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Los Altos Town Crier

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

Vol. 78 No. 6 • 50 cents losaltosonline.com WEDNESDAY • February 5, 2025

Books by the bag



Who says print is dead? The Los Altos Community Center was a frenzy of activity Sunday as residents flocked to the Friends of the Los Altos Library Book Sale. Visitors, including young families, took advantage of Sunday's special deal: \$10 for a grocery bag full of books, CDs and other items for sale. Pictured above are scenes from the busy Sunday.

PHOTOS BY SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Council, PARC at odds over work plan; joint meeting scheduled

By Bruce Barton
Staff Writer/bruceb@latc.com

The Los Altos City Council has agreed to work with members of the Parks, Arts, Recreation and Cultural (PARC) Commission to improve communications and initiate a plan for commissioners working more in line with achieving council directives.

Tentatively scheduled is a Feb. 25 joint meeting with PARC members and city council members. Council members at their Jan. 28 meeting also called on PARC to hold a special meeting beforehand to address staff and council concerns, and respond at the joint meeting.

The decision came following tense discussion among some council members, including Mayor Pete Dailey. Dailey felt there was already enough in-

formation before him to call for dismantling the current PARC commission and starting from scratch.

Dailey acknowledged the competency and commitment of current commissioners.

"But the road to hell is paved with good intentions," the mayor said.

The next day, Dailey told the Town Crier: "The failure of the commission to do the work council and staff directed, juxtaposed against seemingly defiant efforts to do what council and staff directed them not to do, reflects a cultural issue on that commission that, as I said last night, I don't think can be fixed."

A staff report cited commissioners had completed a fraction of its council directives

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SCREEN GRAB FROM LAST WEEK'S LOS ALTOS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Los Altos Mayor Pete Dailey makes a point at the Jan. 28 Los Altos City Council meeting.

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Around Town

Corrections

• Last week's Alex Wang real estate column included a headline that mentioned "voiding your home insurance." To clarify, the article advises homeowners to ensure the insured party on their policy matches the name on the title – whether it's an individual, multiple owners, or a trust – to avoid claim issues. Coverage remains unaffected.

• Last week's article about Valley Water Director Rebecca Eisenberg incorrectly stated that she responded to discrimination charges by the water district. She, in fact, initiated charges about sexism in the agency. Shortly after joining the board in 2022, Eisenberg asked why the board was not pursuing charges against former director Gary Kremen for violating policies in regards to his "bullying" treatment of district employees. Eisenberg beat Kremen in the 2022 election for the District 7 seat.



COURTESY OF KERRY THEDE

Residents in Los Altos' Toyon Farms neighborhood were excited about the return of the mallards in the creek of a property at 2100 Woods Lane. The mallards historically fly in during the rainy season, nest and paddle in the creek with their ducklings," said Toyon Farms resident Agnes Derbin-Caulfield. "Residents and visitors enjoy watching the mallards and their offspring near the bridge."



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News

Council upholds appeals of residents saddled with weed abatement fees

By Bruce Barton

Staff Writer/bruceb@latc.com

Mary Powell said she thought she was “doing a good thing” when she planted drought-tolerant native plants in her front yard.

Then last month, the Santa Clara County Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency sent Powell a notice that she was among 140 parcels requiring weed abatement. The notice said that, for starters, she was facing inspection fees of \$105 annually for three years.

Powell was one of nine parcel owners whose appeals were upheld by the Los Altos City Council at its Jan. 28 meeting. In all the cases, council members granted appeals for the reason that residents were not given advance notice before being issued fees.

Powell said the agency, in paperwork sent to her, said, “Our goal is voluntary compliance. How can I voluntarily comply with something if I don’t know about it before I get slapped with the ‘You are in the program for three years?’” she asked.

The county agency, with which the city partnered last year, issued notices based on observations and photos taken by personnel as they drove around Los Altos neighborhoods last August. The agency,

which handles weed abatement on private properties, works to prevent fires in the wake of a dramatic increase in wildfires in recent years.

However, residents questioned the county agency’s communications and process.

Residents read from the report that the fees would begin with the notices. Garik Iosilevsky, the agency’s weed abatement manager, told the council the weed abatement orders did not infer that residents must begin paying the \$105 inspection fees. He said residents were given until April 30 to address weed issues before any charges would be levied.

“I agree that there may have not been enough education and outreach to the property owners before the inspections began,” Iosilevsky said. “Inspections took place in August and September. The April 30 deadline is when we would start doing inspections in Los Altos.”

Even those who acknowledged they had a weed problem found the county was unclear on next steps in responding to the notices.

Adding to the confusion, council members were unsure how to handle the property owners lining up to the speaker’s podium for appeals. Ultimately, Mayor Pete Dailey ruled that they would take one case at a time – hearing from



BRUCE BARTON/TOWN CRIER

Residents line up last week to appeal their weed abatement notices. Pictured at the podium is Garik Iosilevsky, weed abatement manager for the Santa Clara County Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency.

the appellant, opening a public hearing, deliberating and taking a vote.

There were also questions, not only over what constituted weeds, but how high they should be, and whether an exception be made for native plants.

“Technically any grasses over six inches are considered to be out of compliance, but we’re taking the approach that if they’re decorative grasses, we sort of give them a little bit of leeway, but in general, that is the standard we look for,” Iosilevsky said.

With residents acknowledg-

ing weed problems, council members urged immediate cleanup of properties. They indicted that residents would not be given leniency if their properties show up on the weed abatement list next year.

Of the 140 parcel originally tagged, city officials indicated that number has since dropped to approximately 50 properties.

Minimum standards involve “complete abatement” around properties less than an acre, and 30-foot clearances around structures on properties of 1-5 acres. Other standards include roofs cleared of tree debris, vegetation removed from beneath

decks and a 10-foot clearance of tree limbs around chimneys.

“Implementing fire safety measures by removing fire hazards from your parcel is a proactive way to reduce the risk of injury, death and extensive damage caused by fires,” the original Dec. 10 notice read.

Homeowners have until April 30 to comply with trimming their weeds back or face a \$597 processing fee and another \$961 for county-contracted abatement work. If the homeowner refuses, the county will issue a warrant and perform the abatement at a \$1,323 cost to the property owner.

Twin Oaks development proposal in LAH remains uncertain

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisdriscoll@latc.com

Housing development plans for the Twin Oaks area of Los Altos Hills stalled Thursday at the Los Altos Hills City Council meeting.

The controversial proposal potentially allowing for over 300 new homes in the 15-acre area abutting Interstate 280 was set to be heard at the meeting but was instead removed from the agenda by the council at the meeting after residents expressed opposition throughout the week and during a Jan. 27 Planning Commission meeting on the subject.

Los Altos Hills Vice Mayor Rajiv Bhateja said the next steps haven’t been defined yet or how and if Los Altos Hills will move forward.

“I would say it’s not dead, but the public feedback was quite negative, and that gives both the owner and the town reason to rethink what’s going on, and that’s pretty much where we are,” Bhateja said.

The development has received consistent resident opposition due to its density and being beyond the 92-unit capacity initially allocated for the area in Los Altos Hills’ housing element, a blueprint for how cities will address their housing needs. Critics say state housing density laws could allow for over 300 units on the site instead of the 92 originally planned.

While future discussions on the Twin Oaks development are an option if the council wishes, there are no current plans to bring it back on a future agenda. A motion made by Councilmember

Stan Mok at the meeting to consider hearing about the subject again was not seconded.

Mora Drive Development

A council discussion and any action on a proposed development project at 10728 and 10758 Mora Drive of around 55 housing units has also been delayed after the applicant submitted a new application plan on the day of the council meeting Tuesday, prompting the council to wait on any decisions so city staff could examine the application.

Public Safety Funding

The council agreed to extend its contract with Flock Safety for its Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) cameras but also reduce the number of cameras from 40 to 31 in Los Altos Hills.

The cameras have been analyzing the license plates of cars passing throughout the city to help solve and deter crimes. The city staff noted that having 31 would still allow the city to cover all exits from Los Altos Hills. The contract was set to expire March 31.

Cost played a role in the decision, as Flock has increased the price per camera, going from \$2,500 per camera, or \$100,000 annually for 40 cameras, to \$3,000 per camera, around \$120,000 for 40 cameras.

City staff noted the ALPR cameras had twice assisted in solving residential burglary cases, with one used to identify a suspect vehicle used in a Los Altos Hills burglary and identified a stolen pickup truck used in a residential construction site burglary. The new cost will be around \$93,000.

News

Los Altos library courtyard project scheduled for review Thursday



IMAGES FROM A CITY OF LOS ALTOS STAFF REPORT

New plans for a Los Altos library courtyard project show how the project might look from the exterior, top, and interior, left.

By Bruce Barton
Staff Writer/bruceb@latc.com

Members of the Los Altos Planning and Historical Commissions are scheduled Thursday to discuss a proposed 8,265-square-foot courtyard project at the Los Altos main library.

City officials project an unobtrusive “human-scale building mass,” by including an 11.2-foot-tall pergola, along with low seating and fencing. The city also notes “generous setbacks” and minimal impacts on a neighboring Heritage apricot orchard. The location is to the immediate left of the library facing San Antonio Road.

Commissioners will review a proposed courtyard with the new pergola, hardscape and pedestrian pathways, an outdoor multipurpose seating area including an audio-visual system and landscaping using corten steel, wood and glass fencing ranging from 5 to 7 feet tall.

“The project is designed to preserve and complement the architectural integrity of the library with, ... improvements to the existing library,” read a staff report before the commissions. “The purpose of the courtyard is to host and support existing (library) events, ... in conjunction with allowing for expanded program opportunities.”

The project is privately funded and is supported by the Los Altos Library Endowment, which provides funding for library projects.

“The courtyard will provide much-needed additional space for children’s programming, reading areas, classes and events,” LALE supporters wrote in an email to supporters. “As a reminder, the courtyard project will not impact the orchard or surrounding areas.”

A big stickler for some orchard proponents has been project intrusion into the Heritage orchard.

The city anticipates three non-orchard trees and seven additional tree holding spaces in the orchard will be impacted by the project.

Orchard preservationists have claimed the city is illegally impacting land that is protected by prior agreements that made the orchard a historical landmark.

City officials said, however, that they arranged for a third-party consultant, Treanor, in December. The consultant conducted a historical review of the property, and determined no violation of any past agreement.

The civic center orchard was designated as a historical landmark in 1981, but a staff report noted “the resolution did not define the exact boundaries (of the orchard), leaving certain areas outside the historic designation unclear.” The boundaries were defined in 1991, but staff noted, “there is not a defined number of trees or planting sites established.”

Staff said the project complies with the city’s Community Design and Historic Resources element “that reflects the character of its surroundings.”

According to the city, all existing apricot trees, designated as heritage trees, “will not be impacted” by the project.

Recommended at the meeting is Historical Commission approval of a historical alteration permit and Planning Commission approval of a design review permit.

The meeting is scheduled for a 6 p.m. start in the city council chambers at City Hall, 1 N. San Antonio Road.

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2024 has been one of the most tragic years for children in recent times. Many individuals in our community have been emotionally impacted by the graphic images of children who have tragically lost their lives in various conflict zones, especially in the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa and in Ukraine. This needless loss of life, beyond our immediate control, pulls us to look for ways to ensure that each child's life lost this past year was not in vain, and that those still living at significant risk, can be saved.

In response to these on-going tragedies, St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Sunnyvale is hosting on Saturday, February 15th, 2025, at 6 PM, a musical performance entitled 'Requiem', featuring the St. Thomas Choir joined by members from other choirs, together with four soloists and a young boy soprano. This performance is a major fund-raising event to support UNICEF. This UN agency has become the gold-standard for helping children in over 190 countries whose lives are at significant risk.

The program begins with a brief interlude of stringed instruments followed by a poem composed and read by our local poet Veronica Kornberg, after which the formal Requiem begins.

Benjamin Belew, composer and conductor of the 'Requiem' has set out to tell the tragic story of a child's brief life in a conflict zone. The eight movements progress from a time of sweetness in early childhood to a time of bewilderment, questioning, and growing foreboding. The following movements convey an intense moment of life ending, followed by a haunting silence that slowly yields to a re-awakening of a child's persevering hope that this was not the end.



PARC

From Page 1

in 2024. Staff cited several instances in which commissioners rejected potential partnerships with local nonprofits such as Arts Los Altos and the Los Altos History Museum. Commissioners spent several meetings discussing a proposed art project at City Hall that was not prioritized by the council. Commissioners also voted 4-1 last February not to schedule an Iftar dinner in celebration of Ramadan for Muslim residents, as council directed under multicultural activities.

Current chairperson Janet Corrigan said the event was denied because the city is not allowed to sponsor events considered religious. She also denied staff report allegations that the commission was not open to partnerships.

"As a new chair, I wanted to focus on where we are and where we want to go," she said.

She pointed to a recent "fantastic" meeting with Manny Hernandez, the city's parks and recreation director. "He and I were totally on the same page about making the commission more productive and effective. ... So I was a little bit surprised when I saw we popped up on the agenda and we saw the report."

As an example of recent productivity, Corrigan cited the recent completion of an annual inventory update of 40 sculptures in the city.

Council members did acknowledge that PARC commissioners have a heavy workload and there was a period of adjustment after the council moved in 2023 to combine the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Public Art Commission into the current PARC commission.

"It's very frustrating because, we commissioners weren't given the opportunity to wrap up our 2024 plan," said Jeanine Valadez. Valadez chaired the commission for 2024.

"We weren't given the opportunity to weigh in on a staff report, and we weren't given the opportunity to even really discuss things at the city council meeting," she said.

Former planning commissioner Jon Baer felt the process problem lay clearly with the city council. Baer and commissioners at the meeting pointed to inaccuracies in the staff re-

port.

"In my 25 years in Los Altos and involvement in city politics, I've never seen where the issue of commission or commissioner performance is first brought up in a public city council meeting. It's simply wrong and an inappropriate venue," Baer said.

He noted the council combined two commissions, "but history teaches us that past attempts (at mergers) have failed."

As an example, previous councils tried to combine the Planning Commission with the Transportation Commission, only to later separate them.

Clearly irked, Dailey interrupted Baer, challenging him to specify inaccuracies in the staff report. When Baer said others had already pointed them out, Dailey repeatedly said, "Thank you, thank you," to get Baer to sit down.

Commissioner Teresa Morris noted a "rocky" transition for the new PARC commission in the wake of the 2023 merger – she noted commission resignations – that hampered activity.

Ultimately, Morris felt the allegations against the commission were "unfair."

In addition, one commissioner was frequently absent last year and the question of his termination was before the council. Council members tabled the decision.

The council majority indicated they needed more time to work with the commission before considering disbandment.

Councilmember Sally Meadows said the council bears part of the blame for communication issues with the commission. She cited the lack of followup after joint meetings where priorities are set.

"We need to put more teeth in our process," Meadows said. "If we have commissions that have too much (work), we have to say, 'Please show us the (work plan) prioritization – so that's on us.'"

Meadows later added, "Tonight's meeting is not sufficient. They have to have a chance to respond."

Added Councilmember Jonathan Weinberg: "If the response is, the staff report is wrong, it's biased, it's full of half-truths, as someone who wasn't there likes to call it, I am going to have a really difficult time finding a way to move forward with the commission as is."

MVLA hosts first public hearing on by-district boundary maps

By Brandon Roth
Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

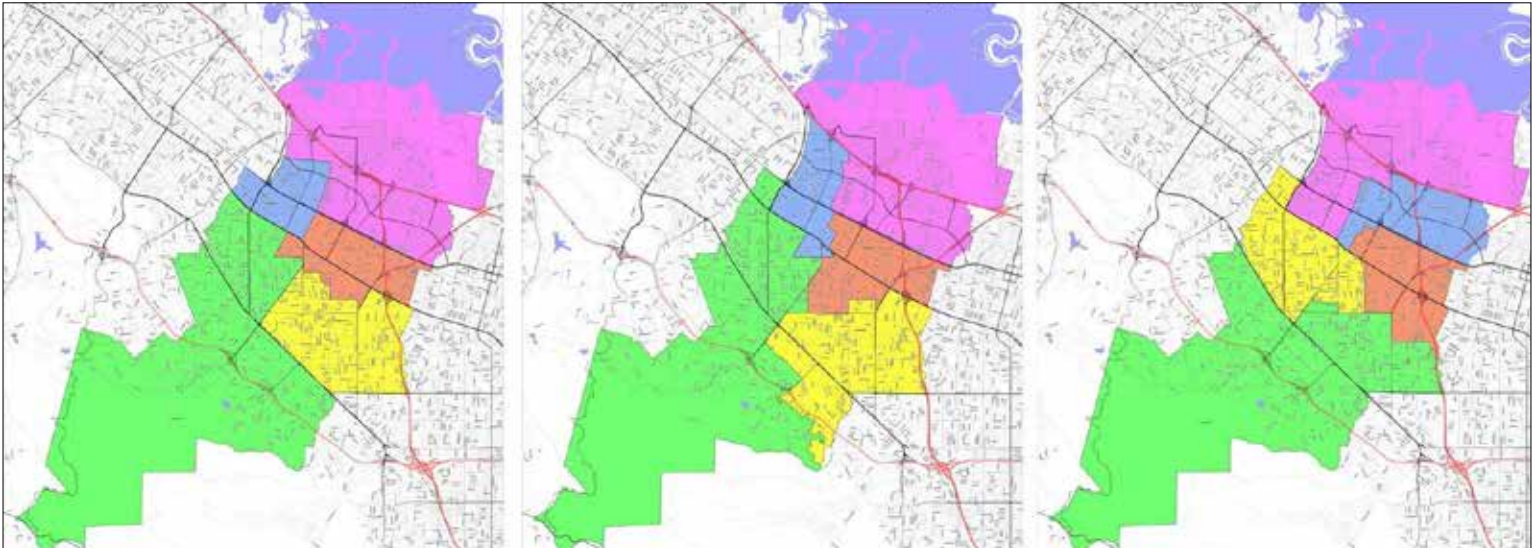
Mountain View-Los Altos Union School District Board of Trustee members presented three by-district boundary trustee maps on Monday for public review.

MVLA officials are changing their 2026 election voting system in September from at-large to by-district to satisfy the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). The legislation is intended to protect minority voters in elections and to allow residents to vote for a trustee based in their designated district.

Kenneth R. Reynolds, a demographer from SchoolWorks, Inc., presented three district map options.

He said each district must include boundaries that are contiguous with an equal population, share community interest, natural barriers and geographical compactness.

Reynolds said the barriers



COURTESY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MVLA board members looked over three by-district boundary map examples at their Monday meeting. These maps will be adjusted according to public opinion based on demographics, community interest or physical barriers.

were created based on the 2020 census data. The five districts would satisfy legal requirements of the CVRA.

As with the city of Los Altos last year, an attorney's letter triggered the by-districting process. Cities have fought, but lost legal battles in challenging the CVRA.

Reynolds said that many of the adjustments that could be

made, before public feedback, would change the border, creating a better balance between citizen age and demographics, and that he would conduct more research on areas of similar interest.

Thida Cornes, an MVLA board member, said future maps will need to consider the neighborhood association groups and community events

of the area to see what streets have things in common. She believes the maps need to include which neighborhoods lie within each district and that the borders need to be adjusted based on community interest.

Alex Levich, a new MVLA board member, also added that it is important to see how many students are in each area and to see if a district can be balanced

with an equal student population.

The second public hearing will be in March, allowing time for the demographer to adjust the maps to the board members' critiques.

For more information on the by-district maps, visit mvla.net/About-MVLA/Board-of-Trustees/Trustee-Area-Election-Information/index.html.

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Author:
Kim Gladfelter, MPT, OCS, FAAOMPT
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Comment

Let's take a neighborly path to public safety

By Brian Jones

I've been thinking a lot about the Public Safety Town Hall meeting held here in Los Altos last December. It was jointly hosted by the Los Altos Police Department and Resilient Los Altos, a volunteer citizen group focused on emergency preparedness. I continue to be struck by the difference in focus and tone between the two groups, and the way their messages resonated.

"People only act out of fear or greed," goes the common Silicon Valley aphorism. Fear is clearly the national mood right now. Depending on your political persuasion, you probably think that some fears are imagined while others are real – but either way, it's fear driving us these days.

Art Whipple of Resilient Los Altos provided not just a comprehensive list of practical resources for emergency preparedness, but also an empowering, community-based attitude we can take. Based on things Mr. Rogers used to tell us ("look for the helpers!"), Mr. Whipple told us the #1 thing to do in an emergency: don't look at social media. They have a business model, he said, based on stoking outrage and panic. Those are the worst things to

Other Voices

have in an emergency. He emphasized ways we can be neighbors helping neighbors, people acting in real community.

In contrast, Sgt. Steven Spillman of the LAPD told us that while Los Altos is a safe community, we are too "complacent." The department raved about the high-tech tools they are acquiring to stop crime, and urged us to lock all our gates all the time. The unequivocal message: Los Altans need to be more worried about crime.

The public Q&A session was fascinating. In over half an hour, not a single question was asked of Mr. Whipple. Clearly Sgt. Spillman's message was the one people wanted to hear. Everyone wanted to talk about crime. Private patrols, decoy safes filled with rocks, online spreadsheets for neighbors to track "suspicious persons" – everyone had ideas and strong concerns about crime. The Town Crier article reflected that citizen interest: Mr. Whipple's presentation was only described in the last paragraph of the article.

In our city, the risk of earthquake, fire or flood is certainly not just theoretical – nearly the

Peek into the Past

Elevated water storage tanks known as "water towers" once played a vital role in storing water from wells and providing a way to supply water under pressure to rural buildings in the early 1900s. The Howard water tower and tank house was located just off Robleda Road on the Bergener/Howard property. The enclosure below the tank was used for storage and other functions.

COURTESY OF THE LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM



entire room had lived through the Loma Prieta quake. So why do we respond so much more actively to a message of fear than to a message of neighborly empowerment? I can think of two possibilities.

First, the fear of crime is hammered into us by the media every day. The evening news generally spends about half the show talking about local crime events. As Mr. Whipple points out, there's money in that: clicks for the media, funding for police departments, votes for politicians. Given the messages we are swimming in, it's no wonder

we worry a lot about crime.

Second, Mr. Whipple asks us to act outside our own interest, for our neighbors. Prepare for a disaster, he says, even though you personally will probably be fine. Rather, if you are prepared, then after a disaster you will be equipped to go out on your street and help your neighbor. Resilient Los Altos gave us ways to help our neighbors in a crisis; law enforcement provides people and technology to defend our castles against the scary barbarians at the gate.

Being the victim of a crime is a horrific experience. Even

if you don't suffer violence, the violation of your home makes it very difficult to feel safe again. But "feeling safe again" is what we long for after such an experience. Which vision feels like a way to experience that safety once more: obsessing over every incident, or coming together with our neighbors to build true community? Which one feels like a way to live more fulfilling lives? I know which one sounds like a place I'd like to live. Would you be, could you be, won't you be my neighbor?

Brian Jones is a Los Altos resident.

Letters to the Editor

LAH zoning changes increase fire dangers

The current action by the Town of Los Altos Hills to change the zoning ordinance in nothing short of irresponsible!

As the former chairman of the planning commission that wrote both the General Plan and the Zoning Ordinance, we considered the holding capacity of this geographic area.

The town is criss-crossed

with earthquake fault lines where the earth had moved fracturing the crust. These fractured hills contain aquifers for mudslides. Our hills are steep and fragile. Our roads are narrow and tree lined.

We live adjacent to a massive fire fuel area called Midpeninsula Open Space. We have very limited water. We have no sidewalks or street lighting like larger cities.

The city, for the benefit of some builders, will create high-density dwellings that will, by their sheer numbers, block escape by their resident neighbors.

The only purpose of the city government is the health, safety and welfare of its citizens. Yet our elected officials wish to kowtow to the dictate of the Sacramento bureaucracy that thinks all 400-plus cities in this state are identical in geology, resources and can have their town changed by the Marxist Sacramento legislature.

If this city cannot increase the safety, not decrease it, in our town, we DON'T need a city government. They are creating another "Paradise" situation.

**Tom McReynolds
Mayor 1979-80, Los Altos Hills**



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Community

New biography of Woodrow Wilson reappraises former president

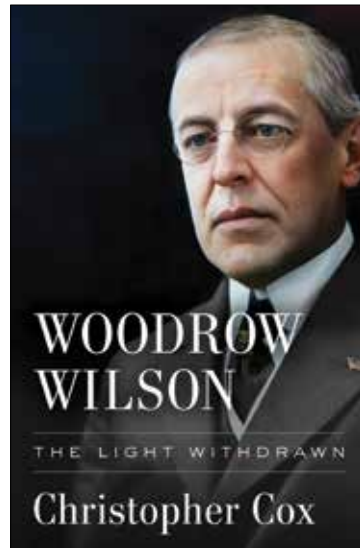
By Robin Chapman

It was interesting to see two women play key roles on Inauguration Day 2025 in Washington, D.C. with Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minnesota) and Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Nebraska), ranking members of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, serving as hosts on Capitol Hill.

It will be difficult for young people to believe; but, when both of my grandmothers were born, women had not yet been guaranteed the right to vote in America and no woman had served in either house of Congress.

A new biography of Woodrow Wilson, America's 28th president and the man in office in 1920 when the 19th Amendment – giving women the right to vote – was finally approved, is a reminder of this. "Woodrow Wilson: The Light Withdrawn" by Christopher Cox, is a revelation in many ways.

Wilson was a Democrat, born in Virginia, the son of a Confederate officer. And though he had earlier served as president of progressive Princ-



A new biography of Woodrow Wilson features courageous contemporaries including Ida B. Wells-Barnett, one of the founders of the NAACP, who pleaded with Wilson in the White House to support votes for women.

eton University, one of the first things he did as president of the United States was to segregate the offices of the federal government in Washington. Cox draws a direct line from the struggle for civil rights in America a century ago to the proposed Susan B. Anthony Amendment granting the vote to women. The author's research makes it clear that those who were working to suppress the votes of Black men



IMAGES © 2024 CHRISTOPHER COX

in the Jim Crow South did not want to face the votes of Black women as well. Wilson told one woman who lobbied for his support in the White House for women's suffrage that he could not give it. "It is the negro question Mrs. Blatch, that keeps my party from doing as you wish," she recorded later.

I met the future author of this book when we were both on the first civilian flight into Kuwait

at the end of Operation Desert Storm. I was a reporter and Cox was a California congressman. He is a Harvard-educated lawyer who worked in the Reagan White House, served 17 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and is the former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission. He is now a Senior Scholar in Residence at U.C. Irvine.

His book involved 14 years of research and tells the stories of dozens of people whose lives intersected with Wilson's. It fills nearly 500 pages and includes at least a hundred more of notes and sources. There is a real bonus at the center of the book, which features more than 40 meticulously restored color photographs that bring to life some of the book's key protagonists.

It sounds shocking today to read that in Wilson's early writings he called universal suffrage "the foundation of every evil in this country." Yet this is also the American who dreamed of a League of Nations. The book avoids being an anti-

Wilson broadside and focuses on the many in America who worked to hold democracy to its promises. "No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise," as Winston Churchill put it: "Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." California, by the way, approved votes for women in 1911, nine years before the federal guarantee.

"Woodrow Wilson: The Light Withdrawn" demonstrates why it is so important for Americans to continue to evaluate those we look to as heroes and elect as leaders in our democracy. This book is a fascinating read and an impressive work of scholarship that will certainly change the way history views our 28th president.

Robin Chapman is a long-time journalist, a Los Altos native, and the author of three books about California. You can learn more about the Wilson biography at lightwithdrawn.com.

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Community

Kiwanis Club of Mtn. View awards grants in celebration of Lunar New Year

Town Crier Report

On the first day of the Lunar New Year, the Kiwanis Club of Mountain View Foundation awarded grants to 29 community organizations, totaling \$152,152, during a festive luncheon held at Ristorante Don Giovanni in Mountain View. In honor of the occasion, each recipient received their grant check in a traditional lucky red envelope, symbolizing good fortune and prosperity for their ongoing service to the Mountain View and Los Altos communities.

Among the guests in attendance were Mayor Ellen Kamei, Vice Mayor Emily Ann Ramos, Councilmember Lucas Ramirez and Councilmember Alison Hicks. Each organiza-



COURTESY OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Representatives of local nonprofits benefiting from Kiwanis Club of Mountain View grants, display their grant awards.

tion had the opportunity to introduce their programs and share how the grant funding will support their efforts in the community.

One of the highlights of the event came from Chiung-Chi Chen, director of the Community School of Music and Arts, who, upon receiving her red envelope, expressed her grati-

tude by saying, "Thank you so much – this is my first red envelope for today!" The room erupted in applause, marking a joyous start to the Lunar New Year.

Adding to the celebratory atmosphere, attendees participated in a special bingo game with prizes, where the squares featured the names

of the awarded organizations, making for a fun and engaging way to honor the impact of each group.

The Kiwanis Club of Mountain View supports local nonprofits and community programs dedicated to education, youth development and social services. By integrating cultural traditions with philanthropy,

the club continues its mission of fostering growth, prosperity and positive change within the community.

For more information on the Kiwanis Club of Mountain View and its community initiatives, visit kiwanismountainview.org or email service@kiwanismountainview.org.

Los Altos-Mtn. View foundation offers new grant for wildfire relief

Town Crier Report

The Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation (LAMVCF) has announced their latest grant for wildfire relief, to EmergencyRV.org.

"Currently there are over 100 on the waiting list and that number grows each day as more learn about us," said Woody Faircloth, founder of EmergencyRV. "We couldn't do this without the support of good people like you and those in your community."

LAMVCF's Greater Los Angeles Wildfires Fund was established to address the urgent needs of wildfire-impacted communities, enabling organizations like EmergencyRV.org to offer creative and effective solutions. The aim is to build resilience and restore hope for those most affected.

EmergencyRV.org has already deployed three RVs to the wildfire-affected community of Altadena, offering critical housing to families displaced by the devastation. These efforts are amplified by the generosity and collaboration of local organizations and community leaders. Notably, the Dream Center, a resource center focused on providing support to those affected by homelessness and hunger, has granted permission to use their property as a future staging area, a pivotal resource for expanding the reach of Emergen-

cyRV.org's work.

EmergencyRV.org is preparing to deliver four more RVs during the weekend of Feb. 7, 2025. These RVs will be placed on private properties with written consent from property owners, ensuring a respectful and seamless integration for those displaced to return into the community.

"EmergencyRV.org is a shining example of how grassroots innovation can meet immediate needs and provide stability during a crisis," said Kathy Lera, philanthropy partner for LAMVCF. "We are proud to support their work and look forward to seeing the continued impact of their efforts."

EmergencyRV.org is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing immediate shelter solutions for disaster survivors. By repurposing and delivering RVs to those in need, they offer families a safe place to heal, rebuild and recover.

The Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation connects donors to causes that matter, building a stronger, more equitable community. Through strategic grantmaking and collaborative partnerships, they aim to create lasting, positive change in the lives of those they serve.

For more information on the LAMVCF Greater Los Angeles Wildfires Fund, and to donate, visit lamvcf.org.



City of **LOS ALTOS**

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

February 11, 2025 - 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. Adopt a Resolution approving the Downtown Parking Strategy and find the project exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
2. Adopt resolution to award contract to Watry Design, Inc. for Community Engagement and Design Services for Downtown Park with Underground Parking
3. Adopt a Resolution approving the Downtown Parking Strategy and find the project exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. City Council Strategic Goals: Review the City's Strategic Goals and provide modifications as needed
5. City Council Accountability Policy: Review the City Council Accountability Policy and provide direction on modifications as needed
6. City Council Term Limits: Provide direction on City Council Term Limits
7. Direct staff to adopt and implement a childcare subsidy program in support of the Santa Clara County initiative for affordable childcare

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

Local AAUW branch commemorates Roe v. Wade anniversary

By Allyson Johnson
Special to the Town Crier

The Silicon Valley branch of AAUW (American Association of University Women) recently honored the 52nd anniversary of the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision which gave women the right to choose whether to continue a pregnancy. This precedent was overturned by the current Supreme Court's Dobbs decision in June 2022.

The AAUW program was held on Jan. 22 via Zoom. More than 160 viewers tuned in from all over California.

Speaker Emily Bazelon, staff writer for the New York Times Magazine, senior research fellow at Yale Law School and co-host of the Slate podcast "Political Gabfest," was the featured speaker.

"Dobbs in some ways was shocking, in others, not a surprise," Bazelon said. "One expected abortion to become more restricted, and the number of abortions

to go down. But though 22 states enacted severe restrictions, the actual number of abortions went up. How could this be?"

First, Bazelon said a number of abortion clinics moved across state lines, avoiding restrictions. More important was the widespread availability of abortion pills. Before Dobbs, 50% of abortions were pill-induced; since Dobbs, pills accounted for 63% of abortion.

There are a few risks associated with self-managed abortion, but the more urgent consequence of Dobbs is the lack of care for problem pregnancies.

In many states a doctor must judge that the mother's life is at risk before performing a D&C, while a septic infection or loss of future fertility are deemed inadequate reasons. As a result of doctors' fear of prosecution there have been some well-publicized deaths, which have led to a shift in point of view on abortion rights. The passing of state ballot measures in

support of abortion rights reflects this shift.

But why did voters who supported abortion rights vote for Trump, who had been prominently against them?

Bazelon said Trump backed off from his extreme position and instead advocated, "Leave the issue to the states," which defused opposition. Second, abortion rights were not the top-of-mind issue for many voters.

"What happens next is up to Trump," Bazelon said.

She said Trump could announce strict enforcement of the Comstock Act of 1892, which outlawed shipment of contraceptives and abortion-related items or providing information about them.

If the Comstock Act were to be strictly enforced, it could have a huge impact on abortion availability, Bazelon said.

In a Q&A period following her talk, Bazelon was asked about the effective-

ness of "shield laws" which some states have passed to protect doctors who provide abortion assistance to out-of-state patients from lawsuits. She was not optimistic, saying that long-standing "full faith and credit" precedents require states to cooperate in enforcing each other's judgments.

Bazelon was also asked whether ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment would override the effects of Dobbs. She said application of the amendment would be up to the Supreme Court. "The country has never clarified women's constitutional rights," she said.

The AAUW Silicon Valley branch was formed from the merger of the Los Altos-Mountain View and Palo Alto branches. For more information about the branch, visit siliconvalley-ca.aauw.net, or for membership information, contact Susan Ware, membership chair, at sware1223@gmail.com.

Concert to benefit LightHouse for the Blind's Enchanted Hills

Town Crier Report

The 23rd Annual Gill Family Benefit Concert for LightHouse for the Blind's Enchanted Hills Camp is scheduled 7:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at Martin Family Hall, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton.

The concert will feature Mollie and The Sweet Shop Boys (Stephen Gill, Mollie Hudner Thompson, Steve Beitler and Bob Feiner) in a program titled "On The Road Again, Willie Nelson's Letters to America." Anne Gill will make a special appearance.

A \$20 donation is suggested. To attend, email Nancy Gill at gillnancyg@gmail.com with number of attendees and contact information.

To make a donation without attending, send a check to LightHouse for the Blind, Re: Gill Family Benefit, 1155 Market St., 10th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103.

How it began

In 1997, shortly after she graduated from Los Altos High School, Steve and Nancy Gill's

18-year-old daughter Anne was in a near-fatal car accident that left her blind and brain injured.

When Anne returned home in the spring of 1998, the Gills were frustrated to discover that while many programs serve those with traumatic brain injuries and others help the blind and visually impaired, very few resources are designed to help people who have multiple disabilities.

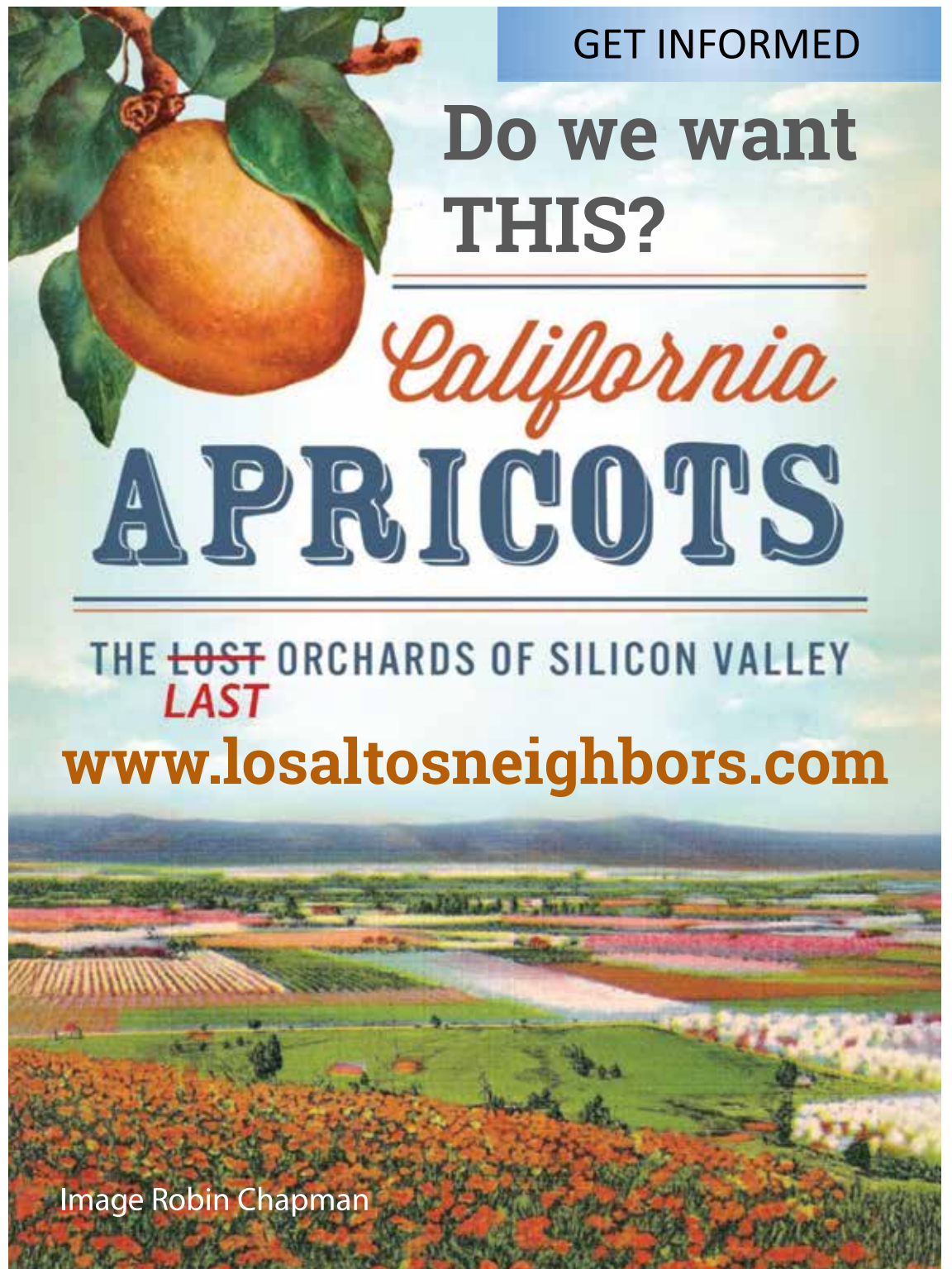
The Gills discovered that the LightHouse for the Blind offers a session at its Enchanted Hills Camp (EHC) for visually impaired adults who have other disabilities as well. Anne and other campers spend five days in the Napa hills enjoying activities like horseback riding, swimming and hiking with a remarkable staff.

The camp inspired Steve, a veteran Bay Area actor/singer and the founder of Menlo School's Fine Arts Program, to organize the first benefit concert for the LightHouse in 1999.

The LightHouse has used the proceeds from these concerts to provide scholarships to those attending the camp.

Tickets still available for Feb. 27 Los Altans of the Year reception

A Town Crier reception for 2024 Los Altans of the Year winners Tom and Karen Smith is scheduled 5-7 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Rustic House Oyster Bar and Grill's Rustic Room, 295 Main St., Los Altos. The ticket price is \$75 per person. For information, contact Maria Crowder at mariac@latc.com.



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Image Robin Chapman

Stepping Out

Memory at front and center of "Glass Menagerie"

By Lara Leon
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Los Altos Stage Company's production of "The Glass Menagerie" – running through Feb. 16 at Bus Barn Theater – is a "memory play," according to director Gary Landis.

It's a theatrical style in which the lead character narrates past events. In this case, lead character Tom presents

his recollections as a way to justify his decision to abandon his family.

"The play is presented as Tom's memory," Landis said. "He's presenting this story to the audience, kind of in a confessional way, to try to make his case about why his memory of the past justified his actions, justified him doing that, and how he's been tormented by that decision."

Written by Tennessee Wil-

liams, the semi-autobiographical play explores not only memory, but also family and regret. It follows the Wingfield family: Amanda, a mother trapped in nostalgia; Tom, a restless son yearning for freedom; and Laura, his painfully shy sister who finds solace in her collection of glass figurines.

As Amanda reminisces about her Southern upbringing, longing for a past filled with charm and suitors, Laura

remains consumed by her own insecurities. Meanwhile, Tom wrestles with his role as both a participant and observer in his family's struggles.

"The memory in this play is also about how a layer of it is asking the audiences to explore like, how truthful are our memories?" Landis said.

For actress Kristin Walter, who plays Amanda, embodying the character has been both demanding and rewarding.

"She is a force of nature," Walter said. "She never stops moving, never stops talking – she's exhausted. But underneath all that, she just wants what's best for her children. She just doesn't know what that is."

Walter's real-life son, Max Mahle, plays Tom in the play. It's not the first time they've performed together.

"We're very close, and we like each other a lot, but these characters are at odds, and they clash all the way through the show," Walter said, "but we were able to find moments just between Max and me where you can see that these characters truly do love each other."

For Walter, the emotional weight of the play is what makes it so timeless.

"This is a tragically beautiful story about family, expectations and lost dreams," she said. "Anyone who has struggled with the weight of their past or the pressures of family will see themselves in these characters."

Landis noted that the production stays true to the play's period setting, with dim lighting and carefully selected music to reinforce the themes of memory and nostalgia.

"The lighting shifts as characters recall their past, reflecting how memories can be incomplete or distorted," Landis said. "And music plays a huge role – it underscores the emotional weight of the scenes, shaping how we experience the characters' recollections."

Performances are scheduled 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays at Bus Barn, 97 Hillview Ave. Tickets are \$28-\$51.

For tickets and more information, visit losaltosstage.org.



PHOTO BY SCOTT LASKY PHOTOGRAPHY

"The Glass Menagerie" is a production that shows the life of lead character Tom, who leaves his family including his mother Amanda, portrayed by Kristin Walter (above), and older sister Laura, portrayed by April Culver (below).



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Hidden Villa. Provides summer camperships for underprivileged families.

Hope’s Corner. 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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Schools

FHDA board affirms undocumented students are protected from immigration enforcement

By Brandon Roth

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

It is unclear how far immigration enforcement officers will go to deport undocumented students. Still, Foothill-De Anza Community College District is prepared to provide resources and support to those directly impacted by President Donald Trump's immigration executive order.

Lee Lambert, the chancellor of Foothill-De Anza Community College District, recommended to the Board of Trustees on Jan. 13, before Trump's inauguration ceremony, to reaffirm a resolution to support undocumented students. The Board of Trustees in a unanimous vote passed the resolution which involves protecting student records from being released to ICE agents, providing safe and secure campuses and pledging students with an education regardless of their citizenship.

Adriana Garcia, a program coordinator with the Office of Equity Social Justice and Multicultural Education at De Anza College, attended the last

board meeting and said there that the continued support the district provides undocumented students will help them thrive in their academics and ensure they gain intergenerational wealth.

"We believe that having the right infrastructure and support, not just in words, practices or symbols, helps our students thrive," Garcia said. "Being able to distribute monies to the programs that best serve our students helps us understand them."

Other staff members also expressed that evening the anxieties and fears that they witnessed in 2018 when working with students during Trump's first term and hopes to ensure students' well-being will be at the forefront in the next few years.

Kristina Whalen, president of Foothill College, said her school is a "hub of resources" for AB 540 students or Dreamers who attended school and grew up in the United States but do not have permanent citizenship. Whalen said the demand for immigration legal services has risen on campus in



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

Foothill-De Anza Community College School District plans to provide undocumented students an equal right to an education as well as resources such as legal services, financial resources or mental health services.

the last decade and in anticipation of the election, the school

had increased their message of support for international stu-

dents who don't feel welcome

See DREAMERS, Page 17

Helping students with disabilities pay for college

Statepoint

Every student deserves a fair shot. Fortunately, opportunities exist to help people with disabilities pursue the education and training they need to succeed in their chosen career path.

Since 2017, Wells Fargo has partnered with Scholarship America to award 253 renewable scholarships to students with disabilities. Recently renamed "The Stacey Milbern Scholarship" after the pioneering activist, the scholarships open doors to new opportunities and foster greater accessibility for all.

Stacey Milbern was a Korean American activist who helped create the disability

justice movement and advocated for fair treatment of all disabled people. Born with congenital muscular dystrophy, a genetic degenerative disease, Milbern eventually became reliant on a scooter, a tracheostomy tube and a ventilator.

Despite living with challenges, she found the strength to dedicate herself to disability justice from a young age. While she was still a student, she worked to have disability history added to the school curriculum and raised awareness of disability rights through her blog and other outreach efforts.

In adulthood, she founded the Disability Justice

See SCHOLARS, Page 17



COURTESY OF ANDREY POPOV/ADOBE STOCK

Students with disabilities should be aware of scholarships such as the "The Stacey Milbern Scholarship" that can give opportunities for one to choose to their own path

Schools

DREAMERS

From Page 16

in the country.

“AB 540 is still law, which means that our campus police will not use resources or cooperate with immigration enforcement activities on our campus,” Whalen said. “We will do everything that we can to promote this campus as a safe space, a place where people can come here without fear but be greeted with support.”

She said to ensure a welcoming atmosphere on the campus, Foothill is offering rapid response training for staff members and community members to be up to date with current state and federal laws regarding immigration enforcement and to learn how to protect students if their rights

are being violated. According to the Foothill College website, the next rapid response training session is on Feb. 6 at 11 a.m. for about an hour and on Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. for Spanish speakers.

“The rapid response training fosters a compassionate allyship with students,” Whalen said. “It allows us to know how we can work to make sure that misinformation is not ruling the day. We have a broad knowledge base about what is permissible and not permissible under law and what this college will do and will not do to comply with ICE.”

Whalen said she is in awe of the local community that surrounds the college and the compassion they have for all people. She said many people don’t understand Dreamers are

Americans and that they spent most of their lives in the U.S. She said it would be inhumane to force students to leave their homes and be sent away to a foreign country on their own.

“I think certainly this campus community, as well as the larger community, believes that these Dreamers deserve a right to become a citizen,” Whalen said. “They’re part of our economic prosperity and more than 85% of undocumented employees are our employees. They work feeding our nation, working in healthcare as well with the construction that we will need for the California wildfires and other natural disasters.”

To learn more about Foothill and De Anza’s undocumented student resources, visit foothill.edu/dreamers and deanza.edu/students/undocumented.

SCHOLARS

From Page 16

Culture Club, helped organize protests, and worked to meet the needs of disabled and unhoused people during the early days of the pandemic. She also brought her unique perspective to corporate America, serving as Wells Fargo’s accommodations management consultant, and was an impact producer for the Netflix documentary “Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution,” which centers on the lives and voices of disabled Americans. In 2025, Milbern’s legacy will be celebrated by the U.S. Mint along with Ida B. Wells, Dr. Vera Rubin, and other honorees as part of the American Women

Quarters Program.

“Milbern passed away in 2020, but her achievements are honored in many ways, including in the Wells Fargo Stacey Milbern Scholarship. Wells Fargo was honored to receive an Irving Innovation Award from Scholarship America for its decision to rename our scholarship after her, and it serves as a testament to her legacy in advancing accessibility to education for students with disabilities,” said Andrew Holbrook, chief accessibility officer for Diverse Segments, Representation and Inclusion at Wells Fargo.

This year, the program will award renewable scholarships of up to \$2,500 for

full-time students and renewable scholarships of up to \$1,250 for part-time students who plan to enroll at an accredited two- or four-year college or university in the United States for the upcoming academic year.

For more information about the scholarship and to register to be notified when it is available in February 2025, visit scholarshipamerica.org. For more information about paying for college, visit collegesteps.wf.com.

“At a time when a college degree in the United States has never been more expensive, it is essential to create more pathways to success for students of all backgrounds,” said Holbrook.



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Sports

Young Eagles taking flight in rebuilding year

By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

It's been an up-and-down year for the Los Altos girls soccer team, but a 2-1 victory over Homestead Wednesday saw its young team give a performance head coach Jacob Valadez knew was possible.

"Our best game of the season," Los Altos head coach Jacob Valadez said. "We controlled the first half. Had a couple of people go out with a few injuries, so the second half opened up a little bit. I would have preferred not to give up that goal, but really proud of the girls for fighting back and getting the win."

With five freshmen getting minutes this season, it was no surprise a freshman got the winning goal. Winger Rebecca Guting scored with just seven minutes left in the game by

beating several Homestead defenders to a loose rebound and guiding it in by lofting the ball over the keeper for the score.

"We tell our attacking players, always imagine it's going to fall your way, that the defender is going to mess up, and you're ready if it takes a weird bounce and it gets past a defender, you are there to put it in, and Rebecca did just that," Valadez said. "Super proud of her. She was injured for part of the season, so for her to get back and get that goal is amazing."

Guting missed a chance earlier in the second half and was determined to do better, especially after Homestead had tied the game three minutes earlier with a goal.

"Once it hit off the post, I just knew I had to finish it, especially after the first shot I had, which wasn't the greatest," Guting said.

Archbishop Mitty overwhelms St. Francis in WCAL basketball showdown

By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

After a close first half against state powerhouse Archbishop Mitty, the Monarchs used a blistering third quarter to beat the St. Francis girls basketball team 78-52 Tuesday.

"It was awesome to see us compete with such a high-level team," St. Francis head coach Sami Pompei said. "I think their transition killed us in the second half. Obviously, offensive rebounds absolutely were our Achilles' heel. Gave up too many second chances. They really turned it up transition-wise and their pressure defensively in the third quarter, but I'm really proud of my team for the effort they put forth in a really competitive first half."

The Lancers (15-4) stayed within single digits against the Monarchs (16-3) in the first half, trailing 37-31 thanks to a 10-2 run to close the second quarter. The Lancers made several 3-pointers and forced three Mitty turnovers during the run.

Mitty got off to a fast start to the game, taking a 19-12 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Monarchs extended the lead to

33-21 before a late St. Francis run to close the half.

However, the Monarchs showed their class as one of the best teams in the country, going on a 22-4 run to open the second half and leading 64-40 entering the fourth quarter, putting the game out of reach. Mitty went on an 8-0 run out of halftime and outscored St. Francis 27-9 during the third quarter. Pompei noted Mitty pushed the pace more in transition against the St. Francis defense in the second half, scoring quick buckets after rebounds or getting several attempts to score after collecting offensive rebounds.

"We all recognize that offensive rebounds and transition defense really hurt us, and that's something we need to be better at next time," Pompei said.

Mitty held St. Francis to 52 points in the game thanks to a suffocating defensive press, the third-lowest scoring total for the season for the Lancers, with just 21 points in the second half.

"Their on-ball defense is unbelievable," Pompei said. "It's almost like you are up against a wall. I think, sometimes, for us, we've struggled to get our



MCKAYLA KAO/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Los Altos freshman Emma Middleton goes for a shot in traffic near the Homestead goal during the 2-1 win against the Mustangs Wednesday.

ing said. "I knew I had to finish it, and I had a goal similar to that in practice, so I went with the same placement."

Los Altos created most of

the chances in the first half through their pressing, build up and passing, starting with a header on target with 34 minutes left. The Eagles had a goal

disallowed for offside several minutes later when sophomore Brooke Neschleba rounded the

See SOCCER, Page 19

offense started because of the type of denial they put on our wings. We are not able to start the offense like we normally do."

Freshman Maliya Hunter led the Monarchs with 25 points, while sophomore Ze'Ni Patterson scored 17 points and junior Devin Cosgriff had 10.

"Obviously, 23, their freshman, is fantastic," Pompei said. "She stepped out and hit two threes right away and just got them going. They thrive on runs, and when they score, it just motivates their defense, and then their defense becomes smothering."

Sophie Holmes led the Lancers with 14 points, with Maia Jimenez and Grace Curley scoring nine. Holmes was the primary scorer for the Lancers early, scoring 11 in the first half.

"She's a gamer and just wants to win, and the thing I absolutely love about Sophie is if we need her to get 15 rebounds and not score a point, she's happy to do that, she just wants to win," Pompei said. "Tonight and last game, she realized, 'I need to score to have a chance to win,' so she stepped up and scored."

The Lancers are now 4-3 and



ALAN HWANG/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

St. Francis' Maia Jimenez goes up for a shot in the game against Archbishop Mitty Jan. 28.

tied for third in the West Catholic Athletic League standings,

while the Monarchs are now 7-0 and in first.

Sports

SOCCER

From Page 18

keeper after a diagonal run across the box, while forward Bella Mariona had a shot that rattled the crossbar with 13 minutes left. Neschleba and midfielder Anya Lin retained possession and drove the team forward, taking passes from the backline, turning and driving towards the Homestead defense. The Eagles were rewarded for their dominance with five minutes left in the first half when Mariona slotted home the opening goal on a rebound in the box.

"It really just felt like finally all the stuff we had been working on all season clicked," Valadez said. "It's a young group, so it's taken a bit to put it all together, but really proud of the upperclassmen and seniors for staying patient and the freshmen coming out with no fear and battling against really good players."

The Eagles (4-7-2) are now 3-3-1 in Santa Clara Valley Athletic League De Anza Division play, tied with Mountain View and Homestead for third. A year after winning the league, the season started slowly in nonleague play after losing 10 seniors. The Eagles lost their first four games and two of their first three league games. Valadez said playoffs are uncertain due to the losses at the start of the season but believes the development of playing against teams in the division will help next year and the year after for a group with two freshmen on the backline in Fernanda Mendieta and Dylan Harrison.

"Young group," Valadez said. "We only have four or five seniors and starting six freshmen. It's a rebuild, so to speak, but I couldn't be more proud of the group we have. The culture of the team is great. They come to training ready to improve. Win, lose, draw from games, smiles on faces, fist-bumping each other, always looking forward to the next day. Our record looks a little worse than how we are, but I couldn't be more happy with the group."

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



MCKAYLA KAO/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Top: Los Altos defender Selya Sen controls the ball with a Homestead player near her during the game Wednesday. Bottom: Los Altos players chase after the ball.



MCKAYLA KAO/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Eagles midfielder Anya Lin prepares to play a pass for the Los Altos attack against Homestead.

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Business & Real Estate
Datebook

Celebrate Love: Date night ideas

By Christina Casillas

Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

Being in love is fun. The inside jokes and shared experiences, the affection, getting to know someone and be as equally known by them, are all so special.

While it's important to cherish and remind those we love of how special they are on any day of the year, Valentine's Day and the weeks leading up to the holiday are fitting opportunities to do so.

Whether it be a day filled with activities, a home date or a long weekend trip – possible for many as Valentine's Day 2025 lands on the Friday before President's Day – here are some local date ideas for those looking to do something with their boos.

- Filoli Historic House and Garden. This sprawling Woodside estate located at 86 Cañada Road has something for everyone: trails, a beautiful historic home, a lush gar-

den, shops and food. Whether it be a couple of hours or a full day of exploring the grounds, Filoli offers opportunities for hand-holding walks and a memorable shared experience.

- Visit a close seaside town. Stroll along the streets of downtown Half Moon Bay or go to Johnson Pier and walk along the many pathways leading to and from the pier. If you're looking for a place to eat, Ketch Harbor Pub (Formerly Ketch Joanne's), located at 17 Johnson Pier, is my favorite spot in town. You could also make the trip further north to Pacifica to walk along the areas near the Pacifica Municipal Pier, or go on a short (0.6 mile-long) hike along the Cypress Trail. The Cypress Trail, located in the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, has multiple ocean outlooks and connects the Coastal Trail to the Bluff Trail.

- Build a Lego set together. My partner Ryan loves build-

ing Legos. We've built multiple sets together, including a Lego Chevy Camaro, Mercedes AMG G 63 and Mercedes AMG SL 63 F1, and an orchid set he got me. While it's a fun opportunity to create something you can later display with your significant other, it also reveals how well you work together.

- Cook a meal together. Making lunch or dinner can be quite monotonous, a chore for many, but doing it intentionally and with someone you love can be rewarding: Not only do you get to spend time with one of your favorite people, but you get a delicious meal out of it. Whether you're following one of Town Crier columnist Christine Moore's delicious recipes, or creating a recipe all your own, making a meal with your partner can be very enjoyable.

- Repeat your first date. When you met your partner, did you get dinner? Go to the movies? Grab a cup of coffee? What-



CHRISTINA CASILLAS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Building Lego sets together can be a fun activity for couples.

ever it was, do it again. First dates can be sentimental; maybe it was awkward, a memory of which you both look back upon and laugh, or maybe it

was dreamily perfect. Whatever the case, first date part two can remind you both of how your relationship started and how far you've come.

Let love lead the way to these Valentine's Day dishes

By Christine Moore

I recently realized that compassion has the word "compass" in it. Right at the beginning. It's something I should have noticed ages ago, I suppose. Nonetheless, now that I see it, I can't unsee it. Turns out, both words share the etymological root meaning: "move together." Honestly, I can think of no more reliable, truer compass to guide our direction than compassion.

To my mind, compassion is love in action. So of course, letting love lead the way through life makes great sense. I suspect that whenever you have moved in the direction of empathy, tender-heartedness, sympathetic curiosity, patient understanding or trust, you have found yourself to be exactly where you were meant to be. Compassion is as reliable a compass in finding our way to one another's hearts as it gets.

I find compassion to be a great guide for feeding ourselves and others as well. These recipes, inspired by love, are great for celebrating Valentine's Day or any other day when you want to express your love with flavor. One recipe is made for



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINE MOORE

This salmon salad is best served shared with those one loves.

sharing, another for self-caring. And the last recipe, well, it's made with chocolate, so it's good for just about everything.

In addition to creating recipes that seek to care for my loved ones, these recipes also aim to be compassionate to our planet. With primarily plant-based ingredients, these dishes are as delicious

Silicon Valley Sips

as they are kind to our shared planet.

Swoon-worthy salmon salad

This fresh and flavorful, dinner-worthy salad couldn't be simpler to make. In part, because it uses store-bought salad kits. It's so good and so sharable it makes indulging loved ones in a healthy, tasty meal trouble-free. The recipe will make more than you may even need to feed your family. Folks love it when I text that I've got more of this salad than we can eat. Sharing leftovers is a great way to give friends and neighbors a bit of love.

- 2 bags cabbage-based Asian salad mix, such as Taylor's (Note: Save for later the mix-ins that may come with salad kit)
- 2-4 ounce salmon fillets
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 12oz bag, frozen shelled edamame
- 2 avocados
- 1 English cucumber
- 8-9 green onions

Heat oven to 425F.

Cook edamame according to package instructions. Drain and rinse well with cold water. Set aside.

Pat salmon fillets dry with paper towel, then place on parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Drizzle olive oil evenly over salmon, then season well with generous sprinkling of sea salt and freshly cracked pepper. Bake for 10-12 minutes.

While salmon cooks, add all the vegetables to a large bowl, and mix the salad dressing (below). When salmon is cooked, remove from oven and flake into pieces using a fork.

Toss salad with dressing. Add salmon flakes atop and gently stir through. Taste for seasoning and add salt and pepper if needed.

Sesame dressing

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup rice wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 2 teaspoons tamari
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

See RECIPES, Page 23

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Be My Valentine

Choco-Stroll sweetens up downtown

Town Crier Staff Report

Something sweet is coming to downtown Los Altos, just in time for Valentine's Day: The Los Altos Village Association is hosting its third Downtown Choco-Stroll 2-5 p.m. Saturday along State and Main streets.

"Each year we have added new chocolatiers, brought back favorites, and enhanced the overall experience for our ticketholders," said Scott Hunter, executive director of the Los Altos Village Association. "This year, in addition to enjoying samples of premium chocolate, desserts, baked goods, ice-cream and boozy hot chocolate across 17 tasting sites, guests can temper their own fresh chocolate in the gorgeous Rustic Room."

"Chocolate pairing with wine will also be found in this special room behind Rustic House Oyster Bar & Grill. And, since this is a Valentine's Day event, visitors can browse and shop for their sweetheart while engaging with local business owners, chocolatiers, confectioners, and bakers to learn more about their craft. The (chocolate) icing on the cake is the whole community can delight in the live music throughout downtown, adding to the vibrantly sweet atmosphere."

Tickets are \$45, \$50 the day of the event. For more information, visit downtown losaltos.org.



SHELLY BOWERS/TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTOS

Above are scenes from the inaugural Choco-Stroll in 2023. Participants can tour retail shops and restaurants, sample chocolates, listen to live music and basically have a sweet time in downtown Los Altos. This year's event is scheduled 2-5 p.m. Saturday.

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Be My Valentine

RECIPES

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- 1 clove garlic, grated
- 1 inch fresh ginger, peeled and grated
- 1/4 teaspoon turmeric
- 2 teaspoons sesame seed oil
- 1/2 teaspoon each salt and pepper

Alternatively, use your favorite store-bought sesame salad dressing.

Hot and spiced baked sweet potato

This is my go-to dinner when I'm eating alone. It feels like a bowl of self-love. By baking one more sweet potato, the recipe makes enough for two – perfect for a cozy date-night in.

- 1-2 sweet potatoes, scrubbed
- 1/4 English cucumber, seeds removed and rough cut
- 1/4 avocado, cubed
- 1 tablespoon finely diced red onions
- Small bunch curly parsley
- Handful pitted kalamata olives, coarsely chopped
- 1 can chickpeas, rinsed and dried
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- Tahini drizzle (below)

Heat oven to 425F. Using a pairing knife, carefully create five to seven small slices in the skin of the potato – this allows steam to come out while potato is baking.

Place prepared sweet potatoes on parchment lined sheet pan and bake for 45-65 minutes depending on size.

Add a tablespoon of the Shawarma seasoning mix (below)

While potatoes bake, pre-

pare all the other toppings and the tahini drizzle (below). Set aside while you cook the chickpeas.

Dry the drained and rinsed chickpeas on a towel. This is important for ensuring they get a bit crispy when cooked.

Heat a non-stick pan over medium-high heat. Add olive oil. When oil begins to shimmer, add the dried chickpeas. Sauté beans for 4-5 minutes or until slightly browned all over, shake the pan or stir with wooden spoon to ensure even browning.

Shawarma seasoning

- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon all spice
- 3/4 teaspoon each sea salt and pepper

Add all ingredients to a small bowl and mix until fully combined. This will make more Shawarma seasoning than needed. Use leftovers with olive oil as a marinade or simply mix with yogurt for a tasty vegetable dip.

Tahini drizzle

- 3 tablespoons tahini
- Juice of one lemon
- Flake salt, such as Muldoon
- Warm water as needed

Add all ingredients to small, shallow bowl. Mix well, adding small amounts of warm water (one teaspoon at a time) to thin if needed. You want it to be thin

enough to drizzle.

Top cooked sweet potatoes with chickpeas and other toppings then drizzle with tahini mixture and enjoy!

Healthy heart bark

Valentine's Day without chocolate just doesn't seem right. This indulgent chocolate bark is easy to make and easy to share. Heart-healthy, antioxidant-rich ingredients pack the sweet treat with flavor and goodness. Gifting a bag of this bark will surely make loved ones feel adored.

- 2 cups chopped walnuts
- 9 ounces dark chocolate, broken into pieces or use chocolate chips

late chips

- 1 cup dried sour cherries
- 2 tablespoons, plus one teaspoon, finely chopped crystallized ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Flaky sea salt, such as Muldoon Sea Salt Flakes

Heat a non-stick pan over medium. Add chopped walnuts and let toast, keeping an eye on them and periodically stirring. This will take only a few minutes. Pour onto cool surface, such as a plate, as soon as lightly toasted.

Line a second baking sheet with a piece of parchment paper. In a glass bowl, melt chocolate in a microwave oven at high

in 30-second bursts, checking and stirring in between bursts. Stop just before fully melted, add vanilla and mix to fully melt.

Stir in the walnuts, cherries and crystallized ginger until evenly coated.

Scrape the mixture onto the prepared baking sheet and spread it out – it may not fill the entire sheet but fairly close. Sprinkle a small amount of flaky sea salt evenly over the top.

Pop in the refrigerator for 20 minutes or until firm. Cut or break into pieces.

Separate into small bags and gift to friends.



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By Mike Hagerly

Heads turn. Thumbs are raised. Big smiles all around. That's the reaction when people see the 2025 Volkswagen ID.BUZZ for the first time.

About that name.

VW uses the “ID.” Prefix for all its electric vehicles. Here in the U.S., that’s the ID.4 SUV (“On The Road,” August 2021), the ID.7 fastback sedan, and now the ID.BUZZ, which is meant to resemble the old Volkswagen Type 2, which most folks called the “VW Bus.”

They were wildly popular in the 1960s, especially here in Northern California, where they were essentially the official vehicle of the counterculture. Seemingly everyone of a certain age has a VW Bus story, though some of the details may be fuzzy in the haze of passing

time and then-felonious-but-now-legal smoke.

You'll find rough but running examples, still wearing their original yellow-on-black California plates and a smidge or more of rust on their bumpers, doing daily driver duty along Highway 1 from Santa Cruz to Pacifica. Restored examples frequently sell for six figures at auction, with at least three having gone for more than \$200,000.

America hasn't seen a VW bus in more than 20 years, since the 2003 departure of what was then branded the Volkswagen Eurovan. So its return is a big deal, made bigger by the fact that the ID.BUZZ is an EV.

Like the revival of the VW Beetle ("On the Road," Sep-



MIKE HAGERTY/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

The 2025 Volkswagen ID.BUZZ transforms a culture icon into a new electric vehicle option.

tember 2019), it has nothing in common with the old Bus, other than styling meant to evoke a beloved VW icon. And it does that exceptionally well, with

its loaf-of-bread shape and its available two-tone paint jobs.

Clever design abounds inside as well, with three rows of seating, tons of headroom and

legroom, and some cutting-edge tech including a giant sunroof that uses electrochromic glass instead of a sunshade

See VOLKSWAGEN, Page 25

By Matt Pataky

In the past few months, we have seen an uptick with climate control systems failing. The most noticeable problem has been heater systems in late model Audi. In the past month, we have had one 2015 Q5 and one 2018 Q7 come in with no heat in the cabin. The customers said they could turn on the heating and air conditioning system (HVAC), but no heat came from the vents. We also had one 2018 Q5 owner state that once he turned on his heating and air conditioning system, there was a strange noise emanating from the center vents and with the heat on, only cold air came out. Two of the three cars had similar problems, and one was different.

I will start by talking about the 2018 Q5. This customer stated that there was a strange sound from the center vents when the heat was turned on and that he only got cold air. He also said that the driver's side of the window was fogging up on the inside. Once we got the car in the shop, we first confirmed the problem. The next thing we did was connect the factory scan tool and pull codes from the heating and air condition system. We pulled three codes: the B11AF fresh air recirculation flap for mechanical failure, B1092 07 motor recirculation flap for mechanical failure and B10C9

07 motor left side vent flap for mechanical failure.

Before I really get into this problem, let's talk about the HVAC control system first. When you turn on the fan, you can choose AC, heat, defrost or vent. The control system has to command actuators to divert air from different ducts in the HVAC control box (inside the front dash). If one of those actuators cannot divert the airflow properly, you will have a problem.

After pulling the codes, we used the scan tool to command all five HVAC control actuators. Once we got to the fresh air actuator, we were unable to command it. We checked the signal to the actuator, and it was OK. We then called the customer and told him we had to replace the fresh air actuator first and retest. After removing the fresh air motor, we checked the fresh air flap first. If the flap was stuck or broken it may have caused the fresh air actuator to break in the first place. The flap was OK, so we replaced the fresh air actuator. Once the actuator was installed, we had to go back and set endpoints (adaptations) for all the actuators. Once the new actuator



RACHEL ARONSON/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Columnist Matt Pataky explains his process for fixing cars with various issues.

was installed and adapted, the system worked fine.

The 2015 Q5 and 2018 Q7 were a different problem. Sand is used during the casting process of engine blocks. Some sand gets embedded in the metal when the molten metal is poured. Poor mold quality, poor casting coatings, poor sand quality and inadequate procedures can cause this sand to work itself out after the engine has run for a while. The sand usually

erodes inside the engine cooling system. The sand then starts to accumulate in the engine block and coolant passages. Eventually, a large amount of sand is distributed throughout the coolant system. Once the sand reaches the heater core, it slowly blocks the heater core passages. Soon, the heater core will be completely blocked and unable to function.

See MECHANIC, Page 25

On the Road

VOLKSWAGEN

From Page 24

to block out or let in the solar rays.

If you ever experienced the old VW Bus, you know it was noisy and slow. A 1967 Type 2 had 52 horsepower, and a zero to 60 time of close to one full minute.

The ID.BUZZ, being electric, is silent and surprisingly quick – zero to 60 in 6.6 seconds for the rear-wheel-drive model, which has 282 horsepower, and 5.5 seconds for the 335-horsepower all-wheel-drive, which is as quick as the VW GTI sport hatchback.

The Environmental Protection Agency says the all-wheel-drive version of the ID.BUZZ, which I drove, should go 231 miles on a single charge, with a mile per gallon equivalent (MPGe) of 80. Many reviewers report getting better results, with a charge lasting 260 miles or more. That could be from downhill stretches, regenerative braking, tailwinds or driving style. While it's an improvement, it's still a fairly low range in this day and age, and could limit sales.

One thing I'm fairly sure will limit ID.BUZZ sales is its pricing. The least expensive trim level is the Pro S. Two-tone paint jobs aren't available. It comes in white, black or silver. That's it. And it starts at \$59,995. If you want the extra-cost two-tone paint job, the 13-speaker, 700-watt Harman Kardon premium sound system, retractable trailer hitch, head-up display, overhead view camera, hands-free liftgate and easy-open/close sliding doors, and the adjustable storage system, you need to move up to



MIKE HAGERTY/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

The 2025 Volkswagen ID.BUZZ starts at \$59,995 and can go 231 miles on a single charge in the all-wheel drive version.

the Pro S Plus, which begins at \$63,495.

Those are rear-wheel drive models. Getting it with its extra 53 horsepower requires the Pro S Plus 4MOTION. That's \$67,995. But if you want literally everything the ID.BUZZ has to offer, including two-tone paint as standard instead of an extra-cost option, the electrochromic sunroof – well, that's the 1st Edition, available in RWD at \$65,495 or in an AWD 4MOTION model with a base price of \$69,995. That's \$71,545 with destination.

That's sticker shock defined. And the DMV online calculator tells me that tax and license for that price come to \$7,296, for a total of \$78,841.

So, very nearly \$80,000.

The 2025 VW ID.BUZZ is unique. It is the only electric minivan currently for sale in the United States. If and when it has competition, those other vehicles won't look like the ID.BUZZ or have the emotional link to an iconic vehicle.

Volkswagen is making a big

push with electric vehicles as public penance for its diesel cheating scandal of nearly a decade ago, which cost them \$14.7 billion in fines to the EPA and a \$2 billion investment in the Electrify America charging network.

I can't help but wish they'd introduced the ID.BUZZ as a gasoline/electric hybrid, with base prices between \$41,995 and \$49,995. There'd be lines out the door of VW dealers across the country.

Maybe I'm wrong, but even in tech-friendly Northern California, a \$70,000-plus electric minivan with a below-average range seems like a tough sell.

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 MikeHagertyCars.com.



MECHANIC

From Page 24

Both the 2015 Q5 and 2018 Q7 heater cores were completely plugged. The big problem is that removing the heater core is extremely expensive. Also, there is no guarantee that the heater core will not plug again. Because of this, both of our customers decided to live without heat for now.

We have been researching this problem, and it is possible that VW has a new chemical that might be able to dissolve the sand, yet it is time-consuming and also very expensive without a guarantee of solving the problem. Basically, this new procedure is to add the

chemical and then perform a coolant exchange about five times. The newer Audi and VW coolants have extended life, but with this new information, it makes sense to perform coolant exchanges more frequently. If our customers decide to perform the procedure or replace the heater cores, I will write about it.

Matt Pataky owns Sunnyvale Foreign Car Service, 15 Pioneer Way, Mountain View.

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Subaru Outback offers cost-efficient option

By Mike Hagerty

Two months after my review of the Mercedes-Benz E 450 4MATIC All-Terrain (“On the Road,” December 2024), I’m ready to sing the praises of the station wagon yet again as a solid alternative to heavier, rougher-riding and harder-to-park SUVs.

From shortly after World War II until the mid-1980s, station wagons were common sights on the streets of the Peninsula and all over America. In both 1964 and 1977, you could choose from a record 47 different station wagon models.

I have always believed a comically altered Ford LTD Squire’s appearance (as the “Family Truckster”) in the movie “National Lampoon’s Vacation” in 1983, followed just months later by the debut of the first Chrysler minivans (Dodge Caravan and Plymouth Voyager), was the turning point.

Now, there are six station wagon models. Five of them – two Audis, one Porsche, one Volvo and the Mercedes – are from Europe and carry above-average price tags. The Benz, you may recall, started at \$74,700 and had a sticker price with options and destination

charges of \$83,610.

Then there’s the Subaru Outback from Japan. The Outback carries just as many people (five) as the Mercedes, and more cargo (32.6 cubic feet behind the second-row seat, 75.6 cubic feet with that row folded). Both wagons are all-wheel drive. Like the Benz, in top-of-the-line Touring XT trim, it’s nicely equipped. Unlike the Benz, the Outback Touring XT begins at \$42,795 (\$44,215 including destination).

Auto Review

The Outback Touring XT has a 2.4-liter turbocharged Boxer four-cylinder engine with 260 horsepower and 277 pound-feet of torque. That’s enough for zero to 60 sprints of about six seconds flat. That may be a second and a half slower than the Mercedes, but it’s still quick by any objective measure.

If you’re thinking there’s more good news when it comes to fuel economy, there’s a bit of a surprise. The Outback and the E 450 4MATIC All-Terrain tie in the EPA’s city estimate – 22 mpg – and the Benz beats the Subaru in the highway figure, 31 to 29. Credit the



MIKE HAGERTY/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

The new Subaru Outback starts at \$42,795 with better cargo options than similar Mercedes models.

Mercedes’ 48-volt mild hybrid system and its nine-speed automatic transmission over the Outback’s continually various transmissions.

The Outback Touring XT comes with a long list of standard equipment, including a comprehensive suite of active safety features, 18-inch wheels, dual-zone automatic climate control with air filtration, navigation, a Harman Kardon audio system with HD Radio and a four-month subscription to SiriusXM satellite radio, a heated, leather-wrapped steering wheel,

Nappa leather-trimmed upholstery, heated and ventilated front seats (12-way power-adjustable for driver and eight-way power adjustable for front passenger), heated rear seats, keyless entry, pushbutton start and a hands-free power tailgate.

The only extra-cost option on our test vehicle was \$141 for all-weather floor liners, putting the bottom line on the window sticker at \$44,356.

Quick enough, reasonably frugal on gasoline, nicely decked out in Nappa leather, and with an all-wheel drive for

weekend getaways to Tahoe, ... and at a price of \$39,000 and change below the Mercedes. The Subaru Outback Touring XT makes a strong value argument for itself.

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 MikeHagertyCars.com.



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Business & Real Estate

Luna Mexican Kitchen to pay for downtown parking spaces

Town Crier Staff Report

Luna Mexican Kitchen, slated for an early 2025 opening at 143 First St., has a licensing agreement with the city of Los Altos to use 26 parking plaza spaces – spaces needed because the restaurant is underparked.

The restaurant is taking over the once-buzzing location that housed shuttered downtown restaurants Bumble and House On First.

The agreement was presented as an informational item at the Jan. 14 Los Altos City Council meeting.

“The proposed restaurant requires an additional 26 parking stalls than what is available onsite,” read a staff report. “The city is able to provide parking in adjacent parking plazas for a set fee as determined in the adopted fee schedule set by the city council.”

In this case, Luna will pay \$12,636 annually, \$486 per stall.



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

143 First St., as photographed in June 2024, will house Luna Mexican Kitchen.

“This is the same process that has been in place for the Los Altos Grill for several years,” said Assistant City Manager Nick Zornes. “We executed a parking license agreement with

Luna (the same way we did for the Los Altos Grill) which will allow them to meet the parking demand of their business use with parking in the adjacent parking plazas. The park-

ing that they are leasing from the city will be unassigned (in any public parking plaza), and will be unmarked as stipulated in the executed license agreement.”

There are no updates from those at Luna Mexican Kitchen about when the restaurant in Los Altos will open.

Luna is farm-to-table restaurant with two locations in the South Bay. The first location was opened by Jo Lerma-Lopez, a natural chef and restaurateur.

She opened the first Luna location in 2017 off the Alameda in San Jose and opened another two years later in Campbell.

Lerma-Lopez told this publication in June 2024 she had already filed permits with the city and was positive about getting the restaurant up and running in early 2025.

“We have great architects, and we’ve done a lot of back end work already,” Lerma-Lopez said. “... We work with fantastic contractors and architects. It would take about 10 months to get everything done once the permit process is complete, which we’re almost there, hopefully.”

The futility of predicting stock market returns

By Artie Green

One year ago I wrote about the stock market predictions that major investment banks and brokerages seem to feel is a necessary part of their marketing (see tinyurl.com/stockmarketpredictions).

Why they spend the time, effort and money to come up with these guesses is a mystery to me, particularly because those predictions are almost always wrong, often spectacularly. If you recall, back then I reported that over 80% of economists surveyed by the Financial Times in 2022 predicted a U.S. recession sometime in 2023 that never happened. And in January 2023 the consensus among Wall Street firms was that the S&P 500 would end that year with a 4.4% gain. The actual return turned out to be over 24%.

This year is no exception. I repeat here the end of year 2024 price predictions (and returns) of the S&P 500 made by some of the top financial firms back in January 2024:

- JP Morgan Chase: 4200 (-12%)
- Morgan Stanley: 4500 (-5.5%)
- Wells Fargo Securities: 4625 (-3%)
- UBS Global Wealth Management: 4700 (-1.5%)
- Bank of America: 5000 (+5%)
- Deutsche Bank & Goldman Sachs: 5100 (+7%)

Nest Egg Briefs

The actual return was 23.3%. Unsurprisingly they all missed it by well over a mile. Why? As I’ve said before, predicting something as complex as the average price return of the shares of stocks of the 500 largest companies in the U.S. is not just difficult. It’s impossible.

The price per share of any stock at any point in the future is based on two factors: (1) the company’s earnings per share times (2) the price/earnings (P/E) ratio (the price investors are willing to pay for each dollar of earnings). When the stock’s P/E ratio is higher, it means that investors are willing to pay more for the same level of earnings from that company as compared to when its P/E ratio is lower, and vice-versa. That’s what’s called investor sentiment. Individual company P/E ratios fluctuate all the time and you can aggregate them to reflect investor sentiment with respect to the overall market at any given moment.

In order to predict a company’s future price per share, you first have to be able to accurately predict the actual profits of each of those companies at year-end.

See STOCKS, Page 29

RECENTLY SOLD LISTINGS



1617 DALLAS COURT
LOS ALTOS, CA 94024
\$4,203,225 | 5 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS
Sold over \$200K with 3 offers



1037 RANERE COURT
SUNNYVALE, CA 94087
\$4,055,000 | 4 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS
Sold over \$1M over list price with 17 offers



570 SEQUOIA DRIVE
LOS ALTOS, CA 94024
\$4,510,000 | 3 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS
Sold over \$1M over list price with 13 offers



20173 SOMERSET DRIVE
CUPERTINO, CA 95014
\$3,300,000 | 3 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS
Sold over \$500K with 13 offers

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Business & Real Estate

The local real estate market in review

By Alex French
Special to the Town Crier

The year 2024 presented a complex landscape for the real estate market, characterized by a juxtaposition of challenges and growth. The tech sector faced a recession marked by layoffs and concerns over AI advancements, while simultaneously experiencing significant valuation increases in various companies and assets. This period of adjustment saw companies recalibrating their workforces, moving past the over-hiring trends of the pandemic era, and embracing new technologies in anticipation of the evolving economy.

The Federal Reserve's efforts to combat persistent inflation, which hovered around 3% for much of the year, resulted in a reduction to approximately 2.5% by year-end. This was achieved through two interest rate cuts – 0.5% and 0.25% – with indications of further reductions in 2025. Despite these monetary policy adjustments, mortgage rates remained relatively high, averaging around 6%. Notably, a brief dip to 4.875% in July allowed for temporary relief for some

buyers.

In the face of elevated interest rates, the local real estate market demonstrated resilience. A notable 10% increase in property prices during the last quarter, following the Federal Reserve's initial rate cut in September, signaled a resurgence in buyer urgency. This trend suggests a growing confidence that the market has moved past its lowest point, prompting buyers to act before a broader market recovery intensifies competition, especially given the limited housing inventory.

A significant development in 2024 was the widespread implementation of return-to-office (RTO) policies by many companies.

The era of indefinite remote work concluded as employers leveraged workforce reductions to encourage a return to physical office spaces, citing data indicating higher productivity in such environments. This shift has led to increased demand for housing closer to workplaces, although challenges persist in the commercial real estate sector due to an oversupply of vacant office spaces and a trend toward companies operating with reduced physical footprints.

2025 Predictions

As we transition into 2025, several key factors are poised to influence the real estate market:

Interest rates: Anticipated further reductions by the Federal Reserve may lead to more favorable mortgage rates, stimulating buyer activity.

Inventory levels: The ongoing scarcity of available homes will continue to create competitive conditions among buyers. However, preparing your property strategically remains critical to achieving top dollar in any market, ensuring it appeals to the widest pool of potential buyers.

Economic indicators: The tech industry's adaptation to new technologies and the broader economic climate will continue to play a pivotal role in shaping market dynamics.

For both buyers and sellers, staying informed and agile in response to these evolving trends will be essential for making sound real estate decisions in the coming year.

Nicholas French is a Los Altos Hills resident and realtor in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills. For more information, text or call (650) 773-8000 or visit RealtorNickFrench.com.

Beware of federal grant application aid scam

Better Business Bureau

Watch out for third parties claiming to help with your U.S. government grant registration.

Government impostor scams take on new twists, seeking to trick unsuspecting consumers and businesses. In the newest version, third-party companies offer businesses help with managing their registrations for the U.S. System for Award Management, SAM.gov, for a fee. SAM.gov is a free U.S. government registry for vendors doing business with the government. According to the SAM.gov official website, users can register to do business with the U.S. government, update business entity registrations, search for records, assistance, contract opportunities, data reports and

BBB Scam Alert

access publicly available award data.

How it works

You receive an email from what appears to be a SAM.gov representative stating that your registration is set to expire sometime soon. You are threatened with delaying or losing business funding or even at risk of having your registration deleted within the system. You are instructed to update your information immediately using a link and a unique case code provided in the correspondence. If you follow the link, you'll be taken to a third-party registration center website claiming

See GRANT SCAM, Page 29



1242 Green Oak Lane, Los Altos
Listed for \$4,688,000 and sold for \$5,810,000

Mary's Recent Sales



1585 Siesta, Los Altos
Sold for \$5,560,000 **SOLD!**



370 Yerba Santa, Los Altos
Sold for \$8,780,000 **SOLD!**



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Broker Principal

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Website: **MarySanbrook.com**

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Extraordinary Results.
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Los Altos | Los Altos Hills | Atherton | Woodside
Palo Alto | Portola Valley | Menlo Park | Mt. View

Business & Real Estate

Transactions

Los Altos

1070 Mercedes Avenue #10, Visionary Development LLC to S. & A. Hughes for \$1,100,000

23691 Camino Hermoso Drive, Npi Debt Fund I Lp to P. Gao for \$3,500,000

1625 Austin Avenue, Mcgrew Trust to Z. & Y. Lai for \$3,700,000

677 Spargur Drive, Sf21G LLC to P. & C. Wang for \$4,450,000

555 South El Monte Avenue, S. & C. Zimmermann to Maddipatla Living Trust for \$6,350,000

559 South El Monte Avenue, S. & C. Zimmermann to Varma Family Trust for \$8,375,000

Mountain View

1393 West Middlefield Road, Summerhill W Middlefield LLC to N. Meh-

rabadi for \$1,788,000

125 Flynn Avenue, Grandwell LLC to G. & R. Basu for \$2,090,000

13098 Franklin Avenue, E. Wong to W. & Y. Zhang for \$3,550,000

Total sales

Los Altos

Total sales: 6

Lowest sale: \$1,100,000

Highest sale: \$8,375,000

Average sale: \$4,579,200

Mountain View

Total sales: 3

Lowest sale: \$1,788,000

Highest sale: \$3,550,000

Average sale: \$2,476,000

— CalREsource

GRANT SCAM

From Page 28

to help businesses that do business with the federal government and you'll be prompted to pay the third-party for your renewal.

BBB files indicate that the services listed in this BBB Business Profile have a pattern of complaints concerning non-service provided after payment is made. Consumer complaints state that they signed up for the SAM Program and, after paying, are not able to reach the business, and services for the program have not been completed as advised. BBB contacted the business in September 2021 about the pattern of complaints but has not received a response at this time.

Avoiding the scam

Never pay for SAM.gov registration. SAM.gov is a free U.S. government registry that does not require a fee to register, renew or update your registration. If you receive an email from a company offering to help with your registration or renewal for a fee, it's best to ignore it.

Verify directly with the agency. If someone claims to be from a government agency, contact the agency using its official website or phone number. Never use the contact information provided by the caller or emailer.

Know how government agencies operate. Legitimate agencies like the IRS, Social Security Administration, or Service Canada will not

demand immediate payment, threaten arrest, or ask for sensitive information over the phone, email, or text.

Check email extensions. Official government correspondence usually comes from ".gov" or ".mil" addresses. Messages from Gmail, Yahoo, or similar domains claiming to be government-related are scams.

Protect your personal information. Avoid sharing sensitive details like Social Security or Social Insurance numbers, bank account details, or passwords unless you initiate contact with a verified agency.

Report any suspicious contact to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at reportfraud.ftc.gov or through the BBB Scam Tracker.

STOCKS

From Page 27

That's something even their own CEOs have difficulty doing, what with changes to competition, regulations, cost of capital, etc., during the period.

The impossible part is to predict investor sentiment. What causes investors to change the price they're willing to pay for each earnings dollar? A myriad of things, most of which are impossible to predict. Sometimes it happens quickly, such as after the Fed announced (only?) a 25 percent-age point rate cut last December 18th. Other times investors can become very

optimistic, as we saw after the election results last November. But how can anyone know what investor sentiment will be at any point in the future? Without knowing that, there's no way to predict future stock prices.

The top Wall Street firms have already come up with their predictions for 2025. But I'm not going to bother to track them this time. They'll most likely be wrong again.

Los Altos resident Artie Green is founder of Cognizant Wealth Advisors (DBA: Perigon Wealth Management, LLC, a registered investment advisor). For more information, visit cognizantwealth.com.

JUST LISTED!

4149 EL CAMINO WAY SUITE A, PALO ALTO



Welcome to an exceptional office condo in the bustling city of Palo Alto! Extremely well-maintained building with manicured landscaping and competitive COA. This unit provides 1,224 square feet of use with four individual offices, one conference office and two private bathrooms. The subject property is close by retail and prestigious institutions including the renovated San Antonio Center, Tesla dealership and Stanford University. With historic neighborhoods, diverse attractions, and entertainment, shopping, and nightlife district, Palo Alto is an exciting destination for business. Current leases are month to month. Prime location for an owner/user looking to start or expand their business. Zoning does allow for medical/dental practices. Please do not disturb tenants, contact Nick to schedule a showing.



NICK WEMYSS

Realtor, SRES

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OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY
2:00-4:00PM

25611 Vinedo Lane LOS ALTOS HILLS

JUST LISTED

Luxurious Rustic Mediterranean Vineyard Estate



- Custom luxury home built in 2012
- 5 bedrooms, office, and 4.5 baths on two levels
- Approx. 5,074+/- sf of living space
- Lot size of 1.07 acres (46,609+/- sf)
- Adjacent to 60-acre Packard Foundation apricot orchard
- Lovely views of the Bay and Valley
- Stunning kitchen and family room combination
- Upstairs primary bedroom suite with fireplace and view balcony
- Heated loggia with built-in Viking barbecue, fire pit terrace, bocce court, and Pinot Noir vineyard
- Great location just 2 miles from downtown Los Altos
- Excellent Los Altos schools: Gardner Bullis Elementary, Egan Junior High, and Los Altos High (buyer to confirm enrollment)



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Broker Associate
DRE# 01408349

650.743.1838

susan.sims@theagencyre.com

SusanSimsHomes.com



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OPEN SAT & SUN February 8 & 9, 2:00 - 4:00pm



Kathy Bridgman's

NEW LISTINGS
OF THE WEEK

English Estate on 2.4+ Acres with Amazing Views

14345 Saddle Mountain Drive, Los Altos Hills

- Spacious solar-powered home with 5 bedrooms, tremendous office, and 5.5 baths
- Approximately 5,015 square feet of living space (not verified by Compass)
- Approximately 2.447 acres with sweeping views of the western hills (not verified by Compass)
- Dramatic living room with fireplace, sitting room, and formal dining room
- Chef's kitchen, casual dining area, and family room combination with fireplace
- Multi-person, fully customized office with tremendous storage and adjacent outside entrance
- Extra-large lower-level primary suite with fireplace and views
- Main-level guest suite, mezzanine-level bedroom and bath, plus two lower-level bedrooms and bath
- Attached 3-car garage with EV charging and wine room
- Vast entertainment deck with built-in barbecue
- Highly regarded Palo Alto schools

Offered at \$5,495,000
14345SaddleMountain.com



OPEN SAT & SUN February 8 & 9, 2:00 - 4:00pm



Newly Remodeled Gem with Pool and East Bay Hill Views

517 Outlook Drive, Los Altos

- 4 bedrooms and 3 baths
- Approximately 2,615 square feet of living space (not verified by Compass)
- All new engineered hardwood floors in the main living areas on both levels
- Entire walls of glass in living room and recreation room, each with fireplace and views of the pool, across the valley, and out to the East Bay hills
- Remodeled all-white kitchen features new quartz countertops and subway-set tile backsplashes
- Privately located primary suite with newly remodeled bath
- Three additional bedrooms are served by a remodeled bath
- Lower-level recreation room and remodeled bath with access to the pool
- Front lawn, large covered front deck, and separately fenced, solar-heated pool with expansive patio space
- Attached 2-car carport with direct entry to the home
- Approximately 0.87 acre (37,897 square feet; not verified by Compass)

Offered at \$4,695,000
517Outlook.com

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COMPASS

.....
JUST LISTED
.....

1014 RUSSEL AVENUE ■ LOS ALTOS



open house
SAT 2/8 ■ SUN 2/9
2-4 PM

\$7,198,000

5 BEDS ■ 4.5 BATHS ■ 4,494 SQ FT ■ 10,062 SQ FT LOT

Built in 2018, this Contemporary French Chateau showcases the finest materials and impeccable design, where every element comes together seamlessly. With a thoughtful floorplan featuring an open kitchen and family room, a charming breakfast nook, and a large veranda perfect for entertaining, this home is a true testament to quality and attention to detail.

www.1014Russel.com



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Public Notices

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

FOR

2025 Sanitary Sewer Repair and Replacement Project

1. BID OPENING. Bids will be received by the City Clerk of the Town of Los Altos Hills, California, until **2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2025**, at which time they will be opened and read aloud. Bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes marked on the outside **"Bid For 2025 Sanitary Sewer Repair and Replacement Project"**.

2. WORK DESCRIPTION. This project consists of improving various segments of the existing sanitary sewer system. The scope of work for base and alternate bids includes, but not limited to, mobilization and demobilization; potholing all crossing utilities; cleaning/de-rooting and color video inspection of the sewer mains prior to construction; replacing existing sewer mains with the pipe bursting method method; replacing existing sewer mains with the open trench method; rehabilitating an existing sewer main with the cured-in-place method; reconnecting sewer mains to existing manholes; modifying the concrete flow channel; reconnecting 4" sewer laterals to new sewer mains; installing new sewer manholes; raising manhole frames and covers to grade; providing post-installation cleaning, and color video inspection; repair and/or replacement of pavement markings, restoring all improvements disturbed by the project at various locations throughout the Town of Los Altos Hills; replacing landscape in kind to the original condition; replacing the asphalt pavement, and replacing all damaged properties caused by this work; and doing all appurtenant work as shown and described in the contract documents with the title of **2025 Sanitary Sewer Repair and Replacement Project** dated **1/27/2025** and on file in the office of the Public Works Director. The Engineer's Estimate for Base Bid and five Add Alternate bids is \$765,000. The project Plans and Specifications/Contract Documents can be downloaded from the Town of Los Altos Hills website at <https://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov/Bids.aspx>.

3. WORKING DAYS. Work under this Contract is to be completed in **EIGHTY (80)** working days for **BASE BID** and **THIRTY (30)** working days for five **ADD ALTERNATE BIDS**.

4. CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE. Both **Class "A"** and **Class "C-36"** Contractor's Licenses are required for bidders to bid on this project. **If a bidder does not have the required license classifications, the bidder's bid proposal shall be considered as non-responsive and the bid will be rejected.** No bid will be accepted from a Contractor who has not been licensed in accordance with Chapter 9, Division 3 of the Business and Professional Code.

5. BID DEPOSIT. A Bid Deposit equals to at least ten percent (10%) of the total amount of the bid shall be placed in the sealed proposal. The Bid Deposit shall be in one of the following forms: cash, cashier's check, or certified check

payable to the Town, or bidder's bond in favor of the Town executed by an authorized surety company.

6. PERFORMANCE BONDS. Performance guaranty bonds as set forth in Section 4-2 of the Special Provisions will be required from the successful bidder.

7. TOWN'S RIGHT TO REJECT BIDS. The right is reserved, as the interest of the Town may require, to reject any or all bids, or to waive any informality or minor irregularity in the bids.

8. PRE-BID METING. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. Thursday, February 6, 2025** at the Town of Los Altos Hills Town Hall located at 26379 Fremont Road in the Town of Los Altos Hills. This meeting is to inform bidders of project requirements and subcontractors of subcontracting and material supply opportunities. This meeting includes field visit to construction sites. Bidder's attendance is **optional**.

9. GENERAL PREVAILING WAGE RATES. Pursuant to Section 1773 of the Labor Code, the general prevailing wage rates in the county, or counties, in which the work is to be done have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations. These wages are set forth in the General Prevailing Wage Rates for this project, available from the California Department of Industrial Relations' Internet web site at <http://www.dir.ca.gov>

10. OBTAINING THE PROJECT PLANS AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS. (a) A full set of plans and Contract Documents are available for inspection without charge at the office of the Public Works Department, Town of Los Altos Hills, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. (b) Complete sets of said Contract Documents may be purchased at fifty- dollars (\$50.00) per set and are obtainable from the office of the City Engineer/Public Works Director, Town of Los Altos Hills, Public Works Department, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills, California 94022. No refund will be made of any charges for sets of Contract Documents. An additional charge of \$10.00 will be made for each set of Contract Documents sent by regular mail with the U.S. Postal Service.

11. OBTAINING THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SPECIFICATIONS. The State of California Department of Transportation Standard Specifications and Standard Plans may be purchased at the State of California Department of Transportation Publication Distribution Unit, 1900 Royal Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA 95819; Telephone: (916) 445-3520; Fax: (916) 324-8997.

12. WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS. Any bid may be withdrawn at any time prior to the time fixed in the public notice for the opening of bids only by written request for the withdrawal of the bid filed with the Director of Public Works. The request shall be executed by the bidder or his/her duly authorized representative. The withdrawal of a bid does not prejudice the right of the bidder to file a new bid. Whether or not bids are opened exactly at the time fixed in the public notice for opening bids, a bid will not be received after that time nor may any bid be withdrawn after the time fixed in the

public notice for opening of bids.

13. RELIEF OF BIDDERS. As stated in the California Public Contract Code Sections 5100 to 5110, inclusive (State Contract Act) concerning relief of bidders and in particular to the requirement therein, that if the bidder claims a mistake was made in his/her bid, the bidder shall give the Public Works Director written notice within five (5) days after the opening of the bids of the alleged mistake, specifying in the notice in detail how the mistake occurred.

14. DISQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS. More than one proposal from an individual, firm, partnership, corporation, or combination thereof under the same or different names will not be considered. Reasonable grounds for believing that any individual, firm, partnership, corporation or combination thereof is interested in more than one proposal for the work contemplated may cause the rejection of all proposals in which such individual, firm, partnership, corporation or combination thereof is interested. If there is reason for believing that collusion exists among the bidders, any or all proposals may be rejected. Proposals in which the prices obviously are unbalanced may be rejected.

15. PREVIOUS DISQUALIFICATION, REMOVAL OR OTHER PREVENTION OF BIDDING. A bid may be rejected on the basis of a bidder, any officer of such bidder, or any employee of such bidder who has a proprietary interest in such bidder, having been disqualified, removed, or otherwise prevented from bidding on, or completing a federal, state, or local project because of a violation of law or a safety regulation.

16. RESPONSIBILITY FOR VERIFYING CONTRACT ADDENDA. All bidders shall verify if any addenda for this project have been issued by the Town of Los Altos Hills. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that all requirements of Contract addenda are included in the bidder's proposal.

17. ESCROW FOR SECURITY DEPOSIT IN LIEU OF RETENTION. Pursuant to the California Public Contract Code Section 22300, for monies earned by the Contractor and withheld by the Town to ensure the performance of the Contract, the Contractor, may, at its option, choose to substitute securities meeting the requirements of said California Public Contract Code Section 22300.

18. SHORING AND BRACING. Pursuant to the provisions of the California Labor Code Section 6707, each bid submitted in response to this Notice to Bidders shall contain, as included in each bid item, adequate sheeting, shoring, and bracing, or equivalent method, for the protection of life and limb in trenches and open excavation, which shall conform to applicable safety orders. By listing this sum, the bidder warrants that its action does not convey tort liability to the Town, Engineer, and their employees, agents and subconsultants.

19. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (DIR) REQUIREMENTS. This Contract will be subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the California Department of Industrial Relations, pursuant to Labor Code section 1771.4. Under California Labor Code section 1771.1, as amended by SB 854, a contractor may not

bid, nor be listed as a subcontractor, for any bid proposal submitted for public work on or after March 1, 2015, and contracts entered into on or after April 1, 2015, unless the contractor and its subcontractors are registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to section 1725.5 of the Labor Code. The Bidder and its Subcontractors must be registered and qualified to perform public work pursuant to section 1725.5 of the Labor Code, subject to limited legal exceptions under Labor Code section 1771.1.

Dated: January 29, 2025

/s/ Arika Birdsong-Miller,
City Clerk
(02-05,12-25)

037-T

Oliveria Adventures, LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN713209

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Oliveria Adventures, LLC, 768 Sunshine Drive, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Oliveria Adventures, LLC, 768 Sunshine Drive, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Alexandra Phillippe / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/28/2025. (02-05,12,19,26-25)

032-T

PRO CLEAN MOBILE DETAIL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN713060

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: PRO CLEAN MOBILE DETAIL, 2138 Calabazas Blvd, Santa Clara, CA, 95051, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Chris Madrigal, 2138 Calabazas Blvd, Santa Clara, CA 95051. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Chris Madrigal / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/24/2025. (02-05,12,19,26-25)

031-T

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN712947

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY, 4425 Fortran Dr, San Jose, CA, 95134, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): The Pentecostals Of Mountain View, 2360 Walsh Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95051. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Miguel Quintero / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/22/2025. (02-05,12,19,26-25)

030-T

VISUALIVE STUDIO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN712946

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: VISUALIVE STUDIO, 1059 Mango Ave., Sunnyvale, CA, 94087, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a general partnership. The name and residence ad-

Clara County on 01/28/2025. (02-05,12,19,26-25)

033-T

Liquor and Food Mart FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN713062

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) Liquor and Food Mart, (2) Bay Area Tequila, (3) Bay Area Fine Wine, (4) Bay Area Fine Wine & Spirits (5) Bay Area Tequila Shop, 2339 California St, Mountain View, CA, 94040, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): River N Field Inc, 2339 California St, Mountain View, CA 94040. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Tai J. Hsu / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/24/2025. (02-05,12,19,26-25)

032-T

dress of the registrant(s) is (are): Miguel A. Quintero, 1059 Mango Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94087, Ane Z. Forero, 1059 Mango Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/2025. /S/ Miguel Quintero / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/22/2025. (02-05,12,19,26-25)

029-T

AXIOS SPORTS MEDICINE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN712916

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: AXIOS SPORTS MEDICINE, 1386 Sydney Dr, Sunnyvale, CA, 94087, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Jason Frederick, 1386 Sydney Dr, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/01/2023. /S/ Jason Frederick / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/21/2025. (02-05,12,19,26-25)

028-T

GONZALEZ JANITORIAL SERVICES LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN712865

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: GONZALEZ JANITORIAL SERVICES LLC, 200 E Dana St #8, Mountain View, CA, 94041, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): GONZALEZ JANITORIAL SERVICES LLC, 200 E Dana St #8, Mountain View, CA 94041. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/12/2024. /S/ Eusebio Gonzalez / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/17/2025. (01-29-25,02-05,12,19-25)

027-T

VALVE BODY PRO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN712886

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: VALVE BODY PRO, 1631 S 10th St, Unit A5, San Jose, CA, 95112, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): CUSTOM TRANZ INC, 1631 S 10th St, Unit A5, San Jose, CA 95112. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 08/01/2005. /S/ Bob Sanghera / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/21/2025. (01-29-25,02-05,12,19-25)

026-T

MAYBEL TRAINING SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN712363

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: MAYBEL TRAINING SERVICES, 699 San Martin Pl, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Janahan Vivekanandan, 699 San Martin Pl, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/01/2024. /S/ Jahanan Vivekanandan / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/31/2024. (01-29-25,02-05,12,19-25)

024-T

SPRY INTEGRATIVE MEDICAL CLINIC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN712468

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SPRY INTEGRATIVE MEDICAL CLINIC, 895 Sherwood Avenue, Suite #100, 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): SPRY INTEGRATIVE MEDICAL CLINIC, 978 Loma Verde Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94303. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Carrie Mousseau / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/06/2025. (01-29-25,02-05,12,19-25)

023-T

TSG No.: 8794491 TS No.: CA2400290960 APN: 150- 30-04 Property Address: 932 ORMONDE DRIVE MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94043 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 05/07/2015. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 03/03/2025 at 10:00 A.M., First American Title Insurance Company, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 05/13/2015, as Instrument No. 22948994, in book , page , of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of SANTA CLARA County, State of California. Executed by: EDWARD G. LABSON AND MARINA C. LABSON, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/ CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924h(b), (Payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States) At the Gated North Market Street entrance of the Superior Courthouse, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 All right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described

Public Notices

as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE ABOVE MENTIONED DEED OF TRUST APN# 150-30-04 The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 932 ORMONDE DRIVE, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94043 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$ 690,109.71. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust has deposited all documents evidencing the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust and has declared all sums secured thereby immediately due and payable, and has caused a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be executed. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the County where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (916)939-0772 or visit this internet website <http://search.nationwideposting.com/propertySearchTerms.aspx>, using the file number assigned to this case CA2400290960 Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NO-

TICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction if conducted after January 1, 2021, pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (916)939-0772, or visit this internet website <http://search.nationwideposting.com/propertySearchTerms.aspx>, using the file number assigned to this case CA2400290960 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid, by remitting the funds and affidavit described in Section 2924m(c) of the Civil Code, so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. Date: First American Title Insurance Company 4795 Regent Blvd, Mail Code 1011-F Irving, TX 75063 FOR TRUSTEES SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (916)939-0772NPP0469943 To: LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER 01/29/2025, 02/05/2025, 02/12/2025 (01-29-25,02-05,12-25)

022-T

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ROBERT EMMETT HEARN CASE NO. 24PR198863

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ROBERT EMMETT HEARN. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JUNE LISE HEARN in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JUNE LISE HEARN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act . (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested per-

son 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: 02/10/25 at 9:01AM in Dept. 2 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 Benjamin D. Harvey, Esq. 7011 Sylvan Road, Suite B Citrus Heights, CA 95610 (916) 448-6700 (01-22-29-25,02-05-25)

021-T

SRI KRISHNA BALARAM GOSHALA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN712742

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SRI KRISHNA BALARAM GOSHALA, 2425 Old Calaveras Rd, Milpitas, CA, 95035, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): INDIA HERITAGE FOUNDATION, 680 E. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas, CA 95035. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/14/2025. /S/ Kishore Reddy Nandyala Veera Ven / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/15/2025. (01-22-29-25,02-05,12-25)

019-T

SRI KRISHNA BALARAM MANDIR FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN712741

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) SRI KRISHNA BALARAM MANDIR, (2) SATTVAM, 680 E. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas, CA, 95035, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): INDIA

HERITAGE FOUNDATION, 680 E. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas, CA 95035. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/14/2025. /S/ Kishore Reddy Nandyala Veera Ven / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/15/2025. (01-22,29-25,02-05,12-25)

018-T

PIZZA VISA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN712632

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: PIZZA VISA, 382 Spar Ave, San Jose, CA, 95117, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Saman Taghavi, 382 Spar Ave, San Jose, CA 95117. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/16/1990. /S/ Saman Taghavi / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/10/2025. (01-22,29-25,02-05,12-25)

017-T

NATIONAL AUTO REGISTRATION LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN712652

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: NATIONAL AUTO REGISTRATION LLC, 2520 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View, CA, 94043, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): NATIONAL AUTO REGISTRATION LLC, 2520 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View, CA 94043. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/2025. /S/ Gabriela Marquez / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/13/2025. (01-22,29-25,02-05,12-25)

016-T

UPTURN FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN712185

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) UPTURN, (2) PRECISE HEALTH, INC, 660 S Springer Road, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): PRECISE HEALTH, INC, 660 S Springer Road, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ William Davidson / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/23/2024. (01-22,29-25,02-05,12-25)

015-T

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PETITION OF CHRISTIANA HUI ZENG ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME 25CV455607

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

1. Petitioner: Christiana Hui Zeng filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present Name:
a. Christiana Hui Zeng

Proposed Name:
a. Hui Zeng

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

NOTICE OF HEARING 05/11/2025 at 8:45 a.m. Room: Probate

(b) The address of the court is: 191 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

3. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Altos Town Crier Date: 01/03/2025 /s/ LE Jacqueline Duong Judge of the Superior Court (01-15,22,29-25,02-05-25)

013-T

JAE JEWELRY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN712491

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) JAE JEWELRY, (2) JAE JEWELRY COMPANY, 1525 Miramonte Avenue #3014, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): JAE JEWELRY COMPANY LLC, 11000 Beechwood Lane, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the ficti-

tious business name(s) listed above on: 02/01/2025. /S/ Julie Eckstrom / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/06/2025. (01-15,22,29-25,02-05-25)

012-T

LASHES NEARBY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN712427

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) LASHES NEARBY, (2) PRETTYBE BEAUTY INC, (3) PRETTYBE BEAUTY, (4) PRETTYBE, 1730 S Bascom Ave #19, Campbell, CA, 95008, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): LASHES NEARBY BEAUTY & ACADEMY, 1763 Cheney Dr, San Jose, CA 95128. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Phuong Lam / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/03/2025. (01-15,22,29-25,02-05-25)

011-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 bruceb@latc.com and include a contact name, phone number and fee to participate (if applicable).

EVENTS

Downtown Choco-Stroll. Sample chocolates while touring downtown Los Altos. Hosted by the Los Altos Village Association. 2-5 p.m. Feb. 8. Information: downtownlosaltos.org.

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, 10:30 a.m. Los Altos Main Library, 7 p.m., Woodland Library, 1975 Grant Road. **Poetry Community Hour Open Mic**, 7 p.m., first Wednesday of every month; **Bay Area Games Day**, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., third Saturday of every month. **Slow Flow Yoga**. 2 p.m. Mondays throughout January and February. Bring a mat to this low intensity class that starts with slow yoga movements suitable for those who are new to yoga and interested in a gentle practice. Other events: **Write a Love Poem at Lunchtime**. 12:30 p.m. Feb. 14. Visitors invited to write a poem at lunchtime. Presented by Poetry Los Altos. Meet in Pod D. **UC Master Gardener Maria Guerra** is scheduled to give a talk 7 p.m. Feb. 19 on purple vegetables that grow locally. **Wednesday travel night**, 7 p.m., Feb. 26. Photographer John

Gayler is scheduled to present a photographic journey across the Iberian Peninsula from Lisbon and Gibraltar, through the Moorish cities of Andalucia, and on to Madrid. Programs are free and open to the public. No registration necessary. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. 650-948-7683. Information: scclld.org/events/losaltos.

Los Altos Library-Commonwealth Club, World Affairs, 7-8:30 p.m. Feb. 5, Los Altos Main Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road. Mikhail Rubin, investigative journalist, addresses the topic, "Vladimir Putin as Paranoid Leader: What Do We Really Know about the President of Russia?" Rubin is deputy editor-in-chief of Proekt and a 2025 John S. Knight Fellow, Stanford University. Free. Seating is limited. Information: peninsula@worldaffairs.org. Click on Silicon Valley.

CLUBS/GROUPS

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

Kiwanis Club of Los Altos. Service organization. Meets at noon every Tuesday at Neutra House Conference Center, 181 Hillview Ave. losaltoskiwanis.org. (650) 735-1552.

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

OBITUARY NOTICE

ELENORA NELSON



*January 30, 1929 –
December 24, 2024*

Elenora May Nelson was gently handed into our Heavenly Father's care on Christmas Eve, 12-24-24 in her Los Altos home of 60 plus years. Affectionally known as Ellie, she was born on 01-30-29 in Lodi, California and was part of a farming family of nine children. After graduating from Lodi High School, she moved to Sacramento where she attended college and worked as an executive secretary. She met her husband Edward Henry Nelson while in Sacramento and they were married in 1952. In 1954, after the birth of their daughter Adele, they moved to Menlo Park and then in 1960 they moved to their home in Los Altos. Edward passed away in 2016 after 64 years of marriage. Edward and Ellie were 60 plus year faithful members of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church where they served on various committees. Ellie was a Bible Study Fellowship Leader and lead many to Christ. Ellie led the young mom's class at Menlo Park Presbyterian for 20 years and many of those women remained in contact with Ellie until her death. Ellie also led bible studies in her home and attended a bible study until her passing. Ellie was a wonderful cook and seamstress; she played tennis, downhill skied, took ballet classes, and played bridge. She was a lot of fun! In 1961 Ed and Ellie adopted a daughter, Kristy Ann when she was 3 months old and loved her completely until she was tragically killed in an auto accident in 1984.

Ed and Ellie have one surviving daughter, Adele Nelson Fischbach, two grandchildren, Nichole Marie Bradford, and Adam David Fischbach and three great-grandchildren, Braydon, Emily and Cole with one more expected in February. Ellie has one surviving sibling, Joan Benjamin from Fresno, California, and many devoted nieces and nephews.

There will be a Memorial service on Thursday March 20, 2025, at 2:00pm at the Menlo Park

Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Elenora Nelson may be made to Mount Hermon Conference Center, 37 Conference Drive, Felton, CA 95078.

NINO J. CEFALU



*November 11, 1936 –
November 30, 2024*

Nino J. Cefalu, aged 88, passed away peacefully at his home in Scottsdale, Arizona, surrounded by family, on November 30, 2024.

Born in 1936, in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, Nino was the cherished son of Nino Sr. and Teresa Cefalu, who immigrated from Sicily.

Nino's life was marked by dedication to family, the Catholic Church and profession. He was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Barbara, with whom he shared 70 wonderful years. Together, they raised six children, nurturing a family that would grow to include 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Nino is survived by his wife, Barbara; his sons, Nino and Allen; his daughter, Teresa; and his brother, John.

Nino was a devout Catholic and an active member of the Catholic community, participating as a parishioner and a contributor to many charities. He took over his father's tax accounting firm in Sunnyvale in 1964. In appreciation of his distinguished service given to his community, Nino was awarded the Outstanding Young Man Award in 1969. Nino's commitment to his work and community was evident throughout his career.

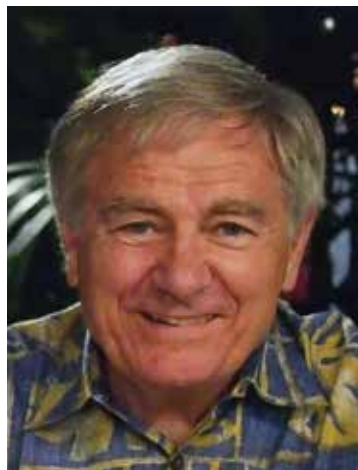
Throughout his life, Nino embraced adventure and the outdoors. He was an avid traveler and scuba diver, and his passion for running led him to complete several marathons. He also enjoyed biking, snow skiing, and winemaking, pursuits that reflected his zest for life and exploration.

Nino J. Cefalu will be

remembered for his unwavering love for his family, his professional integrity, and his adventurous spirit. His life was a testament to the values of faith, family, hard work and the joy of living fully. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A funeral will be held at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, in Los Altos, CA, on February 15, 2025, at 11:30 am, followed by a Celebration of Life reception. Nino will be laid to rest at a private family burial at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

PAUL J. GONELLA



*March 13, 1936 -
December 2, 2024*

Paul J. Gonella, a cherished educator, coach, and dedicated community member, passed away on December 2, 2024, at the age of 88 of heart failure. Born in Merced, CA, on March 13, 1936, Paul's life was marked by his unwavering commitment to serving the Los Altos community.

Paul's educational journey began at Merced High School and continued at San Jose State, getting a Masters Degree in History, and culminating in a Law Degree from Santa Clara University. In August 1959, he married Marigene Cain and welcomed children Michelle (Shelly) and Michael. In 1985, Paul met Ellen Akerlund, whom he married later that year. He then helped raise her children, Danielle and Austin Moore.

Paul is best remembered as "Mr. G", a history teacher, wrestling coach, and Vice Principal at Egan Jr. High in Los Altos, CA. Paul's passion for American history, including his own immigrant family history and growing up during WWII, helped him bring history to life for his students. Paul loved reconnecting with his former students later in life, often when he was teaching their children. Paul was also known for his many jokes during the day

eliciting groans from students over his 4 decades of teaching. He also posted a Famous "Quote of the Week" in his room to give everyone perspective into great minds over the eons.

Following his retirement after 42 years of teaching at Egan, Paul remained actively involved in the Los Altos community as a member of the Los Altos Rotary Club and a volunteer at the Los Altos History Museum, and other senior activities. Paul was an avid reader and a lover of classic movies. Throughout his life, Paul committed himself to learning, self-improvement, and contributing to his community. Paul is survived by his wife Ellen, children Michelle (Shelly) and Michael, step-children Danielle and Austin, and seven granddaughters and two grandsons.

A community celebration of life will be held March 15, at 4 p.m. at the Los Altos History Museum patio - RSVP at <https://evite.me/1FhC7h8hX9>. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Los Altos History Museum or a charity of your choice. Paul's memory will forever be cherished by those whose lives he touched.

THOMAS ADAMS



*February 23, 1940
-December 4, 2024*

Thomas Hedgcoxe Adams died peacefully in Los Altos, CA, on December 4, 2024.

He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Pam, daughter Kelly of San Francisco, son Jeffrey, daughter-in-law Caitlyn, and grandchildren Theodore and Eloise of Scituate, MA, and son Michael and daughter-in-law Danielle Reoppelle of San Ramon. He is preceded in death by his father Tom, mother Laura, and sister Pam.

Tom was born on February 23, 1940, in Roswell, NM, and grew up in Phoenix where he graduated

from North Phoenix High School in 1958. He then went on to Arizona State University where he graduated with a business degree and met his first wife, Wilma. Tom and Wilma got married in 1962 and moved to the Bay Area where they welcomed a baby girl, Kelly, into their home. In San Francisco, Tom started his career in supply chain management at Del Monte while taking night classes at Santa Clara University — earning an MBA in 1967. Tom and Wilma would both go on to remarry.

Tom met Pam while working at American President Lines. They got married in 1977 and would welcome two sons, Jeffrey and Michael. In 1986, they moved to Los Altos where Tom worked for several tech companies, including Apple, Fairchild, and Cisco, until his retirement in 2000.

Tom loved crosswords, jazz, and a good book, and was constantly picking up new hobbies like sailing, photography, woodworking, and piano. Tom and Pam loved traveling together with friends and family — on new adventures to China, Vietnam, Italy, and Machu Picchu, and old favorites like Hawaii, Yosemite, and the Lair of the Golden Bear at Pinecrest Lake. Tom loved to make people laugh — especially his grandchildren — with his dry humor and sly smirks.

Tom was not without his faults, however. His sweet tooth was insatiable (Oreos and Snickers in particular could not be left unattended) and he seemed to have a different jacket for every microclimate (he'd claim he was just helping the economy). Tom was never a huge sports fan, but loved going to Giants and Cal football games. A classic Tom story, and family favorite, was at an afternoon Giants game where an overdressed Tom stubbornly wore all of his layers for all 9 innings.

Tom lived a full life and left this life surrounded by his family. There will be a memorial service to celebrate Tom's life at 5 p.m. on Sunday, February 16, at the Los Altos History Museum. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Alzheimer's Association. The family would like to thank all of the caregivers and staff at the Terraces Los Altos, Stanford Hospital, and Sutter Health Hospice for their kindness, support, and guidance throughout this difficult time.



Ryan Gowdy

REPRESENTATION WITHOUT EGO

As one of the top agents in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, I provide personalized, hands-on service from start to finish. I'm the one answering the phone, hosting tours, and overseeing every detail. No assistants—just my direct expertise and commitment to your success. From open houses to negotiations, I'm your full-service partner, always placing your interests at the forefront. And the results speak for themselves.

TESTIMONIALS

You will not find a harder-working agent anywhere. If you have Ryan sell your home, he will work day and night to get your home in the best condition for the sale. He's a Los Altos native, knows everybody and has the connections to get any job done right. Have a special request? Need a favor? Ryan is on it. Nobody does more to earn their commission, and I would consider no other agent to sell my home.

-ERIC & ALICE | LOS ALTOS

It was an absolute pleasure to work with Ryan. Both the smooth process and the amazing result of our Los Altos home sale exceeded our expectations. Nobody knows the area like Ryan does, and his first-hand involvement in preparing us for the process, prepping the home and being onsite to personally sweat the details was incredibly valuable – especially since we had moved out of the area and essentially sold the house "remotely" with Ryan's local guidance. Bottom line—if you want a stress-free/excellent outcome experience, with a partner that's super-easy to work with, call Ryan!

-TOM & LINDA | LOS ALTOS

IF YOU'RE READY TO MAKE A MOVE AND WANT AN AGENT WHO PUTS YOUR NEEDS FIRST, GIVE ME A CALL.

RYAN GOWDY

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