an increase in complimentary memberships has reduced dues income.

The Chamber has stated that paid membership levels are comparable to pre-pandemic levels, which would exceed 400 paying members. A review of the organization’s website lists fewer businesses.

Magazine distribution

The Chamber’s magazine was printed after delays that prompted complaints from advertisers.

Advertisers were allegedly told by Chamber officials that the publication would be distributed through the Los Altos Town Crier to approximately 15,500 households. Community members and advertisers report that distribution did not occur as described.

The Chamber’s website stated the magazine would be distributed to 20,000 homes and businesses. The Chamber later said that due to rising distribution costs, it sought alternative methods, placing copies in local businesses and delivering some through a courier.

In an October 2025 City Council meeting, Chamber representatives stated that the magazine does not generate a profit, despite city funding intended to support printing and distribution.

Summary

The Chamber’s 2024 financial filings show ongoing operating losses and a negative net asset position – conditions widely recognized in the nonprofit sector as warning signs of financial instability.

While no bankruptcy filing has been confirmed, the data indicate elevated insolvency risk without increased revenue, additional funding or structural changes.

Allegations of unpaid obligations, questions about foundation compliance, concerns about membership revenue and disputes over program funding have intensified calls for transparency and disclosure from donors, sponsors, city officials and community members.

The Chamber maintains that it is in good standing with vendors and intends to continue community programs, including the brick plaza fundraiser, the State of the Cities event and publication of the magazine.

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Public Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: STEPHEN WEIR OHLS CASE NO. 26PR201665

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of Stephen Weir Ohls, Steve Ohls. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JENNIFER FRENZEL in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ERIC HERSH be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. 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 as follows: 04/10/2026 at 9:01AM in Dept. 7 located at 191 NORTH FIRST ST., 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 Peter S. Stern 350 Cambridge Avenue, Suite 130 Palo Alto, CA 94306 (650) 326-2282 (02-25-26,03-04,11-26)

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Folau Vea Kaufusi, 1388 Montecito Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94043. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/13/2004. /S/ Folau V. Kaufusi / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 02/13/2026. (02-25-26,03-04,11,18-26)

GENERACIONES LANDSCAPING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723217

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: GENERACIONES LANDSCAPING, 520 Walker Dr Apt 37, Mountain View, CA, 94043, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Miguel Angel Tapia, 520 Walker Dr Apt 37, Mountain View, CA 94043. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/28/2026. /S/ Miguel Angel Tapia / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/28/2026. (02-25-26,03-04,11,18-26)

Runbook FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723669

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Runbook, 13208 McCulloch Ave, Saratoga, CA, 95070, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Hark AI, Inc., 13208 McCulloch Ave, Saratoga, CA 95070. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/2026. /S/ Obaid Khan / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 02/09/2026. (02-25-26,03-04,11,18-26)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

The following person(s) / registrant(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business name statement that was filed at the County Clerk's office. Rediscover Your Home, 15640 Shannon Heights, Los Gatos, CA 95032 Filed in Santa Clara County on: 05/02/2024 Under File No. FBN705716 Full Name of Registrant(s): Hagit Koren, 15640 Shannon Heights, Los Gatos, CA 95032 This business was conducted by: an individual This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Santa Clara County on Jan. 27, 2026. Louis Chiaramonte County Clerk-Recorder Santa Clara County File No. FBN723175 (02-25-26,03-04,11,18-26)

HENRY CONCRETE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723840

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: HENRY CONCRETE, 1388 Montecito Avenue, Mountain View, CA, 94043, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual.

RISE WITH ANKA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723837

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: RISE WITH ANKA, 5934 Flash Ct, San Jose, CA, 95119, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Anna Vasina, 5934 Flash Ct, San Jose, CA 95119. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/20/2025. /S/ Anna Vasina / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 02/13/2026. (02-25-26,03-04,11,18-26)

ALESSANDRA LANDGRAF PSYCHOTHERAPY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723812

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ALESSANDRA LANDGRAF PSYCHOTHERAPY, 881 Fremont Ave Suite B5, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Alessandra Landgraf, 881 Fremont Ave Suite B5, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/11/2026. /S/ Alessandra Landgraf / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 02/12/2026. (02-25-26,03-04,11,18-26)

University of East - West Medicine FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722878

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: University of East - West Medicine, 595 Lawrence Expressway, Sunnyvale, CA, 94085, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): University of Eastern and Western Medicine, 595 Lawrence Expressway, Sunnyvale, CA 94085. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/1998. /S/ Su Fang Tong / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/20/2026. (02-25-26,03-04,11,18-26)

HAIRCRAFT COTTAGE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723686

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: HAIRCRAFT COTTAGE, 186 Plaza S, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Naomi Marie Blackwood, 186

Plaza S, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/09/2026. /S/ Naomi Marie Blackwood / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 02/10/2026. (02-18,25-26,03-04,11-26)

PRECEPI FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723739

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: PRECEPI, 11665 Dawson Drive, Los Altos Hills, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): LABELOGY INC, 11665 Dawson Drive, Los Altos Hills, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/02/2026. /S/ Thomas Mei Hwang / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 02/11/2026. (02-18,25-26,03-04,11-26)

T.S. No. 117642-CA APN: 148-38-109 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 7/29/2016. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER On 3/18/2026 at 10:00 AM, CLEAR RECON CORP, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 8/2/2016 as Instrument No. 23388464 of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Santa Clara County, State of CALIFORNIA executed by: YINTAO YU, A SINGLE MAN WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, SAVINGS ASSOCIATION, OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE; AT THE GATED NORTH MARKET STREET ENTRANCE, SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE, 191 N. 1st Street, San Jose, CA 95113 all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: Lot 31 in Block 6 of University Park in the City of Mountain View, County of Santa Clara, State of California, as shown on Map filed Book M, Page 9 of Maps, in the Office of the County Recorder of said County. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 115 COLLEGE AVE, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or war-

ranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$558,906.22 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned or its predecessor caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (855) 313-3319 or visit this Internet website www.clearrecon-corp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 117642-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: Effective January 1, 2021, you may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this

right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855) 313-3319, or visit this internet website www.clearrecon-corp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 117642-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. FOR SALES INFORMATION: (855) 313-3319 CLEAR RECON CORP 3333 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 225 San Diego, California 92108 (02-18,25-26,03-04-26)

SOPHONYX FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723604

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SOPHONYX, 570 Cherry Ave, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Zhuo Wang, 570 Cherry Ave, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/01/2026. /S/ Zhuo Wang / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 02/06/2026. (02-18,25-26,03-04,11-26)

HYDRANGEA & COMPANY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723093

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: HYDRANGEA & COMPANY, 13941 Campo Vista Lane, Los Altos Hills, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: married couple. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Melanie K Moyer, 13941 Campo Vista Lane, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022, Steven W Batliner, 13941 Campo Vista Lane, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/07/2026. /S/ Melanie K.Moyer / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/26/2026. (02-18,25-26,03-04,11-26)

UTRAVELCO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723233

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: UTRAVELCO, 2880 Zanker Road, Suite 203, San Jose, CA, 95134, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence ad-

dress of the registrant(s) is (are): UTRAVELCO, INC., 1126 Summerwings Ct, San Jose, CA 95132. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/16/2026. /S/ Yen Bich Thang / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/29/2026. (02-18,25-26,03-04,11-26)

GERST FINANCIAL ENGINEERING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723522

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) GERST FINANCIAL ENGINEERING, (2) CLEANTEC BUSINESS SERVICES, 26120 W Fremont Rd, Los Altos Hills, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): GERST CAPITAL, LLC, 26120 W Fremont Rd, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/03/2007. /S/ Gregory J Gerst / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 02/05/2026. (02-11,18,25-26,03-04-26)

CHEIRON FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722638

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CHERION, 4970 El Camino Real, Suite 210, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): PHNYX LAB LLC, 4970 El Camino Real, Suite 210, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Donggi Lee / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/08/2026. (02-11,18,25-26,03-04-26)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: PATRICIA K. CUTKOSKY CASE NO. 26PR201809

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of PATRICIA K. CUTKOSKY. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by MARK R. CUTKOSKY in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MARK R. CUTKOSKY 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

Public Notices

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 as follows: 03/13/26 at 9:01AM in Dept. 7 located at 191 NORTH FIRST ST., 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
JANET L. BREWER - SBN 74181
LAW OFFICE OF JANET L. BREWER
4 MAIN STREET - SUITE 20
LOS ALTOS CA 94022
Telephone (650) 325-8276
2/11, 2/18, 2/25/26
CNS-4010757#
LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER
(02-11,18,25-26)

028-T

**COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
PETITION OF SONGYUAN LIN,
WENCHUN KU
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME
26CV485781**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
1. Petitioner: Songyuan Lin, Wenchun Ku filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name:
a. Dana Lin

Proposed Name:
a. Caitlin Chingyu Lin

2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and

must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING 05/12/2026 at 8:45 a.m. Room: Probate (b) The address of the court is: 191 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

3. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Altos Town Crier Date: 02/04/2026 /s/ Charles Adams Judge of the Superior Court (02-11,18,25-26,03-04-26)

027-T

**TAO & JIAYU HERBS &
ACUPUNCTURE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN723231**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: TAO & JIAYU HERBS & ACUPUNCTURE, 1287 Hammerwood Ave., Sunnyvale, CA, 94089, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): TAO XIE, 1287 Hammerwood Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94089. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/2025. /S/ Tao Xie / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/29/2026. (02-11,18,25-26,03-04-26)

026-T

**WORLDWIDE CHAUFFEURS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN723400**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: WORLDWIDE CHAUFFEURS, 80 Los Altos Sq, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): SOUTH BAY EXOTICS LLC, 186 E Gish Rd Unit #103, San Jose, CA 95112. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Cameron Crose / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 02/03/2026. (02-11,18,25-26,03-04-26)

025-T

**ALLIANCE LENDING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN723262**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ALLIANCE LENDING, 5450 Thornwood Dr #P, San Jose, CA, 95123, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): ALLIANCE GROUP & ASSOCIATES INC., 5450 Thornwood Dr #P, San Jose, CA 95123.

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/12/2013. /S/ Rameil Eyvaznejad / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/29/2026. (02-11,18,25-26,03-04-26)

024-T

**BREAKER BOYS ELECTRIC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN723214**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: BREAKER BOYS ELECTRIC, 200 Carlester Dr, Los Gatos, CA, 95032, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Russell T. Condie, 200 Carlester Dr, Los Gatos, CA 95032. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/28/2026. /S/ Russell T. Condie / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/28/2026. (02-11,18,25-26,03-04-26)

022-T

**Europa Crepes
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN723162**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Europa Crepes, 2444 Old Middlefield Way Ste. M, Mountain View, CA, 94043, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Doorstep Organics, Inc, 2444 Old Middlefield Wy Ste. M, Mountain View, CA 94043. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/23/2015. /S/ Antonis Giakoumis / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/27/2026. (02-04,11,18,25-26)

020-T

**LAMTA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN723044**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: LAMTA, 146 Main ST #103, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): LOS ALTOS MASONIC TEMPLE ASSOCIATION, 146 Main ST #103, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/29/1962. /S/ Patrik Korzinski / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/23/2026. (02-04,11,18,25-26)

019-T



**BECAUSE WE CARE GIFTS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN722351**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: BECAUSE WE CARE GIFTS, 8525 Burchell Rd, Gilroy, CA, 95020, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): LMC DIGITAL SOLUTIONS INC, 8525 Burchell Rd, Gilroy, CA 95020. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/24/2025. /S/ Larissa M Clark / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/24/2025. (02-04,11,18,25-26)

018-T

**SOFIT FITNESS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN722980**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SOFIT FITNESS, 1620 Palo Santo Dr, Campbell, CA, 95008, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Sophie Nicole Wilson, 1620 Palo Santo Dr, Campbell, CA 95008. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/08/2026. /S/ Sophie Wilson / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/22/2026. (02-04,11,18,25-26)

017-T

**LUNGO
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN723055**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: LUNGO, 137 E El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA, 94040, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): COMMON THAI LLC, 614 Central Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Somjed Wartrakchit / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/23/2026. (02-04,11,18,25-26)

016-T

\$40
is usually all it costs
to publish your
Fictitious Business
Name in the
Los Altos
Town Crier

Email
legals@latc.com
by 2pm on Thursday

Datebook

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

EVENTS

Los Altos Main Library. All events held in the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, unless otherwise indicated. **Monday Meditation & Mindfulness,** 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Los Altos Main Library, 7 p.m., Woodland Library, 1975 Grant Road. **Poetry Community Hour Open Mic,** 7 p.m., first Monday of every month. **Bay Area Games Day,** Monthly third Saturday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Join a full day of convention-style open gaming at the library. Learn how to play a new board game or bring an old favorite. **Oil Painting Exhibit,** Daily during library open hours. Belinda FC Lo's Oil Painting Exhibit will be on display for the month of February, featuring vibrant and spirited depictions of Taiwan's landscapes and cultural heritage.

Other events:

Living Classroom Docent Training, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mondays, March 9, 16 and 23. Los Altos School District iLearn Studio, 201 Covington Road, Los Altos. Do you like to connect kids with nature? Living Classroom is seeking volunteers to teach our fun nature-based lessons and/or help care for our school gardens. No experience necessary as we teach you everything you need to know. Please join us from 9:30am-12:30pm on Mondays 3/9, 3/16, and 3/23 at the LASD iLearn Studio for our Spring Docent Training. If Mondays don't work for you, please ask us about our apprentice-style training option. Questions? Please email livingclassroom@lasdschools.org or call 650-947-1103. Check us out at Living-ClassroomLASD.org!

CLUBS/GROUPS

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

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

Assistance League of Los Altos. Charitable organization benefiting youth of Santa Clara County. Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Located at Third and State streets. Information: (650) 941-2610, assistanceleague.org/losaltos.

Kiwanis Club of Los Altos. An international service organization. Meets at noon every Tuesday at the Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave. Information: (650) 735-1552, losaltoskiwanis.org.

Peninsula Harmony Chorus. A cappella chorus centered in Los Altos. Performs some "doo-wop" numbers from the 50s and 60s, plus show tunes, ballads, pop, folk, world music and holiday music at year end. Rehearsals Monday evenings at 7:15 p.m. at the Los Altos Lutheran Church. Information: peninsulaharmony.org.

GreenTown Los Altos. Nonpartisan group of citizens helping the communities of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills become more sustainable. Information: greentownlosaltos.org.

Foothills Amateur Radio Society. Amateur radio club serving Los Altos and local area. Meets 7 p.m. the fourth Friday of the month. Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos. Information: fars.k6ya.org.

Los Altos Las Madres Playgroups. Playgroups for moms and their babies five and under. Play dates in and around Los Altos. Expectant moms, new dads and other caregivers welcome. Information: (650) 917-9914, lasmadres.org.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Volunteer organization of boating enthusiasts who perform community service, including boating education, voluntary vessel inspections and boating operations. Not involved in military or law enforcement activities. Ages 17 and up. 7 p.m. second Tuesday of the month. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave. Information: (650) 941-5466.

Rotary Club of Los Altos. Service group. 12:15 p.m. Thursdays. Garden House at Shoup Park, 400 University Ave. Information: (650) 948-1455, losaltosrotary.org.

Electric Toasters. Toastmasters group. Noon to 1 p.m. today. Electric Power Research Institute, 3412 Hillview Ave., Palo Alto. Information: (650) 855-2270.

Los Altos Lodge No. 712 F. & A. M. 7:30 p.m. first Monday of the month. Los Altos Masonic Hall, 146 Main St. Information: (650) 941-6615.

Weekly meditation practice group. Based on Jack Kornfield's

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book "A Path with Heart." 7 a.m. Tuesdays. Foothills Congregational Church, Los Altos. Information: (650) 969-3452.

South Bay Storytellers. 7 p.m. third Sunday of the month. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave. Information: (650) 494-1383, (650) 917-1920, southbay-storytellers.com.

Vasa Order of America, Lindbergh Lodge. Organization for experiencing the Swedish culture, open to people of Scandinavian descent and their families. 6:30 p.m. second Friday of each month; supper 7 p.m. American Legion Hall, 347 First St., Los Altos. Information: (650) 948-7030, (650) 773-0199.

Mountain View Foothills International Training in Communication Club. 7 p.m. first and third Thursday of the month. Union Bank, El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Information: (650) 967-6466.

Mountain View Women's Club. Community service organization. Monthly meetings. Masonic Temple, 890 Church St. Information: (650) 967-1390.

Technology and Society Committee. 11:45 a.m. alternate Tuesdays. Golden Wok, 895 Villa St., Mountain View. Information: (650) 969-7215 (after 6 p.m.).

Quota Club of Mountain View. Noon first and third Thursdays of the month. Michael's at Shoreline, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Information: (650) 967-2964.

Optimist Club of Palo Alto-Mountain View. Luncheon meetings noon to 1:30 p.m. first and third Tuesdays of the month. Hyatt Rickey's, Palo Alto. Information: (650) 855-1847.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Mid-Peninsula Widows and Widowers Association. Helps people begin a new way of life following the loss of a spouse. 1:30-3 p.m. first Tuesday of the month and 7:30-9 p.m. remaining Tuesdays. Los Altos Lutheran Church, 460 S. El Monte Road. \$66 annually. Information: (408) 246-4642, mpwwa1.org.

Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing (GRASP). Support group provides compassion, understanding and help for individuals and families suffering the loss of a loved one as the result of drug use. 7-8:30 p.m. second Wednesday of the month. Los Altos Lutheran Church, 460 S. El Monte Ave. Information: eshow818@gmail.com.

Los Altos Al-Anon. Confidential support and tools for families and friends affected by another person's drinking. Noon Thursdays. Room 7, Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Road. district20afg.com.

Eating Disorders Resource Center. For individuals struggling with disordered eating and body image. 9:30-11 a.m. first and third Saturdays of the month. El Camino Hospital, Conference Room A, 2500 Grant Road, Mountain View. Free. edrcsv.org.

Cupertino Rotary Job Search Support Group. Open to the unemployed, employed, under-employed and career changers 18 or older. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays. St. Cyprian Elementary School Conference Center, 1133 W. Washington Ave., Sunnyvale. Information: (408) 735-0663, jimgibson007@aol.com.

Moving On. For those going through major life changes. Led by Paula Wolfson, LCSW of Avenidas. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Los Altos United Methodist Church, Garden Room, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Cosponsored by Avenidas and Senior New Ways. \$42. Information: (650) 289-5438; pwolfson@avenidas.org.

Amputee Support Group. A place to meet other amputees, gain support, hear guest speakers and have barbecues in the summer. Third Wednesday of each month. Cedar Crest Rehabilitation, 797 E. Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale. 968-7464; (408) 738-4880.

Ongoing Breast Cancer Support. Recovery, renewal and education for anyone who has completed breast cancer treatment and is focusing on continued physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. 5-6:30 p.m. second and fourth Mondays of the month. Free. (650) 326-6686.

Alzheimer's Association Portuguese/English Support Group. For families and caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Share common experiences, give and receive support, and discover ways of coping and caring. 5:30-7 p.m. third Tuesday of the month. Alzheimer's Association, 2065 W. El Camino Real, Suite C, Mountain View. (650) 962-8111.

Child Advocates of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Volunteers needed to mentor and speak up for abused and neglected children who have been placed in the foster-care system. (408) 416-0400.

Young Survivors Group. Weekly support for those 30-60 grieving the loss of a spouse. Facilitated by Sue Shaffer, Ed. D. MFT. 7-9 p.m. Mondays or Wednesdays. Sliding fees. (650) 323-1535; sueshaffer@aol.com.

Divorce Care. Recovery seminar for people who have experienced or are experiencing divorce. 7:30-9 p.m. second and fourth Wednesdays of the month in Los Altos. (650) 947-0846.

Center for Healing and Wellness. Support for children who have a parent with a serious illness. 2235 Grant Road, Suite 6, Los Altos. (650) 625-1987.

OBITUARY NOTICE

ARLENE KRAMER



July 20, 1936 -
February 7, 2026

Arlene passed away, February 7, 2026, age 89 years. Beloved wife of Frank Kramer. Loving mother to her four children and their spouses, Linda Alexander, of Portland, OR, Dean & Jennifer Kramer, of Grants Pass, OR, Nancy Kramer Popp of San Carlos, CA and Lori Kramer of Fairfax, CA. Arlene is also loved by eight grandchildren, Chris & Angela Alexander, Lucas Popp, Benjamin Berman, Allison Popp, Julia Berman, Joseph Kramer, Stephanie Popp and two great-grandchildren, Julian Alexander, Liam Alexander, and her sweet dog Roman.

Arlene was born in Oakland, CA, to Joseph and Edith Lemos and grew up in Hayward, CA.

Arlene was a switchboard operator at the FBI, teacher's aide at Miss Joan's Preschool, manager at the Le Boulanger, rummage sale organizer at St. Williams Church, volunteer at the Discovery Shop, volunteer for maternity discharges at El Camino Hospital, a devoted neighbor and resident of Mountain View, CA.

A funeral service will be held at the Villa Siena Chapel on Saturday, March 7th at 9:30 a.m., Reception to follow in the Activity Room, 1855 Miramonte Avenue, Mountain View. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Villa Siena.

MARIAN CHRISTENSEN



October 14, 1928 -
November 14, 2025

Marian Christensen, a longtime resident of Los Altos, passed away after a very short stay in the hospital, Nov. 14th, 2025, peacefully at the age of 97.

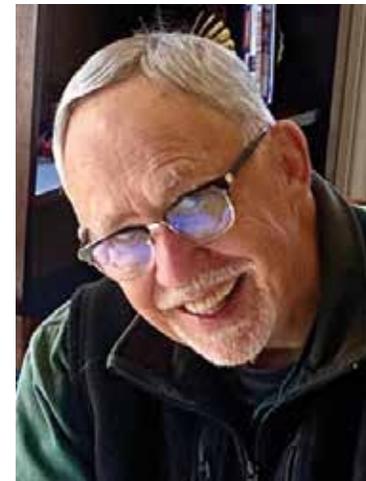
Born in Sacramento, California, on October 14, 1928, to Doyle and Helen Peckham. Marian grew up in Taft with her brother, Harry. She married William "Bill" Christensen on February 29, 1948, and settled in Los Altos in 1949.

Together they built their family home in Los Altos and raised their daughter, Sue, and their son, Dennis. Sue resides in San Jose, California, and has two children and a granddaughter. Dennis lives in Anchorage, Alaska and has one son. Marian was known for her love of God, music, and her creativity. As a musician she enjoyed opera, the symphony and musical productions. She regularly attended Peninsula Bible Church in Cupertino, participating in bible studies, volunteering in the front office.

Marian's steadfast faith, gentle humor, and devotion to family, enriched the lives of everyone who knew her.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 28th, at 10:30 a.m. at Peninsula Bible Church Cupertino (PBCC), with a reception to follow.

BRYAN WILLARD



March 5, 1951 -
January 30, 2026

Bryan was born on March 5, 1951 in Chicago, Illinois to Margaret P. McCauley. He attended St. Elizabeth's Day Home, St. Joseph School, Bellarmine College Prep, and Santa Clara University, earning a BA and MBA. In the late 1970s, Bryan volunteered with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Merced, opening a credit union to provide financial services to underserved communities.

He married his wife, Barbara on December 20, 1980 and had three children. Bryan had a career in business management, working at Owens-Illinois, Memorex and Four-Phase Motorola. He retired from Lockheed Martin in 2016 as program manager in the THAAD Missile Program. Bryan was a faithful fan of the 49ers, Giants, Golden State Warriors, and Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

Bryan is survived by his wife, Barbara, children, Michael, Kate, and Andrew, daughters-in-law, Monique and Jaqueline, and granddaughter, Rosella. Bryan was known for his warmth, compassion, and selflessness. He considered it a privilege to care for his mother-in-law, Kathryn B. Meihaus, during the final eight years of her life at their home in Napa.

A funeral mass will take place on March 7 at 1 PM at Mission Santa Clara, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, 95053. A Visitation will be held on February 19th from 3-5 PM at Claffey and Rota Funeral Home, 1975 Main St. Napa, CA 94559.



OBITUARY NOTICE

Laura Joan White



April 13, 1943 –
January 21, 2026

Laura Joan White, 82, passed peacefully into eternity at her home in Los Altos, California. Laura was born in Lewiston, Idaho, to Walter Charles and Martha Katherine McWilliams. Her father was a doctor who specialized in diabetes and her mother was a nurse, as well as a fantastic cook and homemaker. She grew up as an only child until age nine, when her little sister Paula was born. Four years later, she welcomed another little sister, Claudia. She adored her two sisters and took care of them regularly. As a family, they moved no fewer than 12 times during her formative years, including three moves in a single year. Some of her favorite childhood memories included living in Seattle, Washington, in a lovely colonial house and in Santa Cruz, California, right on the beach. Laura loved school and always made excellent grades. She would even sneak off to school when she was sick, because she couldn't stand to miss out on her classes.

After high school, she attended Oregon State University, graduating in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in education. She loved her college years immensely. She was very involved in the theater program at OSU, earning many leading roles in their productions. She was even awarded the Best Supporting Actress in 1964. Laura met Bart Miaullis at Oregon State University, and they married in August 1965. A few years later, they moved to Mountain View, California, before eventually settling in Los Altos.

In 1969, they were blessed with a son, Aaron. They later adopted a little girl, Angie, who tragically passed away at age three. In 1975, they welcomed another daughter, Kathy. Laura became a Catholic when the children were young, and helped teach CCD, a "Sunday

School" program for children at the church. After their divorce, Laura returned to school to earn her California teaching credential. She went on to teach elementary school for 12 years, touching the lives of countless students with her patience, enthusiasm, and commitment to learning. Her students loved her, and she cared deeply not only about their education but also about their welfare and happiness.

Laura married Paul White in April of 1989. They thoroughly enjoyed life together, spending their retirement years gardening, doing art projects and attending plays and concerts. Their home and yard were filled with original paintings and woodcarvings by Paul, as well as homemade tiles and pottery by Laura—often crafted from repurposed items. They lived simply in the heart of the Silicon Valley, and visitors were immediately struck by the creativity displayed in their original and charming artwork.

Some notable things about Laura were her ability to make people burst into laughter, either accidentally, or by telling one of her epic stories. She was a master storyteller and could effortlessly entertain a crowd. Also, a prolific writer, she filled volumes of binders and manila folders with personal writings and journal entries that would captivate any audience. She loved to read and was very widely read. She was the queen of encouragement when you needed a nudge in the right direction. She was religious when it came to devoting herself to exercise and eating healthy. Finally, she was well known by local residents for riding around town on her trademark fat tire tricycle.

In her final decade, Laura joined a local Community Bible Study, which she thoroughly enjoyed. She read through the entire Bible at least five times and was deeply comforted and encouraged especially after the loss of her husband Paul in 2018. She truly came to cherish her times of reading and studying the scriptures and was constantly in awe of God's goodness and kindness towards her. She prayed for all her family and friends faithfully.

Laura is survived by her two sisters, Paula and Claudia; her devoted son, Aaron; her loving daughter, Kathy; and twelve cherished grandchildren (half of whom are Paul White's grandchildren).

Bernard M. Bayer



June 16, 1926 -
February 13, 2026

Bernard M. Bayer, a longtime resident of Los Altos, passed away peacefully on February 13, 2026, at age 99. Born in Washington D.C. on June 16, 1926, Bernie was the youngest of eight children. After serving in the Army at the end of WWII, he settled in California, graduating from Sacred Heart in San Francisco and attending St. Mary's College.

In 1952, Bernie married his beloved Dolores, with whom he shared 58 years of marriage and four children. A natural storyteller with an outgoing spirit, Bernie enjoyed a long career as a sales representative for McKesson & Robbins, becoming a familiar face at Los Altos and Kahn's Corner Pharmacies.

Bernie was a devout member of St. Simon's Church, a St. Francis High School Booster, and attended Los Altos events. He was known for his generous spirit, his love of gardening, and his devotion to his family. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dolores (2010), and his seven siblings.

He is survived by his children: Bernadette (Richard) Supan, Ken (Vikki), John, and Larry Bayer; three grandchildren, Ray (Vanessa), Valerie, and Joe; and two great-grandchildren, Haylee and Kevin. "Grandpa Bernie" will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, March 2nd at 10:00 a.m. at St. Simon Catholic Church, 1860 Grant Road, Los Altos, CA 94024. Burial will follow at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 22555 Cristo Rey Drive, Los Altos, CA 94024.

Ben Johnson



October 13, 1931 -
February 5, 2026

Benjamin Franklin Johnson III, 94, passed away on February 5, 2026 at his home in Los Altos Hills, California. He moved to Los Altos in 1965. Ben was born to Benjamin Franklin Johnson Jr., and Charlotte Malboeuf on October 13, 1931, and a descendant of Richard S. Perkins, one of the founders of Portland, Oregon. Ben was raised in Portland and in Lebanon, Oregon, a lumber town. After losing his father at the age of seventeen, Ben graduated from Lincoln High School in Oregon and enrolled at Stanford University in 1949. There, he soon became a life-long friend of Tad Taube, a fellow dormmate at Encina Hall, with whom he would later become a business partner at Woodmont Properties for four decades.

At Stanford, he joined the Sigma Nu fraternity and earned a bachelor's degree in economics, an MBA, and served in the ROTC. After graduating, he served two years in Korea as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He returned to Stanford earning a master's degree in Stanford's newly established computer programming department and, during that time, he met Sylvia Ghelardi, also a student at Stanford. To support himself while studying, he played piano at Rudolfo's in Palo Alto. A classically trained pianist, Ben was exceptionally talented, could play by ear, and masterfully performed both traditional music and his beloved tunes from the 1920's and 1930's.

In 1959, he married Sylvia. They had four children. Amongst their many memories, Ben's children fondly remember their father as an amateur magician who delighted them and other Los Altan children

at Marion Jackston's Main Street clothes shop with his magic shows. An aficionado of mathematics, he frequently amused himself and his family by solving math problems in his head. During their sixty-six year marriage, Ben and Sylvia enjoyed traveling all over the world, embarking on international bike trips, an African safari, treks through the Panamanian cloud forest, and tours of the Egyptian pyramids. An avid photographer, he returned home with scores of photographs, many of which he developed himself in his home darkroom. His passing has left his family forever grateful for all that he gave them.

Ben is survived by his wife, his children, Catherine, Victoria, David (Achel), and Sarah and his grandchildren, Wilson, Charlotte (Evan), Benjamin, Nathan, and Imogene, his sister, Susan Webb, and her children, Lawrence, Christopher, and Whitney.

Janis Robin Wright Tjader



September 16, 1953 -
November 26, 2025

Janis Tjader, 72, passed away Nov. 26, 2025. A 2014 Teacher of the Year at Oak School, Janis taught for 23 years with a dedicated combination of high expectations and a loving heart. She was a prankster, a tap-dancing adventurer, and a devoted wife and grandmother.

She faced Inclusion Body Myositis (IBM) with quiet strength and dignity. Donations to The Myositis Association (myositis.org) are requested in her memory.

Survived by husband Gary, children Nicolaus and Katherine, and four grandchildren.

The family will hold a private celebration of life.





Congratulations!

Alexander Lewicki

SILVAR PRESIDENT-ELECT & DELEON DIRECTOR OF LISTINGS



The DeLeon Team is proud to congratulate Alexander Lewicki on being named the 2026 President-Elect of the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors.

With more than 4,000 members, SILVAR is the preeminent real estate organization in the Bay Area, overseeing the ethics of its Realtor members while championing the legal and property rights of homeowners across the state.

Alexander's legal background has contributed to his meteoric rise into leadership within organized real estate. In his professional role, Ken DeLeon and Michael Repka have selected Alexander to lead DeLeon Realty's listings in

Los Altos and Los Altos Hills. His singular focus, depth of market knowledge, and leadership within the industry make Alexander an invaluable resource to clients and colleagues alike.

SILVAR and its leadership team devote countless hours toward the excellence of the profession, to the benefit of both Realtors and the public at large. All of this work is on a volunteer basis, and much of it, unfortunately, goes without recognition. We would also like to congratulate outgoing President Tammie Peters, 2026 President Stacey Woods, Treasurer Jim Hamilton, and the rest of the SILVAR leadership team for their commitment to excellence.

Alexander Lewicki (DRE #02189814) 650.847.7407 | alexander@deleonrealty.com

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