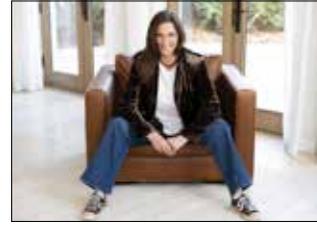




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Los Altos Town Crier

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

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WEDNESDAY • February 4, 2026

Students protest ICE violence



MAX ASMAR/TOWN CRIER INTERN AND MATTHEW LEE ASIONG/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Hundreds of Los Altos High School students walked out of their classes last Friday in what student organizers said was a response to violence from federal immigration enforcement. Student signs condemned what many students saw as state-sanctioned murder. For more, turn to page 4.

Local officials say they won't aid ICE with enforcement at Super Bowl

By Giuseppe Ricapito
Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

Officials in Mountain View and Los Altos said police will not assist federal agents with immigration enforcement ahead of Super Bowl LX, which is being held at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara on Feb. 8.

Gabriel Engeland, city manager of Los Altos, said state law and department policy barred police from taking any actions to determine an individual's immigration status or participate in immigration enforcement.

"The city of Los Altos understands that many community members may feel anxious, uncertain, or worried, due to recent events. The police department is committed to community safety and holding those who commit crimes accountable," he said in an email.

Bay Area officials are apprehensive of a potential surge in federal immigration enforcement at the Super Bowl, not just in Santa Clara, but in San Francisco, on the Peninsula and in the East Bay. In October, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, abbreviated as ICE, would be "all over" the Super Bowl. And on Jan. 27, the San Jose Spotlight reported San Jose Councilmem-

ber Peter Ortiz said that he saw an internal Homeland Security memo indicating ICE agents were scheduled to arrive at Moffett Federal Airfield in Mountain View on Feb. 6, further stoking public indignation and unease.

ICE has become the target of mounting public uproar after Renee Good, an American citizen, was fatally shot by an ICE agent in Minneapolis on Jan. 7, and Alex Pretti, an American citizen, was shot and killed by an agent of United States Customs and Border Protection in Minneapolis on Jan. 24.

Lenka Wright, chief communications officer for Mountain View, said the city was not aware of any enforcement operations being undertaken by ICE during the Super Bowl.

"The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has confirmed that ICE personnel will be present at the championship game as they were 10 years ago for SB 50," she said. "The Mountain View Police Department does not participate in federal civil immigration sweeps and will not detain or arrest anyone on the basis of their citizenship or status under civil immigration laws. Immigration status is never a factor in MVPD's interaction

See SUPER BOWL, Page 4

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Around Town

Los Altos High seeks football coaches



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Los Altos High School is looking for two coaches for the football program for the upcoming fall 2026 season. If interested, call head coach Mark Adams at (650) 996 1864 or email MarkW-Adams64@gmail.com.



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News

Los Altos city council talks vacancy options

By Christina Casillas

Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

Los Altos City Council began discussions of how to deal with a vacant fifth seat last week.

No decision was made on the discussion item, and discussions of how – or if – City Council will fill it before the seat is open for election in November are set for future City Council meetings.

The vacancy was created by Santa Clara County Assessor Neysa Fligor’s resignation from City Council Jan. 13.

However, one thing is certain, according to City Manager Gabriel Engeland: Los Altos will not be filing for an election on the June 2 ballot.

“The next available election date is in November, which is when the term of the vacancy expires,” Engeland said in a message to the Town Crier.

A June 2 election would have cost the city approximately \$96,393, City Clerk Melissa Thurman told council members. Thurman would have had to submit needed documents to the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters by 5 p.m. Wednesday (Jan. 28), and the results of the election wouldn’t have been certified until July 3.

An appointment is another option the council is considering, but council members leaned toward leaving the seat vacant.

“I have encountered profound concern (from members of the public) about shenanigans,” Councilmember Pete Dailey said during the council discussion. “Let me just say, there will be people who like whomever is appointed, and there will be people who will not like whoever is appointed. Our situation is further complicated by districts.”

Dailey noted that there have been concerns about appointment, especially because the city will be transitioning from at-large to by-district voting in November.

Councilmember Jonathan Weinberg “didn’t disagree” with Dailey’s assessment, adding that the June election was too costly – he said he wanted to focus on what was in the best interest of the city, and for him, there was no issue with leaving the seat vacant and operating with four city council members.

“We’ve got some big issues coming up this year, and it’s good to get more perspectives on them,” Weinberg said. “But at the same time, I’m sure that we’ll have some 2-2 votes throughout the year, but for the most part, I don’t think that’s going to be holding up city business so I don’t feel that we have to have a fifth member up here in order to get done the minimum plus a little bit more.”

Vice Mayor Larry Lang added that a 2-2 vote is still a decision,

See VACANCY, Page 6

LAHS students protest ICE



MATTHEW LEE ASIONG/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Los Altos High School students gather against ICE at Veterans Community Plaza in downtown Los Altos.

By Giuseppe Ricapito

Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

More than 200 Los Altos High School students marched out of campus Friday morning in protest of federal immigration enforcement.

“We are not just upset, we are angry,” said Lara Tait, one of the sophomore organizers of the walkout.

Just before 10 a.m., students marched from the main quad at Los Altos High School, along Almond Avenue and through downtown where they gathered en masse in Veterans Community Plaza. Tait carried a megaphone and led zealous call-and-response chants with the students. One of the main refrains throughout the march was, “Walk out, ICE out!”

Valerie Zhou, one of the sophomore organizers, read a poem she had written the night be-

fore.

“We put this together in less than 36 hours just because we care,” she said. “Just speak for what you believe in because people will rally behind.”

The protest aligned with a national walkout and general strike protesting Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a federal agency which has been widely condemned for its use of force in Minnesota in the last month. Two American citizens, Renee Good and Alex Pretti, were shot and killed by federal agents in the past month.

Tait, Zhou and sophomore Tilly Burgart put together an Instagram page called “losaltoswalkout” to spread word of the event to Los Altos High School students. The page – which garnered 260 followers by Friday afternoon –

See PROTEST, Page 5

SUPER BOWL

From Page 1

with the community.”

Wright added that Mountain View officials were not involved in Moffett Field operations and did not expect any contact with federal law enforcement personnel. Moffett Federal Airfield is a military and civil airport in unincorporated Santa Clara County, north of Mountain View and Sunnyvale.

“The city looks forward to celebrating game week, culminating with a welcoming and family-friendly environment at the Mountain View Fan Fest in downtown Mountain View on Saturday, Feb. 7,” Wright said.

But officials – and the public – remain wary. An online petition on Move On titled “NFL: No ICE at the 2026 Super Bowl” had garnered more than 173,000 signatures



RYAN CANDELARIA/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

The Super Bowl, set to be held at Levi's Stadium, will have ICE agents present.

as of Friday.

Santa Clara County Sheriff Bob Jonsen said in a press conference on Jan. 29, “We will not be working or supporting ICE Im-

migration Enforcement.” He also urged federal officials to inform local officials of any plans.

On Jan. 25, San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie said in a statement, “We will continue to uphold San Francisco’s longstanding policies that keep local law enforcement focused on keeping our city safe – not federal immigration enforcement. If you see SFPD on the street, they are there to keep you safe, not to assist immigration enforcement.”

On Jan. 29, Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee signed executive orders to reaffirm the police department’s operation independence – she said the city would create a “protect the town task force,” and prohibit federal officials from using Oakland city property as staging areas for immigration enforcement.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta

and Governor Gavin Newsom also issued a statement last week which said federal agents could be prosecuted for violations of state law.

“California stands ready to take all necessary steps to investigate potentially unlawful conduct by federal agents that occurs on our soil, and where the facts warrant, file charges for violations of the California Penal Code,” Bonta said in the statement.

County officials have shared contact information for the Rapid Response Network in Santa Clara County (RRN), “a coalition of 10 nonprofit organizations and one directly impacted community group working together to provide deportation defense and community support,” to report ICE activity.

The Rapid Response Network can be reached at (408) 290-1144.

Neysa Fligor sworn in as county assessor



Larry Stone, former county assessor, swears in Neysa Fligor as Santa Clara County Assessor last week.

By Christina Casillas

Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

Neysa Fligor, former Los Altos vice mayor, was sworn in as Santa Clara County Assessor on Jan. 26.

Her election came after the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors earlier that day certified her win and the results of the Dec. 30, 2025 runoff special election. She serves as the 23rd Santa Clara County Assessor.

“I am excited and honored to be the next Santa Clara County Assessor,” she was quoted in a press release. “Along with the amazing team in the Assessor’s Office, I will work to ensure that the Assessor’s Office continues to work for taxpayers and residents. I am ready to get started on day one.”

Fligor, the only candidate for the position who was a certified California State Board of Equalization Property Tax Appraiser, previously served as an attorney for the Assessor’s Office, special assistant and, most recently, assistant assessor. She brought expertise from her Georgetown Law School degree, and will serve as the first Black female assessor in the state of California.

Fligor was sworn in during the ceremony by previous assessor Larry Stone, whose retirement from the position required the special election. During the time between the election and Stone’s

PHOTO COURTESY OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY ASSESSOR’S OFFICE
retirement, Greg Monteverde served as acting assessor. He will return to his previous position of assistant assessor.

“It has been an honor to lead the office and serve as Assessor during this time of change, and I am excited to pass the torch to Neysa,” he was quoted in the press release. “I am confident that her integrity, intelligence, and compassion, combined with our support, will provide for the continued success of our office. I look forward to resuming my traditional duties as assistant assessor, as well as managing the implementation process for the new technology solution.”

During the swearing in, Fligor said her priorities include fair, legal, accurate assessments and community engagement.

She previously told the Town Crier that she plans to implement skills she honed in during her time on Los Altos City Council – including listening and encouraging community engagement – in her new role.

Fligor added she will continue to increase the Assessor’s Office’s technology capabilities, which she began to do in 2024 when the office began the process of acquiring and implementing more modern tech.

“It will result in faster service, higher data quality, improved access, enhanced security and ultimately improved service delivery to the public,” she was quoted in the release.

affected personally,” “ICE is best crushed” and “Students against ICE.”

“It’s so cool that so many people showed up,” said Frankie Bengtson, a junior. “Even if it doesn’t change much it shows we can do something if we do it together.”

A rally in Mountain View started at 600 students and grew close to nearly 1,000, said Mountain View High School Principal Kip Glazer in an email.

“I want to express my profound gratitude to our Spartans for obeying the law and being so respectful,” she said.

PROTEST

From Page 4

urged students to “don’t just walk out, speak out.” It also shared that the organizers had received assurances from school administrators that absences would be excused for participating in the event.

“Students across the country are standing together,” Burgart said. “We’re all a family.”

Many of the students carried homemade signs. Some read, “Privilege is when you think something isn’t a problem because you aren’t



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News

Los Altos substation chugs along

By **Christina Casillas**
Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

A Los Altos Police substation near Loyola Corners is one step closer to existence as the city starts the bidding process for construction on the building the city has set aside for the substation.

According to Steven Son, Los Altos capital improvements manager, there has been interest from more than 20 companies in the project, which is currently in the advertisement phase.

The substation is set to be located at 999 Fremont Ave. (across from Tom's Depot Cafe in south Los Altos). The city acquired the lot for \$2.8 million in January 2020 from then-property owner Gregg Bunker. Plans for the space were drawn out because of the pandemic, but the idea of making the space a substation started approximately four years ago.

In addition to installing fire-rated walls, required because the substation has sleeping quarters for police personnel, other changes are needed, Son said.

"We're basically making improvements to the interior of the building for the police department's utilization," Son said. "And we're also making some modifications to the electricals as well as the mechanicals as it pertains to the HVAC, upgrades to the water heater. We're putting in charging

stations for (the police department's) anticipated EV patrol cars that they need to start purchasing. So we're trying to put all the infrastructure in place."

Currently, plans for the substation include bunks for officers to sleep, a kitchenette, office spaces for when officers need to fill out paper work or reports and community rooms where meetings with the public can be held.

Construction plans were approved by the city's building department and the Santa Clara County Fire Department last year – initially, a request for bids was expected to go out in September, according to previous Town Crier reporting. Son said delays in the city's request for bids came from a lack of resources – specifically, a lack of time.

Because the project is expected to cost between \$130,000 and \$150,000, Son said staff will need to present the project to council for approval.

"I'm hoping that by the time it gets awarded by council, that the project is started by, I'm hoping, March or April," Son said. "Just because we open bid, we can't just give it to the lowest bidder. We have to set them out, and then council has to award it. It takes a little bit of time for us to get before council. Once the council has awarded the project, it takes time for us to finalize the contract."

VACANCY

From Page 4

and he noted that decisions will still be made based on wording with that vote.

"It's not like things would stall for 12 months, so we can still reach decisions on behalf of the city," he said. "That's not to say we won't have (split votes), we've had them in the past, but we've also been able to work well together through that."

While Lang noted that adding another perspective onto the council will be beneficial, he also noted the process of bringing someone on, from interviews and applications, can be time-consuming. Mayor Sally Meadows echoed his sentiments, adding that an appointment would also be burdensome on city staff.

"It's staff time to train, presumably, someone who (is not) necessarily versed on what we're managing right now, but there (are) other things about being a council person, and whatever else – the Brown Act, catching up on some of the closed session things," she said. "It's a huge amount of time. I do think we can manage, some of it's agenda management, and some of it is also in our norms."

Meadows suggested that when council looks at the norms at the next meeting, that they think of what they can build into the process to ensure when council doesn't feel comfortable making a decision that they can tailor it or make a substitute motion.

"We don't want to kill anything inadvertently because, if we are at four, it is going to be 2-2," she said.

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News

MV planning commission apartment development

Mixed-use building with 460 apartment units proposed for Middlefield Road

By Giuseppe Ricapito

Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

The Mountain View Environmental Planning Commission has approved plans for an eight-story, mixed-use building with 460 apartments and 9,371 square feet of ground floor commercial space at 490 East Middlefield Road.

The commission voted 6-1 at a meeting on Jan. 21 to advance the project from applicant Jeffrey Stone of WTA Middlefield, a development company based in Menlo Park. Commissioner Jose Gutierrez cast the dissenting vote. Located on a 2.86-acre site in the primarily commercial East Whisman neighborhood at the intersection of East Middlefield Road and Ellis Street, the development would replace an occupied two-story office building.

“Even the modern yuppie needs a place to live,” said Chair Alex Nunez.

A formal application was submitted on Feb. 11, 2025 and deemed complete on Sept. 26, 2025.

Gutierrez said his concerns were based primarily around the potential price of the units.

“But these two people here, Alex and me, our numbers are growing smaller and smaller in the city because of affordability,” he said. “It’s always an issue of cost.”

The property includes 230 studio apartments, 201 one-bedroom units, 29 two-bedroom units and an at-grade podium parking garage. The commercial level is divided into four business spaces, covered retail courtyards,

a residential lobby and utility rooms. Over all floors, the building comprises 391,775 square feet. The building height maxes out at 85 feet. The maximum building height for the zoning area is 95 feet.

The property utilizes the state bonus density law to allow for the amount of units and their density. The state density bonus law mandates cities allow the construction of additional residential units beyond zoning thresholds if the development meets increased standards. The applicant has designated 55 of the units for lower income households at a below-market rate level.

Additionally, the property was eligible for the density bonus for \$1.1 million in what are known as community benefit fees; providing three studio units at 90% of area median income and two one-bedroom units at 100% of area median income for 10 to 15 year; \$1.2 million for ground-floor retail tenant improvements to promote small and local business viability; \$1.2 million of funding to support acquisition or improvement of recreation facilities in the vicinity of the project and an all-electric building design excepting public installations that may use natural gas.

The property has 465 residential parking spots and 34 commercial parking spots. The plan also includes a permit request to remove 29 heritage trees, but plant 173 new trees.

“This is dense housing in an area of the city where we need dense housing,” said Commissioner Hank Dempsey. “It’s a lovely building of a type that we need and it’s in a neighborhood where we really need it. And that is a good thing that is worth supporting by itself.”

MV, LAMVCF establish \$1 million affordable housing fund

By Giuseppe Ricapito

Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

Mountain View is staking \$1 million in a new partnership with the nonprofit Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation (LAMVCF) to advance the development of affordable housing.

The Mountain View City Council voted unanimously at a meeting on Jan. 27 to appropriate the seed money from its below market rate housing fund and establish the initiative, which is intended to fund new construction projects, acquire or rehabilitate existing housing and fund homebuyer programs. The \$1 million is also intended as a fundraising mechanism intended to attract private and philanthropic contributions for affordable housing projects.

“This is a way for ordinary people to contribute to the development of affordable housing. I’m really pleased to

see this creative mechanism set up so that you or I or anybody you know could donate 10 dollars or 10 thousand dollars or a million dollars to this fund and help with what’s really one of the major crises of our time, which is affordable housing,” City Councilmember Pat Showalter said.

The initiative is aligned with programs in the city’s Housing Element, a planning document intended to guide the development of new housing in the city through 2031. According to a state mandate, the city must plan for the development of more than 11,000 new units by that year.

The city will maintain control over the use of the funds to achieve affordable housing goals, according to a staff report. The grant agreement also allows the city to request the return of the funds if the fund has not “substantially advanced its goal to attract philanthropic donations.”

“We believe that generous people with bold ideas

is how change happens and I think this is a good example of this coming to fruition,” said Jon Cowan, LAMVCF board member, at the meeting.

LAMVCF will provide transparent reporting and oversight aligned with the city’s housing goals, according to a press release from the nonprofit. LAMVCF, founded in 1995, distributed \$2.1 million in community grants in 2025, according to the nonprofit’s website. It also distributed \$76.7 million over 37 donor-advised funds.

“The Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation is honored to partner with the city to expand housing opportunities for residents and the local workforce,” said CEO Crysta Krames. “This fund invites private donors and civic partners to help keep Mountain View inclusive and welcoming for all.”

The below market rate housing fund has \$26.4 million, according to the city’s 2025-2026 budget.

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Comment

Letters to the Editor

Hills needs resident involvement

Compliance with the state's housing mandate is the most significant challenge facing Los Altos Hills, yet, most residents have little or no knowledge of its potential impact on the rural nature of our town.

We have many standing committees, but we have no Housing Element Committee. We need resident involvement. LAH has many capable residents who are willing to contribute: architects, builders, environmental experts, and others knowledgeable about the state requirements. LAH residents have real skin in the game to meet the Housing Element goals in a way that is positive for the development of the town and deserve an opportunity to participate in that process. A

standing committee would also improve both perception and reality of the transparency of the decision making process. Residents from every area of town want to be part of such a committee.

The council is suggesting an ad hoc committee. We disagree. The normal role of an ad hoc committee is to address short term projects. There is no notice of meetings, no published minutes and no oversight.

A standing committee is subject to the Brown Act. Meetings are noticed so that residents can attend and participate. Minutes are recorded so all residents can access them and understand the issues. It provides residents more opportunity to express ideas and for the council to get better input. It is critical that you attend the February

council meeting. Together we can forge a path forward that is collaborative and inclusive and supported by the community.

Cheryl Evans
Los Altos Hills

Bruce Barton's celebration is well deserved

I was thrilled that Bruce Barton was honored by the city of Los Altos for his 32 years as the Town Crier Editor-in-Chief, and that he was also named "Los Altos of the Year" by the Town Crier.

I couldn't agree more that Barton put together a paper that kept the reader engaged and informed. My husband and I have been reading the Town Crier every week since we moved to Los Altos in 1991. We have always been impressed by the wealth of information about local news/events and goings-on in this town that we have grown to love so much.

Although I never actually met Barton, I had many email interactions with him over the past several years. As a volun-

teer with Citizens' Climate Lobby since 2014, I submitted multiple climate-related letters and OpEds to Barton. He was always supportive of my volunteer endeavors and published almost everything that I sent his way. He also published several letters from other local CCL volunteers. To get that kind of recognition from the Town Crier was very much appreciated. I will forever be grateful to Barton for this, as he helped to raise awareness about the need for action on climate change.

I wish Barton the best as he enjoys his well-deserved retirement years!

Paula Danz
Los Altos

The rat dilemma

My friends, we've got trouble right here in Altos city with a capital T and it rhymes with p and it stands for pests. We've gotta figure out a way to kill the rats – and keep the ecos happy too.

It's time to write your state senators and state reps (not federal) and bring back the poison for the rats before they

destroy every car, get into every house, eat all your wires and bring disease.

Please don't write me about the owls. If they were doing their job, as you keep promising us, we wouldn't have these problems. We would have dead rats. I have tried all the suggestions; however, glue traps caught my nuthatch, large snapping traps caught my white crown sparrow and a towhee. I love owls, but why are they more important than the perchers?

I've paid thousands to my rat guy to seal everything. He said this is the worst infestation he's seen in his 25 years. With one poison brick I can kill multiple rats and maybe one owl – or maybe not even an owl. It seems much better than multiple sparrows. Using peppermint spray just pushes them to your neighbors. Is that what you want?

Write and bring back the bricks. Please!

The state Senator for Los Altos is Josh Becker, and state Representative is Marc Berman.

Diane Brauch
Los Altos Hills

Letters to the Editor

The Town Crier welcomes letters to the editor on current events pertinent to Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View. Email letters to christinac@latc.com. Letters should be no more than 200 words. Include a phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be printed.



Los Altos Town Crier

Serving the Greater Los Altos Community since 1947

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Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

Guests enjoy fresh Dungeness crab at the Los Altos History Museum's annual Crab Feed fundraiser, circa 2018. The Crab Feed's 32 consecutive year run ended in 2019. The event was usually held on the night before the Super Bowl; leftover crab was always available for guests to take home for snacks during the game on Sunday.

Community

This year's Silicon Valley Reads focuses on political polarization

By Sachin Chandran
Town Crier Editorial Intern

The Santa Clara County Library District's annual Silicon Valley Reads is under way, set to run through March.

Now in its 23rd year, the program offers events at libraries throughout the district – including the Los Altos Library. The program kicked off Jan. 15.

This year's theme, "Bridges to Belonging," addresses political polarization through topical literature, SVR director Reid Myers said.

"We decided that the concept of bridging the community was really important because it is a divisive time right now," Myers said. "There is a lot of anxiety, frustration and concern. Rather than separating, we want to bring people together, have them talk, have them play and have them do activities

together, so that they can come to a common ground."

Devised by the county's library district and department of education, SVR aims to enrich the community with art and literature, engaging in conversations surrounding it with an annual theme, board member Cindy Hill said.

"Over 20 years ago, the county decided that it would be great to have one book that everybody could read and then talk about," said Hill, a career librarian. "The county library system and the department of education decided to expand that to not just one book, but make it a theme. It gives people choices, rather than all of us having to fit into reading one specific book."

Since its inception, the program has expanded substantially, now featuring more than 250 events across the county, Myers said. To accommodate this growth, SVR has shifted



COURTESY OF SILICON VALLEY READS

Silicon Valley Reads is underway and will run through March, including at the Los Altos Library.

toward larger-scale topics that affect the most people, Myers added.

"There are so many things that libraries do that can be described as a bridge to belonging," Myers said. "We try to do a lot of different programming and make it as general as we can, because we want to engage

as many community members as possible. (To do so), we have shifted toward having more broad themes."

Comprising these 250 events is a diverse range of community building activities including book clubs, art, author visits and more, Myers said.

"We have an art exhibit that

was part of our kickoff called 'A Sense of Belonging,' and it was beautiful," Myers said. "(There is) all sorts of beautiful art about belonging, so we do all sorts of events and programming around the theme."

In practice, Myers noted that

READS, Page 10



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READS From Page 9

SVR has made a profound impact on the community, providing residents with an avenue to build connections with people around them. Additionally, it enables them to consume literature which they may never come across on their own, according to Myers.

“A lot of times, people will read our books and they will say, ‘I would never ordinarily read that book, but I loved it,’” Myers said. “I think Silicon Valley Reads really does push people outside of their reading comfort zone, and I certainly read a lot of books that I would not ordinarily read.”

Looking toward future years, Hill said she would like to tailor the program around com-

munity evaluations, she said. Moreover, Hill said she hopes SVR can continue to bring people together and give the community what it wants, just as it has this year.

“I was overhearing various pieces of conversations, and it could be an artist talking to another artist, or an artist talking to somebody who wants to learn how to do ceramics,” Hill said. “There were a number of children there too, and you could see that they’re starting to get a gleam in their eye like ‘That person did it. I can do that too.’ I think that that’s the power of bringing people together, is that sharing expands our community and also expands us as individuals.”

For more information on Silicon Valley Reads, visit siliconvalleyreads.org.

Meet the artist of ‘Los Hills’

Special to the Town Crier

Celebrate a new mural in Los Altos with Arts Los Altos this week.

“Los Hills,” designed and painted by San Francisco-based artist Brian Barnecllo, will have its opening at 6 p.m. Feb. 6 at 260 State St. during the First Friday event. Before the 6 p.m. art opening, attendees can join the Arts Los Altos public art walking tour at 5 p.m. The walk begins at the Mandahlia sculpture at the intersection of State and Third streets – as the event will get dark, flashlights are provided. Arts Los Altos docent Maddy McBirney will lead the art walk, including stops at vari-



COURTESY OF ARTS LOS ALTOS

Arts Los Altos will hold a mural opening downtown on Feb. 6.

ous public art installations and some historical sculptures and murals. The walk ends at the new mural.

Attendees will be able to meet the “Los Hills” artist, celebrate public art and ask questions. The event, put on by Arts Los Altos, will feature Manu-

script canned wine from Calligraphy Wines, including bubbly rosé and white sips. Attendees can also visit the Calligraphy Wines lounge, located at 264 State St., and enjoy a glass of its chardonnay or pinot for \$20.

To sign up for the walking tour, visit artslosaltos.org.



City of
LOS ALTOS

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

February 10, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.
In Person

Note- This is not the Final Agenda

Members of the public are invited to participate in person at the Los Altos Council Chamber at Los Altos City Hall located at 1 N. San Antonio Rd, Los Altos, CA. To attend virtually, please view the final agenda for details.

Public testimony will be taken at the direction of the Mayor, and members of the public may only comment during times allotted for public comments. Public comment will be received in person during the meeting or by written public comment submitted to publiccomment@losaltosca.gov

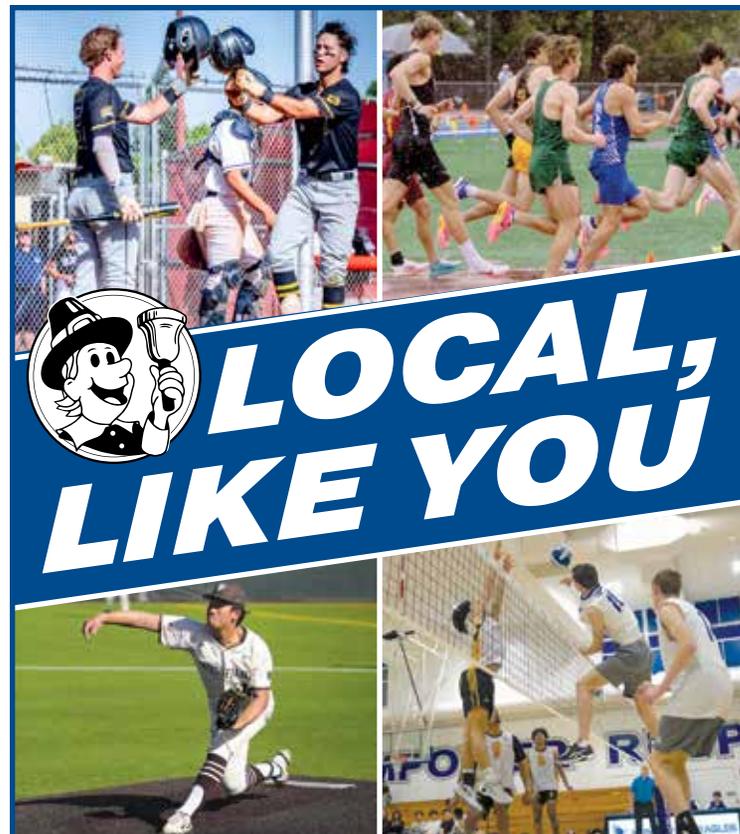
CONSENT CALENDAR

1. FY2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)
2. Adopt a Resolution accepting completion of the Caretaker House Demolition Project (CF-01049); authorize the Park & Recreation Director to record a Notice of Completion as required by law; and find the project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(L) (demolition and removal of individual small structures), with none of the exceptions in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 applicable
3. Adopt a Resolution regarding fire protection service options in the City of Los Altos

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Number of Commissioners on Commissions
5. Fiscal year 2025/26 Mid-Year Budget Update

Agendas, Reports and associated documents for City Council items may be viewed at losaltosca.gov/citycouncil/meetings



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Weber's watercolors to be featured at Gallery 9



COURTESY OF MAMI WEBER

Mami Weber, left, is the featured exhibiton artist at Gallery 9 in Los Altos this February.

By Neel Gupta

Town Crier Editorial Intern

Mami Weber's "When Light Turns to Memory," the featured exhibition at Gallery 9 in Los Altos this month, is a watercolor collection focused on capturing the temperance of moments.

The artist said she aims to paint "beauty just before it dies."

Weber said her first inspiration came from her interest in history. After traveling to Italy, Spain and Japan, she became fascinated with the ancient ruins and hoped to incorporate the same theme of loss in her

artwork.

"These ruins were once so lively, but now are just empty space," she said. "These ancient people's lives are turning into a memory. Their original lights are now memories in a museum."

Her main inspiration, however, was her sister's macular degeneration, a medical condition that affects central vision. While she and her sister used to often visit museums and art galleries together, her sister now requires Weber to explain the artifacts in front of her.

"It was painful hearing how my sister can't clearly see anymore. But, she still has those

memories with her," Weber said. "My moments with her are central to my artwork."

She also frequently paints flowers, due to their change in color and delicacy.

"I want the audience to resonate with the end of life but also moments of sparks," she said.

Weber added that her choice of watercolor as a medium is intentional. She has a background in a variety of visual arts, from ceramics to icon design, but found watercolor to be best suited for her theme.

"Watercolor is a transparent pigment. It's not like a brush-stroke. When I drop the color, the color travels by itself," she

said. "It has an uncontrolled feeling, which totally matches my mood. I want to capture fleeting moments."

Weber also noted how this room for imperfection holds high value in her perception of what makes art special.

"If people are looking for a perfect copy, that is not my artwork. I have the skills to create realism, but I want to use them in a different way," she said. "My painting is still relatively realistic, but I concentrate to see or capture what is deeper inside."

To create her artwork, Weber said she enters what she calls "the zone" to get the "rhythm

and vibes flowing," where she listens to music or plays white noise.

Weber has a degree in product design, but her passion lies in watercolor. She has been an avid artist since elementary school in Japan, and has now been teaching watercolor every Friday at the Cupertino Recreation Center.

The opening reception for her Gallery 9 exhibition is set for 5-8 p.m. Friday. Attendees can learn more about Weber's artwork while enjoying snacks and beverages. Gallery 9 is located at 143 Main St., Los Altos.

For more information, visit tinyurl.com/WeberArt.

Community Brief

First Friday brings free music to downtown Los Altos

Take a stroll through downtown Los Altos this Friday evening and listen to a variety of music, from classic rock and swing jazz to acoustic guitar. Or enjoy a drink and/or a meal at one of the participating restaurants with live bands playing inside. It's all part of First Friday, Los Altos' monthly music event that takes place on

First, State and Main streets. Locations include businesses such as Draeger's Market, BK Collections and Linden Tree Books as well as Veterans Community Plaza, the plaza outside the Assistance League of Los Altos and many more.

The music runs from 6-9 p.m.

For more information and a list of participating venues and bands, visit losaltosfirstfriday.fun/entertainment.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Los Altos Town Crier Holiday Fundraiser 2025



Grants from the Town Crier Holiday Fund support agencies in Silicon Valley that touch the real needs of people.

"At this time of year, we are inundated with requests for donations. Giving to the Town Crier Holiday Fund assures us that 100% of our money goes directly to groups that are doing the most good for the most people without any added overhead costs. This is among my favorite charities." ~ Dick Henning, Founder, *Celebrity Forum*



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Hidden Villa
Provides summer camperships for underprivileged families.

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Provides meals and shower facilities for the underserved and unhoused.

Los Altos Youth Theatre Los Altos Stage Company
Making theater a safe and great place for children to be.

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Matches at-risk youths with adult mentors, tutors in local schools.

MERIT Program (Making Education Relevant and Interactive through Technology)
Provides teachers with tech tools at the Krause Center for Innovation at Foothill College.

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Provides music education to schools through docent training.

MVLA Scholars
Serves low-income first-generation college students from Mountain View and Los Altos.

Veterans Resource Center at Foothill College
Helps veterans transition to schooling and employment.

Schools

LASD announces March date for filling trustee seat

By Julia Baum

Staff Writer/juliab@latc.com

The Los Altos School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously last week to move forward with a provisional appointment process to fill the seat vacated by board member Vladimir Ivanovic, setting March 19 as the date when an appointee will be selected.

Ivanovic's recent announcement that he will resign effective March 11 creates a short-term vacancy on the five-member board. Under California law, the board may either call a special election or appoint a replacement to serve out the remainder of the term, which expires at the end of this year. Trustees agreed that a provisional appointment was the most practical path forward, avoiding the cost of a special election in late August ahead of the Nov. 3 general election.

During public comment, multiple speakers urged the board to "avoid a costly election that we just can't afford,"

calling a standalone election a "waste of money" at a time when district resources are under strain and arguing that funds would be better directed toward classrooms and campus needs. Speakers also emphasized the importance of maintaining continuity on the board during an already contentious period.

Ivanovic's role as a frequent questioner and challenger was also highlighted, with one speaker adding, "Having a dissenting varied opinion is always valuable, even if it's not in agreement with the rest of the board." Multiple speakers explicitly encouraged Ivanovic to apply for the appointed position, saying it would preserve institutional knowledge while avoiding additional costs.

Trustees clarified that an appointment would not be expected to alter existing board votes or positions, particularly on divisive issues. Board members said any appointee would be joining a board with established majority decisions already in place.

"I don't particularly want

to cause the district to spend money on a special election," Ivanovic said. "But I think that, you look at how much a bad decision on the 10th site will cost the district ... I'm not very sympathetic to any pleas of 'let's save money for the children' in this particular instance."

Ivanovic outlined specific conditions under which he might consider an appointment, including a clear commitment from the board to prioritize modernization of existing district campuses.

The vacancy stems from Ivanovic's disagreement with the board's decision to allocate the district's planned 10th site campus in Mountain View to Bullis Charter School. That vote, approved by a 4-1 majority in October, has fueled community debate and ultimately prompted Ivanovic's departure.

The district is expected to release details about the application process for the provisional appointment in the coming weeks. Trustees will select an appointee at their



FROM THE LOS ALTOS SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITE

The Los Altos School District plans to make a provisional appointment to fill the vacated seat by board member Vladimir Ivanovic, who recently announced his resignation over concerns about the board's October decision to allocate the district's planned 10th site campus in Mountain View to Bullis Charter School.

March 19 meeting, with the chosen candidate through the end of the current serving term.

Los Altos School District audit gets clean bill of health

By Julia Baum

Staff Writer/juliab@latc.com

The Los Altos School District Board of Trustees unanimously signed off on a clean annual financial audit during its meeting on Jan. 26.

The independent audit, conducted by Christy White Certified Public Accountants, covered the 2024-2025 fiscal year and resulted in an unmodified, or "clean," opinion across all required areas, including the district's financial statements, as well as federal and state compliance.

Auditors issued an unmodified opinion, finding the district's financial statements fairly presented and its required controls and procedures followed. No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal controls over financial reporting were identified, and no audit findings were reported.

An unmodified opinion is the highest level of assurance an auditor can provide, indicating that the district's financial records accurately reflect its financial activity and position. This des-

ignation signals that the statements can be relied upon by state regulators, bondholders and the public when evaluating the district's finances.

Independent auditor Michael Ash cautioned, however, that audit results should not be confused with broader assessments of financial stability.

"You can have a clean audit and you can be in terrible financial condition. You can have a terrible audit and be in great financial condition," Ash told the board. "So, the two are not necessarily correlated."

Ash added that in this case, the district met both standards. "Thankfully, this district is both in good shape and a very clean audit," he said.

In addition to reviewing financial statements, auditors examined the district's internal controls and compliance with government auditing standards, which require reporting any significant control issues as formal audit findings. The review did not identify any such findings.

A federally required "single audit" was also included for districts that spend



MARIE GODDERIS/TOWN CRIBER

The Los Altos School District recently got a clean annual financial audit from an independent accounting firm for the past fiscal year.

more than \$750,000 in federal funds in a fiscal year. Ash said a recent government shutdown delayed the federal portion of the audit because guidance was released late. Despite the delay, the district completed the review by the board's January deadline.

According to Ash, the federal threshold for a single audit is expected to increase to \$1 million in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, though LASD is still expected to exceed that amount. Ash noted that special education was identified as the district's largest federal program and is likely to remain a focus of future audits.

The audit reviewed compliance with state requirements – including attendance accounting, instructional time, accountability reporting and newer funding programs – and issued a clean opinion in all areas.

Ash noted that the scope of state compliance reviews has grown in recent years as new funding programs are added. The state audit guide, which outlines required testing procedures, has roughly doubled in size, reflecting initiatives such as Proposition 28 arts and music funding and the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program. Each new funding source adds additional procedures that auditors must review to ensure compliance.

Staff credited timely cooperation and year-round collaboration with auditors – described as "thought partners" – for helping the district maintain compliance and complete a clean audit.

The board then unanimously approved the report without discussion or public comment, clearing the way for upcoming interim financial reports and budget planning later this year.

Stepping Out

Broadway composer takes center stage in Mtn. View concert Sunday



COURTESY OF LAUREN GOLDFARB, CARLA BEFERA & CO.

Composer David Yazbek will perform at MVCPA this Sunday.

By Dorie Xie
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Tony and Grammy-winning composer David Yazbek brings his one-man show to downtown Mountain View this Sunday, Feb. 8.

The performance, “David Yazbek: My Broadway,” is a fundraiser for TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. It is set for 7:30 p.m. at Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.

“I get to play my songs from my albums and my musicals, and most importantly, I get to tell the stories behind them,” Yazbek said.

Alone onstage with just a piano, Yazbek will tell his story of being a rock and jazz-inspired Broadway composer and how he embraces life as a musician.

“The theme is about embracing life and how it’s finite; about my conflicted feelings about being a Broadway guy as opposed to a rock star or a poet; and finally, realizing that this is what I do, and I love doing it,” Yazbek said. “I can totally embrace it, fully embrace it.”

Yazbek’s award-winning career started more than 50 years ago as a writer for “Late Night with David Letterman,” earning a 1984 Primetime Emmy for helping write the show. Yazbek then moved to writing music, including rock albums, TV theme songs and musicals. His most recent musical works include “Dead Outlaw,” “Tootsie” and “The Band’s Visit,” which won

a Tony (2018) and Grammy (2019).

All of it is fair game for what the audience might hear in the 90-minute “My Broadway.”

“You’ll see a lot of songs – sometimes pieces of songs, sometimes whole songs, probably two-thirds songs from my shows,” Yazbek said. “It’ll be 60/40 in favor of singing and playing.”

All this follows another one-man show by Hershey Felder, Yazbek’s close friend who organized Sunday’s performance. Felder’s closing show of “The Piano and Me” at Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts will be at 2:30 p.m. that day.

“He’s whimsical, fun, clever and wonderfully twisted in the best way,” Felder said. “I tell stories about dead composers, and he’s a living one. Getting a story of what happens from the actual guy is amazing.”

For tickets (\$60 and \$85) and more information, visit tinyurl.com/YazbekBroadway.

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Sports

Los Altos boys soccer wins late against Mountain View

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

The Los Altos boys soccer team got a late win Tuesday over Mountain View thanks to a goal from midfielder Walter Guzman, moving the Eagles into a tie for first place in the SCVAL De Anza Division.

The victory over Mountain View is the first rivalry win for Los Altos since the 2022-2023 season, and Los Altos (12-2-1) and Mountain View (10-2-2) are now tied at the top of the SCVAL De Anza Division at 6-2 with six league games remaining.

“That’s how important this game was, only on the numbers side, but obviously on the personal side, as we all know... it’s always going to be a rivalry,” Roberto Magellan, Los Altos soccer coach, said.

The game was tied 1-1 with just three minutes left in the

second half when Guzman scored his timely goal. The play started with left winger Dylan Po taking on a player and crossing the ball near the box for midfielder Jack Walton, who dummied the ball for Guzman, making a late run from midfield. Walton let the ball go after Guzman shouted he was behind him with open space to make the shot. The junior midfielder shot it with his weaker left foot into the right corner, slotting in the eventual game-winning goal.

“We just wanted to win this game to keep going on in the season,” Guzman said after the game. “We just want to win league, that’s our goal.”

Los Altos put the game away after Guzman scored, thanks to a goal from senior Walton, who scored in extra time to make it 3-1. While the scoreline showed a comfortable victory, the match was

close throughout. Los Altos opened the scoring with a goal in the second half from fullback Ethan Ling with 38 minutes left. Ling volleyed home a shot in the box after a header from forward James Taylor found its way to Ling. Mountain View responded with a long-range effort from midfielder Cyrus Shafie into the right corner with 17 minutes left to make it 1-1. Both teams had chances to score before Guzman got the game-winner. With both teams fighting for first place, every game will be magnified moving forward as the two teams chase a league title. Mountain View has won the SCVAL De Anza Division for the last two years, and Los Altos came in second place last season. Magellan noted everyone on the team, not just the 11 starters, would need to be up to par and step up when they play to



GABRIELA DE CARVALHO TELES/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Los Altos midfielder Walter Guzman, right, dribbles the ball during the game against Mountain View Tuesday, Jan. 27. Guzman scored the game-winning goal.

keep the game winnable and ensure consistency for the rest of the season.

“The key for us to win league is how strong our bench is going to be,” Magellan said.

Los Altos is second in SCVAL De Anza Division play at 6-2-1 following a 1-1 draw against Homestead Thursday. Mountain View is in first in league at 7-2 after a 2-0 win over Los Gatos Thursday.

Pinewood girls basketball newcomers help get win over Notre Dame

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

Freshman Sophia Bowles hit seven three-pointers to help the Pinewood girls basketball team breeze past Notre Dame Belmont 68-30 Thursday.

Pinewood (17-2) dominated Notre Dame Belmont (14-3) thanks to a flurry of three-pointers and defensive pressure to force turnovers, with Pinewood coach Doc Scheppler praising the young team with four new starters for continuing to grow in his system and progress as it readies itself for the CCS playoffs.

“We are in that learning stage, but we are in the process of getting better,” Scheppler said. “So I look at it as a really high ceiling.”

Bowles had 25 points for the game, with 20 points in the first half, as Pinewood went from a close 15-9 lead in the first quarter to a 37-16 lead at halftime.

“She loves the game, wants to be great, she’s so coach-

able, and the thing with those kids, you have to remember that they are 14-year-olds playing high school basketball,” Scheppler said. “This time last year, they were sitting up in the stands watching us play, and now they are playing.”

The scoring continued a 15-0 run to start the third quarter, and the game had a running clock near the end of the fourth quarter. Senior guard Caitlyn Kramer had a triple-double with 10 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists and praised the team for the way it played Thursday.

“A lot of people stepped up today in ways that we needed them to,” Kramer said. “We have a freshman hitting seven threes, that’s always really nice. We were running our lanes really well on offense, and I think that’s the way we really want to play for the rest of the season, so building off of that.”

Pinewood has had a rotation approach to scoring this season, with several younger

players stepping up to have big games. While Bowles led the team against Notre Dame Belmont, it was freshman Alex Tseng who hit several three pointers to win against Harker Jan. 27. The team has four new starters this year, with Kramer the only returning starter, while sophomore Abigail Yew and senior Andri Wilkinson got rotational minutes last year. The team has only three bench players for the rest of the season due to injuries.

Bigger tests remain as Pinewood will travel to take on Priory Friday, Feb. 6, in a battle with major league title implications in the West Bay Foothill Division and Central Coast Section Open Division playoffs. Visiting Priory beat Pinewood Jan. 16, 40-39 thanks to late free throws in the last minute of a close game to stay undefeated in league play at 6-0, while Pinewood is 5-1 in league play. Notre Dame Belmont is 3-3 in league play and in third place.



ALAN HWANG/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Pinewood freshman guard Sophia Bowles scored 25 points in the Jan. 29 win against Notre Dame Belmont.

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Valentines

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INSIDE
On the Move
Business & Real Estate
Datebook

70 years of love

Local couple reflects
on decades together

By Giuseppe Ricapito

Staff Writer/giuseppe@latc.com

Bob and Lois Adams said the secret to 70 years of marriage wasn't a romantic mystery – it was as easy as looking forward to seeing each other after work.

"I think it's just about caring for each other – being kind and not self-serving," said Bob Adams, 92. "It falls under the big letter 'L' – for love. Love is the common denominator."

Lois Adams, seated on the couch in their home at The Forum, a retirement community located in Cupertino just south of Los Altos, smiled at Bob.

"He's always been a good salesman," said Lois, 90.

They're both demure about characterizing their seven-decade partnership in grandiose terms. Instead, they said, the longevity of their marriage was more about steady and consistent cooperation.

"With us, it was automatic," Bob said.

And they have so many memories of a life shared together – living along the Loire River in France, their third child born in the back seat of a Mercury Comet, developing a successful company, Educational Industrial Systems, Inc. – that anniversaries and holidays just don't stand out.

Lois Adams shares her birthday with Valentine's Day – February 14 – but said she never made a big deal about it.

"I never even remember him asking me to marry him," she said.

Their courtship blossomed out of a double-date in Berke-

ley in 1952 – but they weren't even on a date with each other. Over the next months at the university they grew closer. Bob was "hashing" at her sorority house – waiting tables – and they shared a class. It was just a casual thing until later that summer when Lois left on a college girls trip to Hawaii. Bob said she "left him in the lurch."

"He missed me and I missed him," Lois said.

"When she got back, we picked up where we left off," added Bob.

Then, they agreed, their coupling was official. They both recall cruising together in Bob's 1947 Chevrolet Coupe – comfortable on the leather seats and passing time at drive-ins. They were married in 1955, just a few weeks after Bob graduated – he had the wedding ring designed at a jewelry store in Salinas.

Soon after, Bob was drafted into the military and was set to be stationed in France.

"There was no way he was going to do that alone," Lois said.

By 1957 they were settled there with their first child, Karin Adams, born in 1957. From there they have memories of traveling – now in a 1957 Volkswagen – across Europe together. Their son, Steven Adams followed in 1958 and Kristin Adams in 1961.

In 1967 they moved into a new house in Los Altos, where they would remain until 2012. The passing years were marked by mutual collaboration. Educational Industrial Systems, Inc., which installed reading and math labs in schools, thrived with Bob at the helm of sales and marketing, Lois with training and software cataloging. They retired in 1995 and invested their efforts in philanthropy.



GIUSEPPE RICAPITO/TOWN CRIER

Bob and Lois Adams reflect on 70 years of marriage at their home, above. Right, Bob points to a photo taken during the couple's wedding day, the couple cheering to the bright future ahead of them. Caring for each other is the key to a happy and beautiful marriage, Bob said.

Bob established Mentor Tutor Connection at Alta Vista High School and they lent time to the El Camino Hospital Foundation. Bob and Lois Adams were named Los Altans of the Year in 2008.

Now, they are the elders of a close-knit and ever-growing family – their children have children of their own and there are even four great-grandchildren to speak of.

Bob acknowledged that their 70 years of marriage was a rare feat – but said the amount of time was less important than the fact that they spent the time together.

"Caring for each other, that was the main thing," Bob said.





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Valentines

Give a little love to your heart

By Christine Moore

I firmly believe the most enduring love stories have one thing in common: they involve partners who practice self-love. Though not the subject of blockbuster rom-coms, self-love is a worthy, life-long courtship we should all be wooing. When we care for ourselves, mind, body and spirit, we are better able to put love in the world. Loved people love people, as it were. My self-love story started in

Silicon Valley Sips

my 20s, when I decided to take seriously my hereditary risk for heart disease. I began making small choices to better love my heart. My now decades-long romance with the steady, faithful organ beating away in my chest has benefited every aspect of my life. Eating well, moving frequently, and

practicing mindfulness are the ingredients for a truly epic long-term relationship.

Heart, I love thee

In my 20s, I read about oatmeal's ability to improve cardiovascular health. Early-start workdays inspired an on-the-go oatmeal breakfast. To this day, I enjoy my version of a fruit and oats smoothie, which is a bright blend of berries, oatmeal and almond

See HEART, Page 19

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Valentines

HEART

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milk. The habit isn't only delivering antioxidants and fiber; it's saying, I care about me.

A runner for most of my adult life, a 2024 report detailing the benefits of resistance training changed my fitness routine. The study, which involved hundreds of thousands of women, found that strength training two to three times a week reduced the risk of heart-disease by 30% in women over 35. That's a statistic worth sitting up and paying attention to.

For women living in and around Los Altos, there is a particularly wonderful fitness studio for incorporating resistance training in their lives: barre3 Los Altos. A fixture in the Los Altos community for over a decade, the studio's newish location on First Street is adding to the vibrancy of downtown.

"Heart health extends beyond physical movement," said studio owner Alene Baronian. Adding, "At barre3 Los Altos, we place equal emphasis on movement, well-being and stress management."

With signature, cardio, strength-training and mindfulness classes, barre3's weekly schedule offers variety in a community-building, empowering environment. While the strength training courses emphasize slow, intentional movement with weights, every barre3 class offers some aspect of their unique approach to resistance training.

"It's one of the few workouts where I feel both physically challenged and mentally relaxed afterward. I leave feeling better than when I arrived," reports member Priya.

She's not alone. Client Suzanne says, "It's a workout that supports how I want to feel for the rest of my day."

Instructor and lead mentor Emily Robison shares, "We focus on practical, real-life benefits – improving posture, stamina, sleep and overall

well-being as part of working toward a long, healthy life."

To learn more, swing by barre3's bright, welcoming studio at 249 First Street or visit barre3.com.

Some trends never go out of style for good reasons. It was love at first bite for me when I met avocado toast years ago. An ode to healthy fats, my version uses whole-grain sourdough bread as the canvas for avocado, a drizzle of olive oil, hardboiled egg, some greens, a sprinkling of Everything Bagel Seasoning and Aleppo pepper. Simple, satiating and downright delicious, avocado toast is my eternal healthy choice heartthrob.

The latest edition to the great romance with my heart is carrot soup. Rich in potassium, fiber and beta-carotene, carrots help manage blood pressure. I lace my soup with heart-health heroes ginger and garlic to amp up the cardiovascular goodness.

I recently learned that Millennial soup-lovers outnumber those in the Gen-X or Baby Boomer generations. Meaning, a bowl of my nourishing, flavorful carrot soup might just be a chapter in the next generation's self-love story.

Heartfelt oatmeal fruit smoothie

- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup frozen mixed berries
- 1 banana
- 1/2 cup of your favorite milk (I used unsweetened, vanilla almond milk)
- 1-2 teaspoon maple syrup

Add all ingredients to a blender and blend until smooth. Add more milk as needed to achieve preferred consistency.

Hearty avocado toast

- 1 slice whole-grain sourdough bread, toasted

See HEART, Page 20

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Valentines



COURTESY OF CHRISTINE MOORE

Carrot soup, left, and a heart-healthy smoothie, right, are ways to celebrate your health and do some self-care this Valentine's Day.

HEART

From Page 19

- 1/4 avocado, mashed
- Drizzle of olive oil,
- Hardboiled egg, sliced
- Everything Bagel Seasoning

Mash avocado and olive oil together. Spread evenly on toasted sourdough. Top with egg slices, seasoning, arugula and pepper.

Heart & soul carrot soup

- 1 lb. carrots, cleaned, peeled chopped
- 1 medium yellow onion, diced
- 1 medium fennel bulb, cleaned and chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh ginger
- Half teaspoon ground cumin

- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 2 teaspoons grapeseed oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Heat soup pot over medium high heat. Add grapeseed oil. When oil begins to shimmer, add onions and cook for 3-5 minutes. Add carrots, fennel and garlic. Season with salt and pepper and sauté for 3 minutes. Add ginger, cumin and cook for one minute more. Add broth and bring to a boil. Cover and lower heat to a simmer. Cook for 30 minutes, or until vegetables are soft. Using an immersion blender, or working carefully in batches in a stand blender, puree soup until smooth. Taste for seasoning and add more salt and pepper if needed.

Christine Moore is a Mountain View resident. To read more food and drink tips from her, visit writenyum.com.



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On The Move

On the Move is published the first week of every month. For advertising information, email sales@latc.com.

BMW XB7 Alpina offers refined performance and speed

By Mike Hagerty

One person's luxury vehicle is another person's basic transportation. Take the BMW X7 ("On the Road," April 2023). That's BMW's full-size SUV. The "base" model (the X7 xDrive 40i) has 375 horsepower and a starting price of \$87,500. Keeping it under six figures with options and delivery charges is an exercise in restraint.

What fun is that, though, when for an extra \$27,500 (the price of a whole Honda Civic), you can step up to the BMW X7 M60i, with 523 horsepower and a starting price of \$115,000?

But, for the well-heeled (even by Peninsula standards), the M60i might be just a bit too common. Which brings us to the BMW XB7 Alpina.

In 1965, Burkard Bovensiepen was in the business of making typewriters, but used the factory to create a dual Weber carburetor for the compact BMW 1500. BMW liked his work, put the carburetor in their cars with a full factory guarantee, and suddenly Burkard's typewriter

Auto Review

company, Aspen, was a performance tuning company named Alpina.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Alpina morphed from tuner to manufacturer. Alpina builds the engines by hand, and then delivers them to the factory, where they are installed in bodies made by BMW. BMW then ships the body back to Alpina, which does the interior with its own leathers and performs various other upgrades and optimizations.

And that's what separates the 2025 XB7 Alpina from the X7 M60i. \$152,400 (\$153,995 with destination) buys a very special, low-volume, high-output machine, with 631 horsepower, which BMW says means 0-60 in 3.9 seconds – 6/10ths of a second faster than the M60i, while matching its EPA fuel economy estimate of 16 mpg city/20 highway.

But the XB7 Alpina delivers a more refined approach to performance and speed than the fire-and-brimstone M60i



MIKE HAGERTY/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

The BMW XB7 Alpina.

can provide, with a complete reworking of the chassis and more powerful brakes. The ride is silky-smooth, and yet there's no compromise made in its handling prowess. Standard equipment includes 23-inch wheels, an Alpina-specific body kit, a crystal gear selector, walnut wood trim and virtually every extra-cost option on the M60i included as standard equipment.

The only upcharges on the XB7 Alpina I drove were the Ivory White and Atlas Grey leather interior (\$1,500), second-row captain's chairs (\$850) and the

astoundingly good Bowers & Wilkins Diamond surround-sound audio system (\$3,400), which took the as-tested price to \$159,145.

Further justification for the expense – the XB7 Alpina is comparatively rare – only a few hundred sold every year. For 2026, the XB7 will be the only Alpina model. And it's the last of a breed.

In 2022, BMW announced plans to acquire Alpina from the Bovensiepen family, and on Jan. 1, 2026, its integration as a wholly-owned division of BMW was completed. BMW is promoting a "new chapter" for Alpina. What that means in terms of specifics, they're not saying. If you want a "true" Alpina, a '25 or '26 XB7 is your last chance.

Mike Hagerty, past vice president of membership for Western Automotive Journalists (waj.org), has been writing about cars since 1997. Read more of his reviews at MikeHagerty-Cars.com.



Water damage leaves big drain on finances

By Matt Pataky

Northern Californians have not seen too many rainy days this year, but the ones that did come were ferocious. With heavy rain comes flooded yards, flooded streets, plugged storm drains, overflowing gutters and many other areas where you do not want that much water. Either way, you get the idea. After these past storms, we received many calls about water inside people's cars. One call was a typical issue, and some of the calls were not so typical.

One customer who called has a 2017 Volkswagen GTI Autobahn and said there was water on the driver's and passenger's sides of the floor. The customer also said there was more water on the passenger side and that water was dripping in from the headliner. The customer noticed this after the large storm between Christmas and New Year's. The first thing we asked was if the car had a sunroof. "Yes."

Once the car got to the shop, we confirmed that there was water on the floor. We could see water staining on the headliner near the front window. The first thing we did was open the sunroof. Once the sunroof was open, we could

see standing water on and in the sunroof rails. Sunroofs need water drains. Without drains, the water would just build up in the rails and spill into the car. There are usually four drains, but some models have just two. The drains are at the corners of the sunroof – two in the front and two in the back. The drains work like the roof drains on our homes. The only difference is that they run through the car. The two front drains run through the A-pillar, the section of the car between the front windshield and the front door. These drains start as a metal tube built into the sunroof frame and are connected to a rubber or composite tube that goes all the way to the bottom of the car. We clean these drains with a special tool to avoid detaching the tube from the metal pipe. The procedure is very similar to the way a plumber cleans a drain with a snake.

After installing the tool, it is rotated until the blockage clears. Once the blockage is cleared, there is usually a large quantity of water that pours from the drain. Once we are satisfied that the drain is clear. We then test the drain with about 10 gallons of water. If the

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Mazda CX-5 has no bugs to report

By Mike Hagerty

There's an old car guy philosophy that says you should wait until the last model year of a vehicle to buy it. The bugs are all worked out.

There really haven't been any bugs to work out in the current generation of the Mazda CX-5, introduced as a 2017 model. It's been among my favorite five-seat midsize crossovers. Come to think of it, the first-generation CX-5 was on that list, as well. Around the time you read this, new 2026 third-generation Mazda CX-5s will begin arriving on dealer lots. You know what they used to say in the old car ads: That means last year's models have got to go.

A quick check of Cars.com shows a healthy supply of new 2025 CX-5s within an hour's drive

of Los Altos. There's a key word you're looking for. That word is turbo. The CX-5 S models are nice cars, but at 187 horsepower and 185 pound-feet of torque, they're not particularly quick.

CX-5s, like most Mazdas, are drivers' cars, with great handling. That really comes through with the CX-5 Turbo models, which boost the horsepower to 256 and the torque to 320 pound-feet. Zero to 60 happens in 6.2 seconds. The EPA fuel economy estimate is 22 city/27 highway, which could be improved if Mazda offered more than six gears in its automatic transmission.

There's 30 cubic feet of cargo space behind the rear seats, and that nearly doubles to 59.3 cubic feet with the second row folded down. And rear seat passengers get an uncommon amount of legroom

See MAZDA, Page 22



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Matt the Mechanic
Columnist for the
Los Altos Town Crier's
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On the Move

MECHANIC

From Page 21

drain does not back up and the water exits the drain, we are done. The car that was not so typical was a 2008 BMW Z4. The customer stated they felt moisture on the driver's side carpet. The interesting thing about this car was that it was not a convertible and did not have a sunroof.

We first checked the exterior door seals and window seals. The exterior seals were OK. We then asked if the car had been in an accident. The customer said the car had been hit in the back and on the side. We then pulled the door panels and checked the vapor barriers. We found the driver's door vapor barrier damaged. We found that someone had worked on the door, but had tried to install a damaged vapor barrier. Even if the exterior seals are good, a lot of water will still run down the window and get inside the door. We replaced the driver's side vapor barrier, and all was good.

Even after we perform repairs on door seals, vapor

Matt the Mechanic

barriers, trunk seals and window seals, the car's interior has to be dried out. If the moisture is left inside the car, the carpets and trim can start to mildew and smell. Sometimes we have to remove all the seats and pull back all the carpets to make sure they are dry. In extreme cases, the carpet and foam have to be replaced. It may seem that having organic material cleaned from your car is overkill, but in the long run, it is important. You should have your cowlings cleaned and checked at least once every two years. If you park your car outside near trees and shrubs, it is also important.

Matt Pataky owns Sunnyvale Foreign Car Service, 15 Pioneer Way, Mountain View. For more information, call 650-960-6988, email sfcsmv@gmail.com or visit sunnyvaleforeigncar.com.



MAZDA

From Page 21

for this size vehicle – 39.6 inches. I drove the second-from-the-top trim, the 2.5 Turbo Premium. Base price \$38,000 (\$39,420 with destination). That price buys a ton of standard equipment, including all-wheel drive, hill launch assist, selectable drive modes including sport and off-road modes, 19-inch alloy wheels, rain-sensing/de-icing wipers, heated power-folding mirrors with turn lamps, a power moonroof, LED auto-on/off headlights, adaptive front lighting, automatic high beams, a body-colored rear roof spoiler, a power rear liftgate, leather-trimmed seats, an eight-way power driver's seat with memory and lumbar, a six-way power passenger seat, heated front and rear seats, a heated leather steering wheel, an auto-dimming rearview mirror with HomeLink, a wireless phone charger, a 10.25-inch center screen, a 10-speaker Bose audio system with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android

Auto Review

Auto, a three-month trial to SiriusXM satellite radio, four USB connections, Mazda Connected Services, and a comprehensive suite of active safety features. It's almost a one-price deal, but our tester did have a few extra-cost options: Illuminated door sill plates (\$500), navigation (\$450), a rear bumper guard (\$135) and a retractable cargo cover (\$250). All of that brought the as-tested price to \$40,755.

That's a fine price for a fine car, but the good news is that this is now last year's model. Dealers will likely be eager to negotiate price.

I can't give an opinion on the new, larger 2026 CX-5 until I've driven it. But I've driven at least one of this generation of CX-5 every year for the past nine years. It's a terrific vehicle that you should absolutely have on your short list if you're looking for a five-seat crossover.

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Business & Real Estate

Los Altos-based consultancy service focuses on leadership

By Grace Lin
Town Crier Editorial Intern

In Silicon Valley, many people have experienced poor workplace culture. To help teams and individuals better interact and build trust, Los Altos-based founder Hadas Tepman created Beyond Words, a consultancy to help teams and leaders better connect through emotional agility.

Tepman's fascination with group dynamics began at San Diego State University, where she studied psychology and communications.

"I've been very curious about team dynamics and what makes a team work. I've found that there's actually a certain formula that when people engage in this, their team is amazing and their business thrives," Tepman said.

Over the years, Tepman

said she observed different cultures and their social cues in group settings, finding that while some expressions vary by culture, the formula behind feeling seen and included is universal.

"The Los Altos area has an amazing international community, so I wanted to find something that makes a person feel like they are a part of whatever they're doing," Tepman said.

After returning from San Diego, she founded Beyond Words in 2005. Her consultancy offers services for people ranging from one-on-one coaching to large groups of 70 people, though group sizes typically fall in between 10-15 people.

Tepman said her "flashlighter philosophy" is at the heart of her approach to helping groups create safe and trusting environments.

"Everyone has their own



PHOTO COURTESY OF HADAS TEPMAN

Beyond Words, a consultancy that helps teams and leaders connect with emotional agility, was founded by Los Altos-based Hadas Tepman, above.

strengths and gifts that I can spotlight," she said. "When you work in group dynamics where you are seen and acknowledged, you feel a sense of belongingness, and you feel safe. Groups (that are aware of

this) connect and work amazingly together ... individuals start feeling inspired."

Typically, clients head to Tepman's theater, complete with audio systems and a stage. Tepman said it's im-

portant clients go to her theater as it's an opportunity for them to leave their workspace and feel more empowered. Her theater is also small and intimate, so clients feel more comfortable, she said.

When participants walk through the door, Tepman said she emphasizes eliminating power hierarchies and cliques. She asks everyone to give their full attention – starting with leaving their phones behind.

From there, Tepman leads multiple exercises that are a mix of improvisation, music and high-energy games. She said team members practice thinking on their feet and building on each other's ideas.

One core principle is saying "yes" to each other's ideas, a concept borrowed from traditional improvisation, according to Tepman. The exercises

See CONSULTANCY, Page 24

Navigating a not-hot real estate market

By Nick French
Special to the Town Crier

If you are a buyer and feeling like you are in a really hot market, I have bad news for you: This is not a hot market.

A hot market is when buyers make compromises because they feel if they don't buy this week, next week will be more expensive. In that market, it is a matter of evaluating the compromises and adjusting price expectations to get a home; FOMO sets in and the market moves at a rocket's pace.

That's not our market today. We are in a discerning market that can feel hot for some people, especially on the homes without apologies, but homes that have compromises are stuck wondering why they aren't getting the traction like other neighboring homes.

It's understandable why you may think the market is hot – it's possibly what you're hearing from friends and your news feed, which tends to dictate the narrative. With interest rates at the lowest point since 2022 you would expect more excitement about the market trajectory, but then you see an article claiming of bad signs for the economy.

So how do you sift through the

information to make an informed decision?

When I look around, I see a newer economic cycle with a ton of tailwind that will be driving our economy for a while – I like to think I'm not being blindly optimistic about the way technology is changing the way we work and live, but rather recognize there will be monetary benefit and along the way a lot of wealth will be distributed.

I clearly remember the dot-com boom and what I saw as the cycles – it starts with passion: people wanting to create cool technology to better the world or leave their mark, this is in the early time of the cycle (arguably where we are now), then we move to adolescence: when companies are pivoting and figuring out how best to monetize their product and company, similar to how we change as we go through adolescence.

Finally, we get to maturity: when people starting companies lose sight of doing it for the love, but rather just the money – the companies started at the tail end of the cycle tend to be strictly driven by how much they can make and you can feel the chill in the conversation and lack of passion. I use this analogy because I think it

See LOCAL MARKET, Page 25

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Business & Real Estate

CONSULTANCY

From Page 23

may begin with two volunteers on stage and gradually expand to full groups as they add on to each other's ideas.

"In the world of improv, you have to make your partner look good," Tepman said. "That's also the number one thing if you're in a group. Every single person's job is to make the other person look good and to make you look good. You will be much more bold, confident, and you will shine."

Tepman's clients range from educators, healthcare teams, sales teams and even dental offices. Each session is tailored to the group, but Tepman follows the same flashlighter philosophy of making each individual feel seen.

These clients include The Buzz PR, run by Marci Bracco Cain. Tepman worked with Cain's team of 22 people last year.

"Everyone's super busy and has a lot on their plate, so

we learn how to support each other and be more thoughtful in everyone else's situations," said Cain, whose marketing company services Beyond Words. "The more that you work as a team, the less is on your plate, and the better the client gets a product which makes you look better. As a leader, I found something that they want to work on together, that they want to do together. That's exciting."

Cain said her staff has tried other team-building activities like cooking competitions and escape rooms, but Tepman's method resonated with her team the most. The team even hopes to make Tepman's service an annual tradition.

"Team-building isn't just going to a dinner and eating together. It's untangling the little cliques in an organization," Tepman said. "No money in the world is as meaningful as having the ability to do something that shifts the dynamic between groups."

For more information on Beyond Words, visit beyond-words-inc.com.

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88 Church Street, D. Jordan to Shen Living Trust for \$1,870,000

1190 Maria Privada, Tenover Living Trust to S. & F. Sikder for \$2,755,000

932 Ormonde Drive, Sv Ventures Holdings LLC to C. & Z. Dong for \$3,050,000

2734 Doverton Square, Levin Living Trust to Lp Vandelay Industries LLC for \$3,590,000

2741 Doverton Square, Sarin Living Trust to H. & Y. Zhang for \$3,966,000

Transactions

Cupertino

10107 Lamplighter Square, S. Zhou to D. & B. Geete for \$1,965,000

19997 Twilight Court, Taylor Trust to Arch St LLC for \$2,850,000

10614 Merriman Road, Perkins Family Trust to J. Guo for \$2,900,000

10200 Stonydale Drive, Eddy Family Trust to Y. & R. Zou for \$3,200,000

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Total sales

Los Altos Hills

Total sales: 1
Sale amount: \$6,540,000

Mountain View

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Cupertino

Total sales: 5
Lowest sale: \$1,965,000
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Transaction information is obtained from public county records and provided by CalREsource

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Business & Real Estate

LOCAL MARKET

From Page 23

is important to remember another significant technological paradigm shift in recent history.

There are so many people currently itching to start their own company because of an idea that they think is better than the status quo, and that's what I love to see. Most will fail, but we are working through our economy, and we will come out better on the other side.

How does this relate to real estate? So many people are moving back to the valley because this is the hub of innovation. That is setting us up for another hot market that will be very hard for buyers – I can tell you it's coming, I just can't tell you exactly when, but I want you to be prepared.

There is no shortage of buyers perusing the market, whether online or open houses, but they currently lack motivation. I'll hear something like "I'm in no hurry," or "I'm looking for the right home."

I argue the reason they aren't in a hurry is because they don't think the market is hot and their money is currently doing better in the stock market. The moment buyers think the real estate market is moving faster than the stock market, you'll see a quick pivot and urgency will happen overnight. I've seen real estate cycles before and will see them again. I can understand why people feel this way – if I was a buyer and my down payment was sitting in tech stocks, I'd be hesitant to sell them as well. We have experienced a great run and it's sensible to want to continue to experience those gains.

Certain uncertainty

One thing is for sure, 2025 was filled with uncertainty. Look no further than the tariffs, which seem to be changing daily. Their actual impact on the economy is still unclear. Of course, tariffs aren't the only uncertain dimension of our economy – just look at the job market and the administration's rhetoric on

immigration.

One thing is clear, our economy is segmented and unfortunately, there is quite a divide making it difficult to lump national real estate into a single conversation – you can argue national real estate is struggling for a number of reasons, but the demand in the valley is solid especially for turnkey homes (whether resale or rental market).

How long will the uncertainty keep the Fed from making big interest rate moves? A new Fed Chair is anticipated this year that is friendly to interest rate cuts, so I'd expect aggressive cutting

Uncertainty is certain for the foreseeable future, so we will have to watch each decision carefully and how it impacts our local real estate market.

This year

Fundamentally, I feel good about our local economy.

The job market is solid, albeit a shift in workforce skills so it is more difficult to stick with status quo, there are new vertical growth opportunities for



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In the local market, people often wait to find the "right" home – according to Nick French, that may actually be because they're waiting for a stronger real estate market.

companies, we have a healthy stock market and the overall sentiment is positive, which all make for an optimistic outlook (if you keep politics out of the conversation). I even read a recent article about Home Depot year over year sales which were slightly up, which is quite encouraging to me in a year with so much uncertainty though the argument is being made that this is a bad sign because their sales aren't up more. It's not reasonable for a company like Home Depot to grow exponentially every quar-

ter, even though that's what the media and Wall Street may want you to believe.

Keep moving ahead because we are living in an exciting time, but don't forget to look both ways because there will be obstacles to avoid.

Nick French is a top-producing Los Altos and Los Altos Hills real estate agent, and is known for his strategic market insight and high-impact home preparation. For more information, text or call (650) 773-8000 or visit RealtorNickFrench.com.

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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.

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The expansive primary suite feels like a retreat, complete with a large walk-in closet, a spacious bath, and peaceful backyard views.

Served by top-rated Los Altos schools: Almond Elementary, Egan Junior High, and Los Altos High.

www.141JordanAve.com



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

**OVER \$1 BILLION
IN PROPERTY SALES**

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

.....
JUST LISTED

4119 PARK BLVD ■ PALO ALTO



\$2,498,000

3 BEDS ■ 2 BATHS ■ 1,448 SQ FT ■ 8,496 SQ FT LOT

Situated on an expansive oversized lot directly across from Robles Park, this meticulously updated single-story home blends modern function with open-concept living, highlighted by vaulted open-beam ceilings, a statement fireplace, and sliding doors opening to a private backyard framed by mature landscaping. The interior has been fully transformed with a brand-new kitchen and bathrooms, wide-plank hardwood flooring, new trim and fixtures throughout, plus key infrastructure upgrades including copper plumbing and an epoxy-finished garage floor, creating a rare move-in-ready opportunity in a highly desirable neighborhood. Top schools include Briones Elementary, Fletcher Middle, and Gunn High schools.

www.4119Park.com



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 SERENO



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2134 CLAYTON DRIVE
MENLO PARK



PRIVACY, PROXIMITY, AND REFINED LIVING

Tucked away on over four-tenths of an acre at the end of a cul-de-sac, this elegant home offers exceptional privacy and a refined two-level floorplan of nearly 4,000 square feet. Step into a dramatic foyer with a soaring ceiling and stained-glass dome, opening to inviting formal rooms, an expansive kitchen with top-brand appliances, a walk-out family room with seamless indoor-outdoor flow, and a conveniently located office. Four bedrooms include a spacious primary suite with a beautifully appointed bath designed for comfort, scale, and quiet retreat. The expansive backyard is ideal for entertaining, featuring a pool and a covered patio with built-in heaters for year-round enjoyment. All of this is paired with an unmatched location just minutes from a premier country club, Sand Hill Road, Stanford University, downtown Menlo Park, and Interstate 280, with access to acclaimed Las Lomas Elementary, La Entrada Middle, and Menlo-Atherton High School (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE

SAT 12 PM - 4:30 PM & SUN 12 PM - 3:00 PM

2134Clayton.com
Offered at \$7,988,000

Notice to Buyers:

Although a good buyer's agent can add significant insight and value, you are not required to use one to purchase a DeLeon listing. If you would like to submit an offer to us directly, please contact the DeLeon Buyer's Team at **650.531.5279** and we will waive 100% of the buyer's-side commission.

Listed by Michael Repka and Francis Lopez of the DeLeon Team. Call Us Today! 650.900.7000

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | Francis Lopez, DRE #02119541 | Equal Housing Opportunity
Managing Broker: Ken DeLeon, DRE #01342140 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

Public Notices

**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 transact-

ing 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

**CHAPTERBARBERSHOP
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN722791**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CHAPTERBARBERSHOP, 2019 Bright Willow Cir, San Jose, CA, 95131, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Hoang Chuong Huy Le, 2019 Bright Willow Cir, San Jose, CA 95131. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/25/2025. /S/ Hoang Chuong Huy Le / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/15/2026. (01-28-26,02-04,11,18-26)

015-T

**SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT
REPAIR
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN722943**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT REPAIR, 949 Industrial Ave., Palo Alto, CA, 94303, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT REPAIR, 949 Industrial Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/18/1988. /S/ Kenneth Kennedy / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/21/2026. (01-28-26,02-04,11,18-26)

014-T



**TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
WORKS**

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED proposals will be received at the office of the City Clerk, Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, California 94022, until 2:00 p.m. on **Wednesday**, February 11, 2026 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Conference Room of said building, for construction in accordance with the project plans and specifications to which special reference is made, as follows:

Title: FY 2025-26 PAVEMENT REHABILITATION AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Project Description: The work consists, in general, 2" A.C. overlay, 6" digouts, Type II microsurfacing, cracks seal, asphalt dike replacement, pavement markings replacement, utility adjustments, and all associated work.

The work is to be completed within **THIRTY (30)** working days. At the time this contract is awarded, the Contractor shall possess a Class A license.

A bid submitted by any Contractor who is not licensed to engage in business or act in the capacity of a contractor shall be considered non-responsive and shall be rejected, except for those exceptions governed by Section 7028.15 of the Business and Professions Code.

The Town of Los Altos Hills hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability in consideration for an award.

Each bid must be accompanied by certified or cashier's check, or bidder's bond duly executed by a responsible corporate surety authorized to issue such bonds in the State of California, made payable to the Town of Los Altos Hills for an amount equal to at least ten (10) percent of the amount bid.

The successful bidder shall furnish a Labor and Materials Bond and a Faithful Performance Bond.

Pursuant to Section 1770 of the Labor Code, the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations has ascertained the general prevailing rate of per diem wages applicable to the work to be performed, which rates are filed in the office of the City Engineer, and copies of which are available to any interested parties on request.

The Contractor may elect to receive 100 percent of payments due under the contract from time to time, without retention of any portion of the payment by the Town, by depositing securities of equivalent value with the Town in accordance with the provisions of Sections 22300 of the Public Contract Code. All expenses of such substitute deposit shall be borne by the Contractor. Securities eligible for investment under the

section shall include those listed in Section 16430 of the California Government Code or certificates of deposit of a bank or savings and loan association. The Contractor shall be the beneficial owner of any securities substituted for monies withheld and shall receive any interest thereon. Such securities, if deposited by the Contractor, shall be valued by the City's Administrative Director, whose decision on valuation of the securities shall be final.

Alternatively, upon the Contractor's request, the Town will make payment of retentions earned directly to the escrow agent. The Contractor may direct the investment of the payments into securities, and the Contractor shall receive the interest earned on the investments upon the same terms provided for securities deposited by the Contractor. Upon satisfactory completion of the contract, the Contractor shall receive from the escrow agent all securities, interest and payments received by the escrow agent from the Town, pursuant to the terms in Section 22300 of the public Contract code.

Bidders may purchase the project specifications with reduced plans and proposal forms by visiting or writing to:

**City Engineer's Office
Attention: John Chau**
Town Hall of Los Altos Hills
26379 Fremont Road
Los Altos Hills, California 94022
(650) 941-7222

For a non-refundable fee of \$50 per set if picked up; Any other form of delivery will be at a cost to include the cost per set plus the delivery carrier's cost. They may also be reviewed without charge at the Public Works Department website at <https://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/Bids.aspx>

/s/ Arika Birdsong-Miller, City Clerk
(01-28-26,02-04-26)

013-T

**Rising Star Home Care
Services, LLC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN722272**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Rising Star Home Care Services, LLC, 4701 Patrick Henry Drive, Building 1, Santa Clara, CA, 95051, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Rising Star Home Care Services, LLC, 1401 21st St Suite R, Sacramento, CA 95811. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Esther Lomothey / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/22/2025. (01-28-26,02-04,11,18-26)

012-T

**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 GREGORY OHLS in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that GREGORY OHLS 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: 02/18/2026 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 David Cross 10080 N. Wolfe Rd., Ste SW3-200 Cupertino, CA 95014 (650) 503-3078 (01-28-26,02-04,11-26)

011-T

**EBENEZER MEDIA
PRODUCTIONS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN722249**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: EBENEZER MEDIA PRODUCTIONS, 1289 Anvilwood Ave, Sunnyvale, CA, 94089, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a general partnership. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Miguel Quintero, 1059 Mango Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/01/2025.

/S/ Miguel Quintero / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/22/2025. (01-21,28-26,02-04,11-26)

010-T

**RANGAN LOGIC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN722637**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: RANGAN LOGIC, 24801 Prospect Ave, Los Altos Hills, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Venkat Rangan, 24801 Prospect Ave, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/05/2026. /S/ Venkat Rangan / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa

Clara County on 01/08/2026. (01-21,28-26,02-04,11-26)

009-T

**DI WANG ZZY MANAGEMENT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN722421**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: DI WANG ZZY MANAGEMENT, 390 Hacienda Ct, 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): Di Wang, 390 Hacienda Ct, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/24/2025. /S/ Di Wang / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/29/2025. (01-14,21,28-26,02-04-26)

006-T

Datebook

Datebook items are run on a space-available basis for entertainment, events, classes and groups run by non-profits 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, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 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:** **Mixed Media Valentines**, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 5. Join local artist Kristina Eng for a relaxed, creative workshop focused on watercolor and mixed media. Using simple shapes, bright colors and easy techniques, participants will create a handmade Valentine, galentine, or palentine to share or keep as a positive affirmation. Program is designed for adults and teens. All supplies will be provided. No registration necessary. **Acupuncture 101**, Feb. 10, 7 p.m. Dr. Julia Lee will provide an overview of acupuncture's history, its role within today's medical landscape, insights into how acupuncture supports healing, and what to expect during a typical treatment. The session will also address its potential benefits for overall wellness and healthy aging. **Traditional and Modern Vietnamese Dance**, Feb. 22, 11 a.m. The choreography presented will reflect both the grace of traditional movement and the creativity found in contemporary styles. The performance will invite audiences to learn a short Vietnamese dance using props like conical hats or fans.

See DATEBOOK, Page 31

24th Annual Gill Family Benefit Concert for Lighthouse for the Blind's Enchanted Hills Camp, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 22, Martin Family Hall, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. Requested donation is \$20. Steve Gill and his good friends, singer Mollie Hudner Thomson, guitarist Bob Feiner and drummer Steve Beitler will present "Not Dead Again Yet," a follow up to last year's show "On the Road Again: Letters to America."

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 with speakers of local interest, book groups, and occasional outings. Information: Membership Chairperson Sylvia Jensen, 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.

American Association of University Women, Los Altos-Mountain View branch. Open to women (and men) with a college degree who are interested in equity for women and girls. Information: (650) 207-6625, lamv.ca.aauw.net.

CHARLES CLARK



June 14, 1945 –
January 8, 2026

Better known as "Charlie," Charles Erwin Clark died of Alzheimers January 8, 2026. He is survived by his beloved wife Lynda Steffen Clark, his sisters Myrtleann Clark Westphal (Missoula, MT) and Vicky A Clark (Pittsburgh, PA), his niece Michelle and Carl Thornblade, Elliot Edward and Ian Charles Thornblade (Missoula, MT), Lynda's sisters, Martha and Michael Schattschneiders' family (Green Lake, WI) and Mary and David Williams' family (Fond du Lac, WI). His wife Lynda was at his side.

He was born June 14, 1945 to Charles E. Clark and Gwendolyn Armstrong Clark in Atlanta, GA. His father was a mathematics professor at Emory University. The family moved to Bethesda, MD, then to Evanston, IL. He studied math with his father and took up swimming. In 1960 the family moved to California. He swam and played water polo for Santa Monica High School and UCLA and took up long distance ocean swimming.

He graduated with a degree in psychology from UCLA and earned a MS from Stanford in engineering and a MBA from the Wharton School. Then back to Stanford to study Industrial Economic Systems. He was a passionate follower of Stanford baseball. In Silicon Valley, working at Stanford Research Inc, he helped found Decision Focus Inc. This work enabled him to teach risk management. Later he worked with Electric Power Research Inc.

Both he and his artist wife volunteered at the Stanford University Art Museum. This let them audit art classes and travel with the Contemporary Collectors. Upon retiring in Wisconsin they became active at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art. They donated part of their art to that museum's permanent collection.

Charlie had a passion for

gourmet cooking and collected fine wine. He could talk, laugh, sing and dance. He leaves behind a large group of friends scattered around the world who will miss his magnetic charm, wit, and booming voice.

A memorial gathering will occur at 3pm on Sunday April 19, at Capitol Lakes, 333 W Main Street, Madison, WI. In lieu of flowers, contributions could be made to Agrace Hospice, 5395 East Sheryl Pkwy, (Fitchburg WI.) UW Madison Alzheimers Institute, or Capitol Lakes Foundation, 333 West Main Street, (Madison WI).



BOB JONES



September 13, 1933 –
December 8, 2025

Bob Jones, 92, of Los Altos, California, passed away at his home on December 8, 2025, leaving behind a lifetime of memories and a legacy of love, dedication, and quiet strength.

Bob is survived by his daughter, Laurie Spaw, his nieces and nephews, Patrick Jones, Karen Nunes, Dreann Lewis, Mikeal Jones, Darrin Gurule, and Darleen Bascom.

Mr. Jones had a lifelong passion for sports cars and was deeply committed to motorcycle safety, reflecting his appreciation for performance, craftsmanship, and responsible conduct on the road. He took pride in sharing his knowledge and encouraging others to ride and drive safely.

His generous spirit and devoted service to the Community Committee for International Students (CCIS) at Stanford University touched many lives and will be warmly remembered.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.



PAUL E.T. JENSEN



April 27, 1926 –
November 29, 2025

It is with a heavy heart to announce the passing of Paul Edward Tyson Jensen, 99 of Pleasanton, California on November 29, 2025, at home surrounded by family.

Paul, "Pops" was born April 27, 1926, in New Orleans, Louisiana to Paul Christian Wittenberg Jensen and Nena Laura Roberston. He graduated from Tulane University majoring in physics, mathematics 1947 and business administration 1949; later obtaining an MBA at Golden Gate University in 1976.

Paul's life was marked by service, generosity, kindness and devotion to family and community. A proud veteran of the USNR 1943-45 Midshipman and Captain of the USMCR, WWII, Korea. He met his bride Jule "Cookie" in San Diego during his enlistment and wed in 1953 in Camaguey, Cuba. Paul worked as the assistant manager of

the Cuban Atlantic Sugar Company, in Lugareno until 1955. Upon returning to the states, he began his career as senior engineering specialist at GTE Sylvania, in Mountain View and later with ESL/TRW as senior staff engineer until his retirement in 1992. He shared his expertise by teaching at Bay Area colleges and universities, professional memberships to IEEE, American Physics Society, Mathematical Association of America, World Future Society and Associate Fellow, Society for Technical Communications. In his free time, he enjoyed connecting with others on his ham radio, cheering on the SF Giants and Warriors, watching tennis and running half marathons in the Avenue of the Giants.

He was known for his kindness, humor and willingness to lend a hand to anyone in need. Paul was an active member of Pleasanton North Rotary, Sertoma and GraceWay Church. Paul and Jule traveled globally making many friends along the way. Paul was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle and friend. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 61 years Jule and son Christian. Paul is survived by his two daughters Elena Frost and Connie Moss, grandchildren, Michael, Jacob, Caroline, Abigail and Julia, great grandchildren, Daphne, Paul, Aiden and Ryan.

Paul will be missed greatly but leaves a warm legacy of cherished memories and love. A celebration of his life will be held on March 29, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. GraceWay Church in Pleasanton followed by a reception in the parish hall.





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