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Los Altos Town Crier

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

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Having a ball



PHOTOS BY SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Staff members from the cities of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills gathered this past Saturday for a friendly game of softball. The seventh annual event, held at Purissima Park in Los Altos Hills, featured a ceremonial first pitch from Los Altos Hills Mayor Kavita Tankha. Los Altos Hills won the game, 17-1.

City cites lots of public feedback on proposed downtown Los Altos park

Town Crier Staff Report

The city of Los Altos is wrapping up a summer of community events to get input on a proposed downtown park that would take over existing parking plazas.

Two public workshops Aug. 12 and 16 capped nearly 50 events that ranged from farmers market appearances to gatherings at local businesses and parks and service club meetings.

The workshops – the last one at the site of the project between First and Third streets near San Antonio Road – were low-key affairs with low attendance. But Anthony Carnesecca, assistant to the city manager and project overseer, said the latest workshops were the culmination of 48 different public feedback events that gathered input from approximately 1,100

people. Carnesecca said the city and its consultants made an effort to ensure feedback from a diversity of residents – from children to teens, adults and seniors.

“From libraries, farmers markets, the high school, to local cafés and festivals, the city brought the park conversation to where people already gather in our community,” Carnesecca said. “The result of these engagements was a bold, community-driven vision for a new downtown park that highlighted what matters most for the community: nature, connection, creativity and belonging.”

The city council back in April allocated funding for park designers MIG and architects Watry Design, Inc., to pursue a “community engagement

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Online Poll of the Week



Last month, the city of Saratoga held a popular “Classic and Cool Car Show.” Should Los Altos consider a similar event?

- Yes, it would draw a crowd and help businesses – 67.2% (41 votes)
- No, we have too many events as is – 23% (14 votes)
- Maybe, but we already have a Corvette Spectacular event next month (Sept. 21) in downtown Los Altos – 9.8% (6 votes)

Watch for more polls at losaltosonline.com.

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Around Town

A special salute to Larry



FROM FACEBOOK

Recently retired Santa Clara County Assessor Larry Stone addresses some 200-or-so admirers at a Saturday event held in his honor at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel. Stone's retirement announcement in early July created the need for a special election to fill the remaining year of Stone's term. Four candidates, including Los Altos Vice Mayor Neysa Fligor, are vying to succeed Stone in the Nov. 4 election. Next week, the Town Crier will be doing overviews of the candidates – Fligor, Saratoga Councilmember Yan Zhao, former Saratoga Councilmember Rishi Kumar and Bryan Do, president of the Eastside Union High School board. The Town Crier also will be doing an endorsement in the assessor's race next week.

A brief goodbye

Hello Town Crier readers: On July 19, I celebrated 32 years with the paper. Now I'm retiring. My last day is Friday.

I don't like long goodbyes, so this is a brief thanks to all with whom I've corresponded over the past four decades. There is no way I could possibly single anyone out. This job has been a privilege. I've enjoyed coming to work every day.

From this point on, please reach out to Associate Publisher Howard Bischoff. He can be reached at howardb@latc.com.

Thanks again Los Altos. I wish you the best.

And please continue to support real journalism. It is up to all of us to keep it alive. Without it, we are all doomed.

— Bruce Barton, Town Crier editor-in-chief



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News

MV Whisman partners with Foothill-De Anza on staff housing

By Brandon Roth

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

The Mountain View Whisman School District (MVWSD) staff housing project will partner with Foothill-De Anza Community College District (FHDA) to ensure financial protections for their acquired property.

The board of trustees voted unanimously at last week's meeting to negotiate a contract with FHDA to determine the price and terms of payment, involving their involvement with the property. According to the purchase and sale agreement from Monday's meeting, MVWSD is expected to sell 35% or 50 residential units to FHDA. The agreement will also provide FHDA a share of the land, the ability to make improvements on the property and full access to common areas.

Ellen Kamei, the director of government affairs and public information officer of FHDA, told the Town Crier in an email last week that the college district is excited for its potential partnership and will provide a further comment once there is an update on the agreement.

The Sevens, MVWSD's housing project, has more than 123 units reserved for teachers and staff and 20 units for city of Mountain View employees. Funded by a voter-approved bond, Measure T, in 2020, the housing site opened in February. The district also recently purchased the site from the Sevens developer last month for \$54.4 million, allowing the district complete control over all financial decisions.

Jeff Baier, the superintendent of MV Whisman, said in an Aug. 19 press release that the district purchased the property to help reduce rent for MVWSD staff employees and the district's long-term expenses.

See HOUSING, Page 5

Mtn. View staff look for Downtown Precise Plan input

By Christina Casillas

Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

City of Mountain View staff are working to aggregate as much community input as possible as they gear up to fine-tune the Downtown Precise Plan, which is set to be solidified in a couple of years.

The Downtown Precise Plan is a comprehensive project taken on by city staff in fall 2023. The project, which will build upon a plan initially penned in 1988 (with subsequent updates), will update the vision, development, street standards and land-use values for the downtown area along Castro Street between Central Expressway and El Camino Real.

According to the city of Mountain View's Downtown Precise Plan website, the esti-

mated adoption date for the project is early 2028, but Councilmember Lucas Ramirez said it will most likely be adopted in 2027. The plan, which staff is creating with heavy emphasis on community feedback, will be informed by community outreach efforts.

Staff have held multiple meetings, including an Aug. 10 workshop, and other meetings and outreach are in the works. One such way for community members to share their opinions is a survey launched last week (surveyMonkey.com/r/B6HJH72), where community members can provide feedback to city staff.

The Aug. 10 workshop was attended by 85 community members and aimed to create conversation and stimulate ideas. The workshop was especially helpful to staff, Mountain View chief communications of-

ficer Lenka Wright said.

"Community and stakeholder engagement are at the core of the City of Mountain View's planning process for this comprehensive update to the Downtown Precise Plan," she said. "The workshop attendees were highly engaged and focused on providing thoughtful feedback about the future of Downtown Mountain View."

From January to June, staff also received community input "... which has included meetings with key stakeholder groups including the Old Mountain View and Shoreline West Neighborhood Associations, the Downtown Business Association and the Mountain View Historical Association.

In April, city staff conducted outreach in

See PLAN, Page 5

PARK

From Page 1

process" for transforming the old parking plazas into a public park. The idea is to use the input to develop three concept alternatives before working with the city on a final design that would be permitted and sent out to bid.

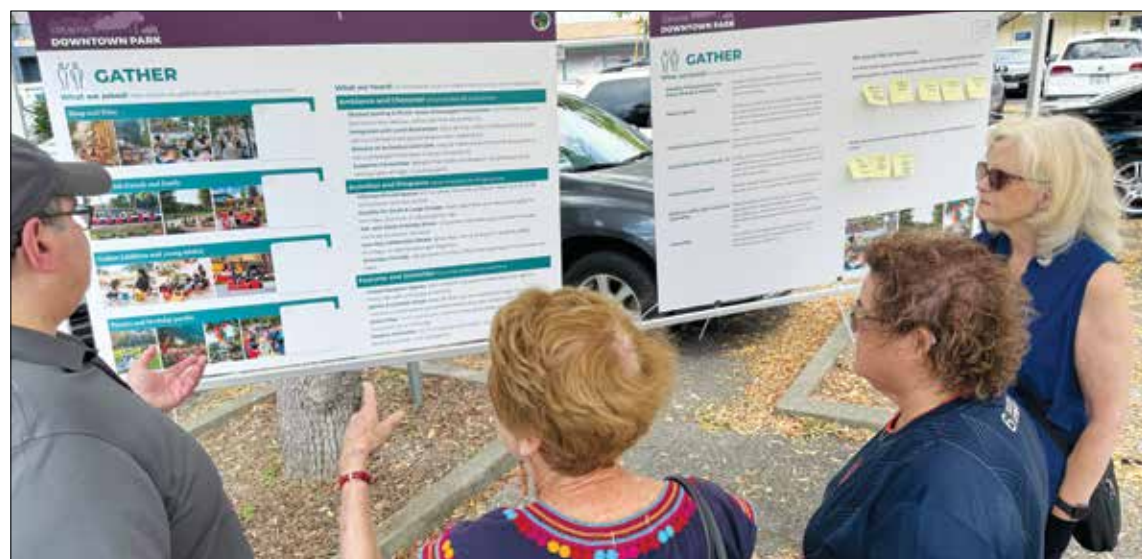
The new park would replace the at-grade parking spaces at Plaza 1 and part of Plaza 2. The remainder of Plaza 2 may be used for a performing arts center. Theater supporters are currently working to hire a professional fundraiser to spearhead a capital campaign.

The park project is among several proverbial balls the city is juggling as officials take on an ambitious downtown remake. At least four parking plazas are likely to go away, replaced by the park, the possible performing arts center and an affordable housing project on plazas 7 and 8 near Edith Avenue.

All options are on the table for replacing the 226 spaces at plazas 1 and 2. Councilmember Jonathan Weinberg said that even the expensive option of underground parking, below the new park, is still being considered.

Other options may include the addition of another parking level at one or more plaza sites, referred to as podium parking.

A Thursday meeting of advocacy group Los Altos Residents had attendees wondering about the reason for the project and how lost parking spaces will



BRUCE BARTON/TOWN CRIER

Participants at an Aug. 16 workshop look over posterboards of downtown park plans.

be replaced. Several residents wanted the park to be on the ballot to determine if a majority of the residents wanted the park.

"I know everyone who attended the meeting (Aug. 14) was surprised at how this proposed project appeared to be a done deal and how few residents know about it," said one meeting participant on NextDoor.

Carnesecca and the consultants agreed to provide Los Altos Residents with another presentation in the winter when there is more clarity about what kind of parking structures are being proposed.

City Manager Gabriel Engeland told the group that any parking space lost due to the construction of a park could be replaced using park-in-lieu funds (funds paid by developers instead of park land) so long as the replacement parking spaces

were located in proximity to the park. He said this applied to anywhere in the downtown triangle.

Among his takeaways from the public feedback campaign, Carnesecca said residents wanted a place that offered passive uses appealing to a variety of people.

"Residents expressed a clear desire for a park that blends seamlessly with the character of downtown Los Altos and adds to its sense of place," he said. "People described a place where one could grab lunch from a local restaurant, enjoy coffee with a friend, or relax under the shade of trees with neighbors. They want a park that feels open and welcoming, where food, conversation and connection come naturally."

Carnesecca said creativity also emerged as a strong theme.

"Many community members voiced their enthusiasm

for spaces that support live music, performances and public art – elements that bring people together to celebrate, and reflects the spirit of Los Altos.

"Maintaining safe traffic flow, clear wayfinding and accessibility were top community priorities for the parking solution," Carnesecca said.

This fall, the city will unveil three alternative park concepts inspired by community feedback.

Residents will have another opportunity to refine ideas into a single concept, according to city officials.

"Community engagement will wrap up by the end of August," said Nick Zornes, assistant city manager. "And September through December, the consultant will compile comments and come up with some conceptual renderings to take back to the council and community in early 2026."

News

Car crash ignites Foothill College brush fire



COURTESY OF THE FOOTHILL-DE ANZA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Firefighters wrap up their work after dousing a brush fire at Foothill College last week.

Town Crier Report

An Aug. 15 half-acre brush fire on the Foothill College campus was caused by a car accident that sparked the blaze, according to police and fire officials. No injuries were reported.

The Foothill-DeAnza Police Department said a student lost control of their vehicle near

Lot 2 on campus, sparking a fire that started spreading upward along the hillside.

The Santa Clara County Fire Department first received a call at 12:07 p.m. to 12345 El Monte Road, with local El Monte crew R74 responding, among others.

The fire burned brush and weeds and was moving uphill,

threatening a structure. Crews went to work at the bottom and the top of the hill to protect the structure, with the fire's progress stopped at 12:21 p.m. and under control at 12:41 p.m.

Fire officials said no structures were damaged from the fire, although it was approximately 50 feet from a building.

PLAN

From Page 4

the Downtown area to collect direct feedback from local businesses.”

While Wright said city staff is still currently evaluating public input, Ramirez, who was present at the Aug. 10 Downtown Precise Plan community workshop, said that he was especially surprised about community members’ feedback related to housing in the downtown area during the workshop.

“I was very pleasantly surprised to hear support for additional housing in the downtown area, and that was something that was touched upon by multiple groups,” he said in a phone call. “And it’s one of the areas

that the council will have to pay special attention to, in part because of obligations and commitments in our housing element. So community support for additional housing was very encouraging to hear.”

However, he noted there were also a number of community members who didn’t support residential development in downtown Mountain View.

Wright said that the conversations revolved around challenges, like downtown vacancies, parking, safety and cleanliness issues and discerning what the shared vision for downtown Mountain View would look like. Community assets, like historic appeal, proximity to transit, the pedestrian mall and array of busi-

nesses and activities were taken into consideration, as well as opportunities for growth, increased affordable housing and a better permitting process.

After the workshop, Ramirez said that one of the main challenges staff and council will have to balance is the intersection of growth and historic preservation. He added that while many community members voiced a need for a decrease in downtown vacancies, it came with a caveat: They wanted the spaces to be occupied by public-facing businesses.

“There’s a desire to try and find additional tools to help fill commercial vacancies,” he said. “I think there’s a preference for community serving, so think retail – not so much office.”

HOUSING

From Page 4

Shelly Hausman, the public information officer of MVWSD, told the Town Crier in an email that the new property provides housing for MVWSD staff members, such as teachers and school and district staff. The additional FHDA residents will also be various staff members.

She said 53 units have been

occupied so far, with 46 rented by MVWSD employees and six rented by city of Mountain View employees.

Hausman said, separate from the FHDA partnership and units set aside for city employees, there is a waterfall clause that if units are not occupied within a certain amount of time, there will be a small period where “Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District, Los Altos School

District, the city and the public, in that order,” will be allowed to rent a space.

“As of now, the building is about a third leased,” she said. “It’s important to balance revenues and expenditures and reducing long-term operating costs strengthens the future of staff housing. This partnership is an investment in staff housing that will help lower rents in the future.”



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Federal energy savings tax credits expiring early under 'beautiful bill'

Town Crier Report

Los Altos officials are reminding residents that federal tax credits for energy savings are phasing out early after Congress passed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act in July. "The legislation's shortened deadlines for several federal energy tax credits mean local residents need to act soon to claim them," said Tania Katbi, sustainability management analyst for the city. According to Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE), electric vehicle tax credits expire on Sept. 30. EVs must be purchased by that date to qualify. Heat pump, electric panel and insulation federal tax credits expire on Dec. 31. Installations must be completed by that date to qualify. HEEHRA (Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates) and HOMES

(Home Efficiency Rebates) credits, both under the federal Inflation Reduction Act, will remain available. Solar and battery storage tax credits also expire on Dec. 31. Expenditures must be made before that date to qualify. Despite the changes to federal tax credits, SVCE rebates and services will remain available and can be combined with other incentives. "Explore how to maximize your savings by stacking SVCE incentives with tax credits," SVCE officials advise. Rebates often require reservations and permits – most rebate programs require consumers to reserve their rebate before making an appliance upgrade. In addition, most programs also require applications for the requisite permits from the applicant's city or county and proof of permit application to claim the rebate. Combined rebates and tax credits cannot exceed total project costs – the rebate amount will be adjusted if the project cost is less than the rebate. Projects must meet all requirements to be eligible for all programs – rebate programs may have different rules, including the ability to stack with other programs, equipment eligibility, contractor requirements and rebate applications. Buyers should confirm rebate amounts and availability with the appropriate program administrator. SVCE officials advise residents to learn more about federal tax credits (visit energystar.gov/about/federal-tax-credits) and consult a professional tax advisor on how to claim them.

17-mile-long Labor Day protest rally planned along El Camino Real

Town Crier Report

A Labor Day rally, "17 x 17k" (17 miles, 17,000 people), aims to be the Peninsula's largest political protest, surpassing the 7 x 7k event held June 14. Coordinated by long-time organizers IdaRose Sylvester and Sally Lieber of Together We Will along with co-sponsors across the Peninsula, the rally will stretch 17 miles along the south side of El Camino Real, between Redwood City and Santa Clara. According to a press release, organizers plan for at least 17,000 people to rally, single file, from Redwood City to Santa Clara in "an unbroken line of solidarity against authoritarianism and corruption, and to support labor, back environmental protections, promote human rights and protect democracy and the rule of law." This is a peaceful protest, and participants will not block access to intersections, businesses, transit stops or

'Why we protest' - Other Voices, Page 8

sidewalks, according to organizers. "Fundamentally, our protests have two primary purposes: to unite people in solidarity to show our elected officials that we believe in and will unite for democracy, and perhaps more importantly, to inspire and bring hope to people feeling isolated in difficult times," said organizer Sylvester. "Our many protests this year continue to grow in size, and events have been peaceful, joyful and inclusive." 17 x 17k is part of the thousands of #SolidaritySeptember and #WorkersOverBillionaires rallies across the country planned for Labor Day. For more information or to sign up to participate, visit mobilize.us/mayday/event/815494.

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News briefs

Affordable housing project breaks ground

Local leaders Thursday will kick off the construction of a new 90-unit affordable housing complex at 330 Distel Circle in Los Altos.

A consortium of groups involved in the project, from developer EAH Housing, to Santa Clara County and Los Altos leaders, will be participating in the event, scheduled 1-3 p.m. at the site. The project is being touted as the first affordable housing project in the history of Los Altos.

“This transit-oriented community is situated a half block from the El Camino Real corridor,” said Mackenzie Martin, a project spokesperson. “The development will bring 90 high-quality, affordable homes to Silicon Valley for individuals and families earning between 30% and 80% of the area median income (AMI). Several units will be designated as permanent supportive housing,

addressing homelessness and housing instability in the region.”

Among those involved in the groundbreaking event are:

- Laura Hall, EAH Housing President & CEO
- Welton Jordan, EAH Housing Chief Real Estate Development Officer
- Margaret Abe-Koga, Santa Clara County Supervisor
- Consuelo Hernández, Santa Clara County Deputy County Executive
- Pete Dailey, city of Los Altos Mayor
- Nick Zornes, city of Los Altos Assistant City Manager

The community will offer studios, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, along with amenities like a community room, coworking lounge, outdoor courtyard and on-site resident services.

Once complete in January 2027, the development will provide residents with convenient access to public transit, health-



SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Pickleball players utilize the Rengstorff Park courts.

care and retail services, fostering opportunity, stability and a more equitable future in the heart of Silicon Valley, promoters said.

Pickleball courts aimed at Cuesta

The city of Mountain View is holding a pickleball study project community meeting 6:30 p.m. today (Aug 27) to consider three locations for 12 new pickleball courts – with two of the

locations at Cuesta Park.

The meeting, at the Mountain View Community Center, broaches the controversial topic of paving over greenspace for installation of the courts. Pickleball supporters attest to the sport’s skyrocketed popularity necessitating the need. Green space supporters decry the loss of park land.

Pickleball supporters cite minimal impact on the park and neighboring Cuesta An-

nex. A third location involves property on San Rafael Avenue. But today’s meeting will focus on the Cuesta options, including one in the Cuesta Annex adjacent to the park’s tennis courts.

Lenka Wright, city spokesperson, said the proposed site would take up less than an acre, leaving 11.5 acres of the annex untouched. Greenspace supporters argue that green space, once paved over, is gone for good. But there are other concerns, too.

“Pickleball facilities are notorious for their sharp, repetitive noise, bright night lighting, and the extra vehicle traffic they attract, all of which would significantly disrupt the park’s wildlife and peaceful atmosphere,” said resident Li Zhang. “This is a permanent decision that would erode one of Mountain View’s most valued natural assets.”

Today’s meeting will be in person only at Redwood Hall in the community center. For more on the proposed project, visit collaborate.mountainview.gov/pickleballstudy.



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Comment

Letters to the Editor

Contracted parking enforcement puzzling

What is the rationale behind hiring an external enforcer (ACE Parking Company) to write parking citations downtown?

Our Chief of Police, Saskia Lagergren, along with the city council, have dedicated \$700,000 to parking enforcement. The chief says, “Staff is hoping the contract will be cost-neutral to the city with citation revenue canceling out payment to ACE Parking.” In essence, the plan is to recoup \$700,000 through parking citations.

How much did the city collect in parking citations in the last three to five years? Is that number in the range of \$700,000? Is that figure even reasonable? At a time when we have so many other priorities as a city, why are we spending so much on this?

As an anecdote, years ago, Menlo Park had a reputation for draconian parking enforcement. Half an inch over the line ... Ticket! Over time, people stopped frequenting the many restaurants and shops because the “price” was high. Since then, I’ve completely abandoned Menlo Park. I simply don’t go there.

Woe to Los Altos Downtown merchants and all the good folks trying to make an honest living

serving our small village. City hall keeps getting in their way.

Elizabeth Stern
Los Altos

City has options to fight climate change

I’d like to echo the comments in the Aug. 20 article on climate action. The city has many proven options it can pursue.

Despite the Berkeley court case, model reach codes remain available today that encourage building electrification. Several cities have adopted these policies, and their staff are often willing to share insights and experience. Silicon Valley Clean Energy also has experts dedicated to helping cities adopt such measures.

Another option is the approach used by Los Altos Hills and Campbell, which prohibit NOx pollution from appliances and equipment in many situations — an approach supported by recent court decisions.

The 2022 Los Altos Climate Action Plan outlines dozens of additional steps, including a 10-year program to phase out methane use in municipal buildings. It would be valuable for this newspaper to update readers on progress toward each of those commitments.

Robert Mayo
Los Altos

Peek into the past



COURTESY OF THE LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

This trolley, known as “Big Red,” took Los Altans to Sunday band concerts at Congress Springs above Saratoga. The Peninsular Railway provided service between Mayfield in Palo Alto, Los Altos, Monte Vista, Saratoga, Congress Springs, Los Gatos, Campbell and San Jose from 1910 to 1934.

Why we protest

By IdaRose Sylvester
and Sally Lieber

As longtime community organizers, we are frequently asked why we bother to keep organizing protests and why should people bother attending. “Standing on a corner for two hours with a clever sign, especially in a blue area, means nothing. This isn’t doing a thing to create change!” We wholeheartedly beg to differ.

After planning six events so far in 2025 (and dozens more over the last eight+ years), we would like to share our observations on why protests matter, and why we spend the energy designing successful, and often historic, events. And tell you why we think you should come out and be in community with us.

First of all, we gently counter that a show of strength, especially in our “blue” area, matters tremendously. A single protest may not move policy needles immediately or create change tomorrow, but it sends a signal that we, those who are worried about the overreaching actions of the current administration, are here in large numbers, motivated, energized and not afraid to stand up for our beliefs. There are more of us than there are of the players in power who

Other Voices

create authoritarian policies and threaten our democracy. Hard stop. It also tells our elected officials, who are generally aligned with our mission, that we support their efforts to protect our values, and that we will demand they continue to fight with us in defending our democracy. Building this mutual relationship with electeds is fundamental to playing an active, ongoing role in our democracy.

We could stop there and say we’ve justified protesting, but we have learned something else that makes the point of protesting all the more poignant to us and to the increasing numbers of attendees at our event. We are honored to find out that people joining us attended their first protest ever, from young children to people in their 90s! What brings them to act, and inspires our efforts, building community by coming out together. Meeting people and making friends. Knowing you are not alone in acting or in how you think or feel. Spending time talking, laughing, singing, cheering, sharing future actions, making plans to work together and getting reenergized for the day to day grind. Our protests

bring joy to attendees, while building a long term, sustainable community, so vitally important in our increasingly screen-obsessed, post-covid isolated, politically-divided nation.

After our historic, 20,000 person strong June 14 No Kings event that stretched 7 miles on El Camino Real from Palo Alto to Sunnyvale, countless people have come up to us confirming that building community mattered, but most importantly, along with fellowship, friendship and energy, being together brought back hope. As long as we have hope for a better tomorrow, we will persist, for the better of all of us, and the success of America.

We are aware of how hard it is to keep up optimism, and to keep fighting for what we believe in, but we encourage you to keep on going, find community, and find hope in the ongoing efforts of people and organizations supporting our democracy.

Join us on Labor Day, September 1, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., as we make history, again.

Learn more and sign up!
<https://tinyurl.com/historic17x17k>.

Organizers IdaRose Sylvester and Sally Lieber are both Mountain View residents.



Los Altos Town Crier

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Community

Children's musician to hold album release party at Linden Tree

By Amelia Yuan

Town Crier Editorial Intern

Peninsula-based children's musician Andy Z is set to release his first full-length album in seven years, "My Voice," Friday, Aug. 29, with plans to celebrate his work two weeks later in Los Altos.

An album release party featuring a free performance by Andy Z – along with a giveaway and an artist meet and greet – is slated for 6:30 p.m., Sept. 12, at Linden Tree Books, 265 State St.

The Redwood City native has performed for more than two decades in Los Altos, including at Linden Tree and the annual Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival.

Andy Z said he began making music especially for children after realizing "it was the kids that were gravitating toward me while I was playing my little solo gigs."

"My Voice" includes both original songs by Andy Z and his takes on well-known classics, combining songs for music and movement, finger play, singing along and learning about nature.

Andy Z said he hopes the album "af-



Andy Z

fects kids in a positive way" and "brings them joy." He started the recording process for "My Voice" in September 2024, and, as with all his other music, he also served as producer.

According to Andy Z, the first and penultimate songs in the album are inspired by his 7-year-old son, Gio.

"Not long after he was born, I wrote a song called 'Song for My Baby' and that song ended up being the first track on 'My Voice,'" Andy Z said. "Then, when he was

having some difficulties with some kids in his first-grade class, there were a few bullies there ... and they can also blame themselves for it, like, 'What's wrong? Why is this happening?' So, I wrote a song called, 'It's Not Your Fault,' and that's the second-to-last song."

He added that the album's music is not just for young children but can be enjoyed by entire families as well.

"I think the parents can get something out of these kinds of songs that are directed toward nature and appreciating it ... and ('It's not Your Fault') can help folks, too, to maybe share this song if their child is having the same kind of problem at school," Andy Z said.

"My Voice" also includes two collaborations with other children's music artists. The Grammy-winning duo 123 Andrés helped translate the lyrics and record vocals for "Mariposa Vuela," the Spanish version of the song "Flutter Flutter, Butterfly." Dana Cohenour of Dana's Music Playground – another musician Gio likes – sings harmony on "It's Not Your Fault." Andy Z noted that although "Mariposa Vuela" has the same melody as "Flutter

Flutter, Butterfly," 123 Andrés gives it a different flair.

"Flutter Flutter, Butterfly,' is a very sweet, more intimate, sounding song, but 'Mariposa Vuela,' which is the Spanish equivalent, is like a party ... it has a very festive feel to it, because of the arrangement of the vocals that they recorded, which I thought was cool," Andy Z said.

Another one of his favorites on the album is "Buzzabee." It features one of Andy Z's original characters, Bizzabelle, and aims to teach kids more about the nature around them.

"It has a kind of shuffling, jazz tune (sound), and it's basically about honey bees, how they operate and the work they do out there," he said.

Ultimately, Andy Z sees the album as one more way for him to express his love of making music.

"Just to tell stories and do character voices and write music and play music are all my favorite things. And I got to put it all together to make 'Andy Land,' which is the imaginary world I make up," he said.

For more information, visit andyz.com.

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Community

Los Altos Rotarian recalls taking AIDS project to international stage

By Marlene Cowan

In June 2001, I joined 24,000 Rotarians climbing the steps of the Alamodome in the heat of San Antonio, Texas. It was opening day of this Rotary International Convention and the energy was electric. Around me were Rotarians from every part of the globe – many in traditional dress, speaking different languages, yet all united by a shared commitment to service. While the crowd buzzed in anticipation of entertainer Glen Campbell, I was hoping to spot someone else – my Rotary hero, Dushan “Dude” Angius.

A former Los Altos High School principal and past president of the Los Altos Rotary Club, Dude had deeply inspired me after I joined the club in 1992. Just a few years earlier, after the heartbreaking loss of his son Steve to HIV/AIDS, Dude chose not silence, but action. At a time when AIDS was still considered taboo, he courageously spoke out, most notably as a keynote speaker at the 1992 Rotary International Convention in Orlando. His personal story was captured in “The Los Altos Story,” a 30-minute video produced by NBC correspondent Robin



COURTESY OF MARLENE COWAN/ROTARY CLUB OF LOS ALTOS

Los Altos Rotary AIDS Project booth at 2002 Rotary International Convention in Barcelona. Pictured above, from left are Lee Lynch, Marlene Cowan, B.J. Styles, president of the National AIDS Coalition, Mary Prochnow, Dude and Barbara Angius.

Young. It went on to win both the ACE Award and the prestigious Peabody Award for Broadcasting Excellence.

Dude’s powerful message became the foundation for RAP, the Rotary AIDS Project, an effort launched by 10 local Rotarians to educate and raise awareness around the world.

By 2001, our team was ready to take the message global. “The Los Altos Story” video is still available online and at Los Altos Public Library.

At the international convention, our booth stood out among hundreds of displays. Titled “AIDS: A Global Challenge,” it was a hub of activity. We handed out brochures, videos and guidance to Rotarians from around the world, including many Africans in their resplendently-colored gowns. They were eager for tools to bring back to their communities, especially to prevent

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Los Altos Library Highlights -September 2025

ABCmouse Interactive Resource



Did you know your library card gets your free access to ABCmouse? ABCmouse.com is an online learning resource for children from age 2 through 8+, designed to help them build a strong educational foundation in readiness for school. With over 8,500 activities, children can play educational games, read interactive books and take lessons in school subjects.

Community

Full steam ahead for Train Day at museum

Train lovers, history buffs, and families are invited to climb aboard for Train Day, scheduled 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 14 at Los Altos History Museum.

New this year, visitors can enjoy:

- Train-Themed Concert with Michael McNevin, 1-2 p.m.: Singer-songwriter McNevin will perform a special set of train songs.

- Book Signing with Robin Chapman, noon to 2 p.m. at the outdoor museum store. Meet the author and purchase signed copies of "The Valley of Heart's Delight: True Tales from Around the Bay."

- Old Train Films in the Upper Gallery: Enjoy historic train footage, highlighting the role of

California's early film industry.

- Robotics Demonstration: Local high school teams will showcase their engineering skills and invite visitors to try hands-on activities, including building Lego trains.

Participating clubs displaying their model trains include BAGRS Live Steam Group and Joan Hodnett of the Golden State Toy Train Operating Society. Visitors will also be able to peek inside a historic maintenance railway motor car brought on-site by Art Carmichael.

Admission is \$10 per person; free for museum members and children 12 and under. For more information, visit losaltoshistory.org/Train-Day2025.

ROTARY

From Page 10

transmission of the HIV virus from mother to child. It was my first immersion in Rotary's international reach, and I was deeply moved by the urgency and gratitude of those we met.

I'll never forget the Rotarians who came to us. Some were health professionals, others community leaders – all were searching for ways to protect and educate their people. Some shared personal stories of loss. Others quietly asked for hope. We even connected with Rotarians from South Africa, where our committee had first dared to help

fund their renovation of an AIDS clinic.

Our Los Altos team worked tirelessly. Founding members including Mary Prochnow, Dick Henning and Wyatt Allen, led with passion. Marketing expert Jean Newton Fraguglia created eye-catching materials, and we kept duplicating videotapes requested in multiple languages – no small feat at the time. Many of those materials are still displayed today in the Garden House of Los Altos.

That Rotary International Convention was a celebration of what can happen when one small community takes a stand. It showed me the ripple effect that compassion

and courage can create. That experience inspired me to write "Stories Behind the Los Altos Story: Rotary Volunteers Confront HIV/AIDS" in order to honor the people who made this bold humanitarian project possible.

Looking back, this international convention wasn't just a destination; it was a turning point. It reminded me that sometimes, the most powerful movements begin quietly, in small towns like ours, with people willing to share their story, and change the world.

Marlene Cowan is a member and a past president of the Rotary Club of Los Altos.



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Save The
Date

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

- Groundbreaking on 90-unit affordable housing project, 1-3 p.m., Aug. 28, 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos.

- Mountain View Arts Festival, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 6, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 7, Castro Street, downtown Mountain View. Information: mvar-twine.com.

- Corvette Spectacular, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 21, Main Street, downtown Los Altos. Information: sccorvettes.org/corvette-spectacular.

- Vines & Wines, 2-5 p.m., Oct. 12, Los Altos Hills Town Hall. Information: hills2000.weebly.com.

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

Community

Pet of the Week



COURTESY OF PETS IN NEED

Hot Pocket, a 17-week-old kitten, is available for adoption at Pets In Need. Hot Pocket was found as a stray before being rescued by Pets In Need. Staff describe Hot Pocket as "ridiculously adorable." To adopt Hot Pocket, call (650) 496-5971 or visit petsinneed.org.

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Community

Datebook

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

EVENTS

Los Altos Main Library. All events held in the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, unless otherwise indicated. **Monday Meditation & Mindfulness,** 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Los Altos Main Library, 7 p.m., Woodland Library, 1975 Grant Road. **Poetry Community Hour Open Mic,** 7 p.m., first Monday of every month; **Bay Area Games Day,** 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., third Saturday of every month. Other events: **The Rise of Cryptocurrency: The Basics,** 7 p.m. Sept. 2. Learn what crypto is, why it matters, how it's evolving without getting lost in technical jargon, and how to explore cryptocurrency as an investment opportunity without needing cold storage wallets, complex trading platforms or advanced tools. **Kanzashi Fabric Workshop,** 6:30 p.m., Sept. 3. Sustainable artists Leila Ghasempour and Gigi Farmer will lead a demonstration, creating their own unique Kanzashi fabric flowers. Program

is designed for adults and teens. All materials will be provided. **Latinx Rock From the 1950s through the 1980s,** 7 p.m. Sept. 4. For Hispanic Heritage Month, rock historian and author Richie Unterberger presents "La Bamba: Latinx in Vintage Rock, Pop, and Soul," featuring and discussing film clips of Latinx performers from the 1950s through the 1980s, highlighting Latinx music from San Francisco and Los Angeles. **Drink What You Grow,** 7 p.m. Sept. 18. Master Gardener Monique Frappier and the Garden-to-Glass team introduce six of their favorite plants that impart desirable flavors and aromas, ideal for crafting refreshing teas, infusions, syrup and other homemade beverages. **Do Galaxies Breathe, Too?,** 7 p.m. Sept. 26. Dr. Xinnan Du from Stanford University will discuss how galactic-scale outflows and inflows impact the formation of stars. **Turning the Tide: Community Actions Against Plastic Pollution,** 7 p.m. Oct. 1. Sherry Auerbach from the Rotary Club of Los Altos will discuss how to redirect plastic packaging away from landfills. Programs are free and open to the public. Information: (650) 948-7683, scld.org.

The Los Altos Hills History Committee has scheduled its fall presentation, "Los Altos Hills and the Surrounding Areas before Statehood," for 2 p.m. Sept. 21 in the Los Altos Hills Council Chambers. The presenter, Robert Senkewicz, was a professor of history at the University of Santa Clara between 1976 and 2018. A reception will follow. To RSVP, visit the town of Los Altos Hills website at losaltoshills.ca.gov, scroll down to the calendar and click on Sept. 21.

CLUBS/GROUPS

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

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

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

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

Peninsula Harmony Chorus. A cappella chorus centered in Los Altos. Performs "doo-wop" music from the 1950s and 1960s. Rehearsals Monday eve-

nings at 7:15 p.m. at Los Altos Lutheran Church. Information: peninsulaharmony.org.

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

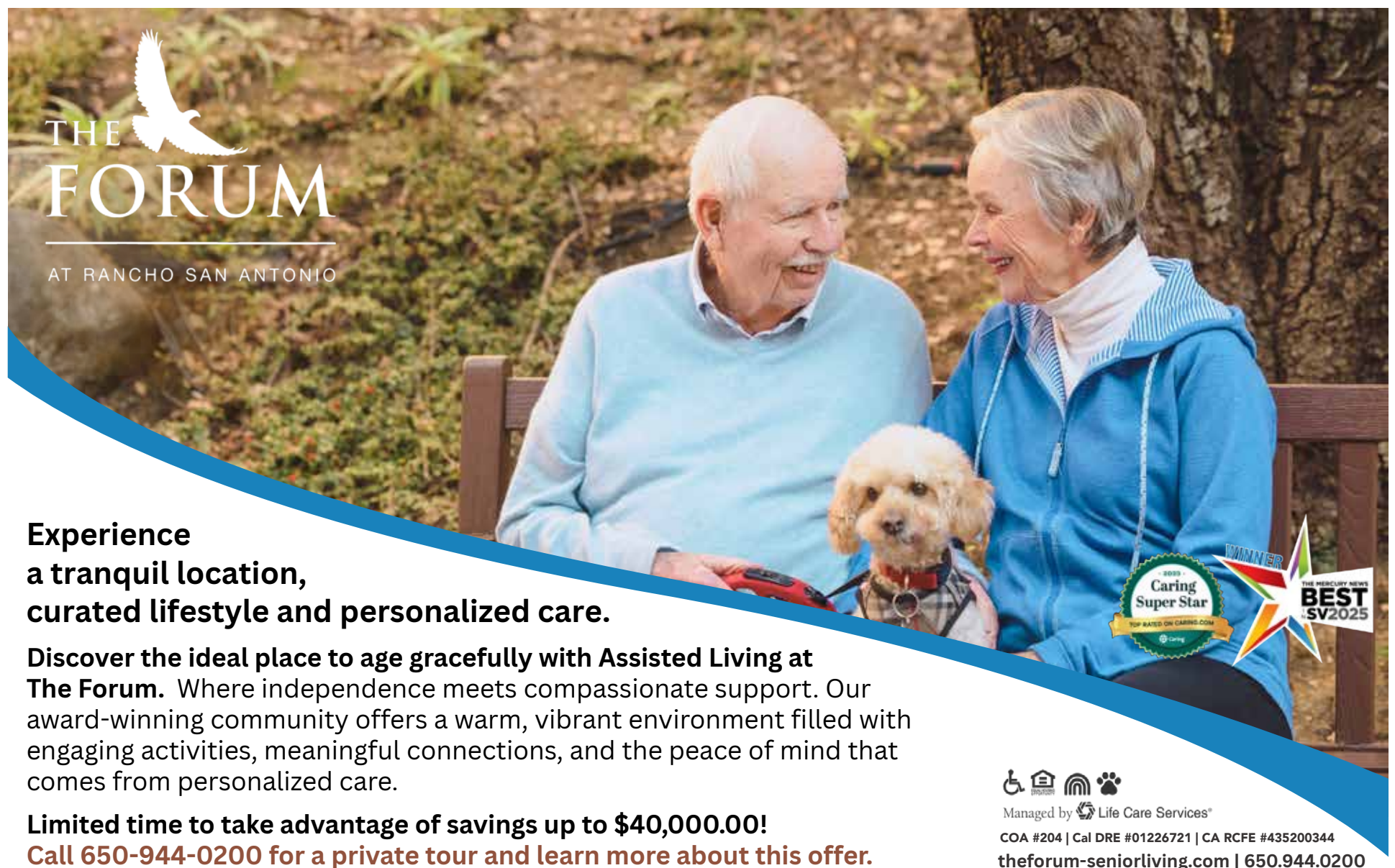
Foothills Amateur Radio Society. Amateur radio club serving Los Altos and local area. Meets 7 p.m. the fourth Friday of the month. Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos. Information: fars.k6ya.org.

Quota International of Mountain View/Los Altos. Supports scholarships for hearing-impaired students. Noon first and third Thursdays of each month. Michael's at Shoreline, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd. Mountain View. Information: (650) 967-5404; quotamvla.org.

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

Morning Forum of Los Altos. Celebrating its 75th year, the Morning Forum of Los Altos offers programs of diverse and knowledgeable speakers. Information: morningforum.org.

Midpeninsula Widows and Widowers Association. Organizes activities for those who have experienced the loss of a spouse. Information at mpwwa1.org.



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Schools

LAHS student teaches young children design tools

By Brandon Roth

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

At any age, having good insight into how products operate and why one uses them shows how the world operates. There are many options on how to apply design in our everyday life and one can see it everywhere from their computers and cars to toaster ovens. People trust their items will be efficient and long lasting and it would be a bonus if they have look good, too.

Alyssa Fang, a junior at Los Altos High School, said for the past two years, she has been teaching students, between the ages of 10 and 14, basic design tools through her program RenderED Design and Build Summer Camp.

She said her program is a week-long workshop over the summer that anyone from the community can join. She said she had a great space at the Los Altos Community Center where they had access to snacks, television displays and a 3D printer. Many of the students brought their own laptops, but the center will provide a laptop

to those who do not have one. She felt very “well-equipped” in the space, making it easy for her to conduct all of her lessons.

She said her camp is a fun opportunity for students to engage with the tools that she grew up using. She said it is important for students to see their objects become a reality.

“I mainly just wanted to share my interests with people who are basically like younger versions of myself,” she said. “I enjoy hanging out with them and explaining cool concepts. I have watched them being really confused to watching them become pretty intrigued.”

She said the students worked alongside Enchanté Boutique Hotel in Los Altos to help create two items for them that will be utilized in its lobby. On the first day, students were taught the basics of various platforms such as Photoshop and Blender, an open source 3D modeling platform. The next few days allowed the students time to brainstorm what was missing in the hotel, find a solution and render their designs on the computer. She said she was in



COURTESY OF SILVIA FANG

From left, Alyssa Fang, a junior at Los Altos High School, created RenderED Design and Build Summer Camp last year to teach students design software and how to apply their knowledge to real-world application.

charge of getting the materials, but the students were the ones who created the concepts and assembled the materials.

“We worked with Enchanté to design something that they could use during their operations,” she said. “All of the designs are made

to be functional.”

One project includes a guitar tip

See DESIGN, Page 15

Local teen participates in National Hispanic Institute's Great Debate

By Amalia Tormala

Town Crier Editorial Intern

Los Altos resident Taylor Luna said she first experienced the joys of critical discourse and civic leadership when she was 14 years old at the National Hispanic Institute's Great Debate summer program. Three years later, her younger brother Jacob Luna followed in her footsteps.

Mountain View High School graduate Taylor, who is Hispanic, said she attended the NHI's inaugural California Sol program in 2022. There – even with the institute's focus on Hispanic youth – Taylor said she met students from throughout the United States, Mexico and several other countries.

“The programs teach leadership skills, teach communication skills and empower participants to become leaders in their communities when they come home from whichever program they attend,”

Taylor said.

Every summer, the National Hispanic Institute hosts five Great Debate programs: three based in Texas, one in Illinois and one in San Diego. This year, the California-based program's attendance reached its highest point yet, with more than 120 participants and 20 volunteers, according to Taylor.

During her time at the program three years ago, Taylor said she was busy: The entire program was a speech and debate bootcamp, preparing students for a two-day tournament in which they were to use their newly-learned leadership and speaking skills.

The Great Debate program emphasizes perseverance just as much as they do excellence, according to Taylor. Despite losing in her initial speech and debate category, Taylor ended up winning in a fourth category created for students who fell short in their original events.

“I was encouraged by the



COURTESY OF NATIONAL HISPANIC INSTITUTE

Far right, front row, Taylor Luna, a Mountain View High School 2025 graduate who is going to University of California, Berkeley, participated with the National Hispanic Institute's Great Debate program. Students from several countries competed against each other on speech and debate and learned new leadership and speaking skills.

program and by the staff to keep going and told that one setback shouldn't stop me from trying and wanting to get to the finals and speaking in front of everybody,” Taylor said. “That's

what I was taught and what I still see participants taught.”

To help motivate the next generation of youth speakers in the ways she was, Taylor has returned to the California Sol

Great Debate as a volunteer every summer since she attended. In her place, as a Great Debate student, is rising sophomore Jacob, who

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Schools

DESIGN

From Page 14

jar for hotel musical performers. This project allows one to easily slip cash through the end of the jar and be taken out through a latch in the back. Materials in this piece include cork screws, fiberglass that is attached to the front of the case, small pieces of rope cut that mimic guitar strings and a wooden stand that

the guitar sits on.

The other project is a lost-and-found case that is a replica of the Louvre Pyramid in Paris. Inside the case, fairy lights give it a magical appearance and there are newspaper scraps in the shape of the flowers attached to all sides. Materials in this piece include fiberglass, which is used for the pyramid, and metal latches that allow one to open it with ease.

Fang's approach to design is community-based, combining her interest in engineering and art with everyday needs. She said she has a range of experiences, from attending an Architecture and Design Program at UC Berkeley and participating in her school's robotics team. She said all of these programs have helped her explore potential career paths using computer-aided design and how to use the

software to problem solve.

She said she personally wanted to give back to places in her community that have been meaningful for her in her childhood. She said the program encourages students to learn these tools to make positive impacts. For next year, she hopes to do it before the summer begins, knowing she'll be busy with college applications, but she has already heard people are

interested in participating again.

"I would love to do it again," she said. "There is a lot of demand for it and I remember while I was at the center, a couple of random people were like 'Oh my gosh, what is this? It looks so cool.' I thought this was interesting to hear."

To see an image of RenderED Design and Build Summer Camp final projects, visit the Los Altos Town Crier website.

DEBATE

From Page 14

said he attended the California Sol Great Debate in July.

"After Taylor had a positive experience at the Great Debate, she encouraged me to go," Jacob said. "At first, I wasn't sure about attending, but I decided it was time to step out of my comfort zone. I wanted to learn how to talk to new people and gain a new skill."

And, as Taylor predicted, Jacob said he walked away from the program with the goal to continue engaging in debate at Mountain View High. Jacob's realized love for public speaking is something

Taylor said she, too, discovered – all thanks to the Great Debate.

In addition to the advanced leadership skills it creates, the Great Debate touts other benefits, Jacob said. For one, it gave him – and other students for whom attending a university may not have been something of interest – a chance to spend two weeks on a college campus.

According to Jacob, who is Hispanic, one stereotype he often heard was that Hispanic students could not be successful in college. However, Jacob said the National Hispanic Institute's gentle encouragement toward finding a future that aligns with students'

true values and goals caused him to realize something: Hispanics can – and should – take on leadership roles.

Prior to attending the Great Debate program, Jacob said he had never wanted to attend a four-year college and pursue higher education. As he put it, besides hanging out with his friends, he "wasn't really into trying new things." But, with Taylor as his inspiration, Jacob attended the program, which transformed his outlook on his future.

"After I went (to the Great Debate), I found out that I really liked public speaking, especially in debates," Jacob said. "I felt

professional, and the program made me realize, 'Oh, I really do want to go to college.'"

Taylor's near future includes a four-year college education, as she is an incoming freshman at the University of California-Berkeley. Taylor said she intends to obtain a bachelor's degree in ethnic studies, the pursuit of which she largely attributes to her time at the Great Debate and her learned love for debate and making an impact in the world.

Both Taylor and Jacob said they recognize the impact that the NHI can have on Hispanic youth like themselves: The institute's goal of teaching how one can

make changes in the world creates a space in which Hispanic youth can hone their leadership skills and ultimately hold civic leadership roles.

"I believe the Great Debate program is important because it empowers Hispanic youth to find their voice and teaches us how to use it in our communities," Jacob said. "It gave me the confidence to speak up, and I hope more students from Mountain View and Los Altos take the chance to experience it too."

For more information on the Great Debate programs, visit nationalhispanicinstitute.org/great-debate.



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Sports

St. Francis football building experience on the fly

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

There are a lot more unknowns in key spots for the St. Francis football team this fall than in last year's CCS Division I title-winning team, particularly on the offense side of the ball.

"We've got a lot of new starters," head coach Greg Calcagno said. "Our receivers, our tight ends, quarterback and running back are all new."

St. Francis will look to build on last year's success, when it won the CCS Division I championship, its first CCS title since 2014. Kingston Keanaaina, last year's West Catholic Athletic League football player of the year, has left the biggest hole for the offense, but the team will also have to replace all-

league standouts quarterback Aaron Knapp, receiver Grant Righellis and tight end James Jordan, while receiver Perrion Williams transferred to Archbishop Riordan. Calcagno noted that replacing a player like Keanaaina is hard to do, with Motu Keanaaina, Kaimani Keanaaina and Loa Tuiileila all likely to get carries in the backfield this season.

"We can't expect one person to carry that load, but we always have a pretty good stable of running backs," Calcagno said. "We'll probably do by committee right now."

Senior Andrew Franzino and sophomore Drew Cumby are battling it out to replace Knapp at quarterback. Franzino has played as the freshman and junior varsity quarterback and has



ALAN HWANG/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

St. Francis must replace star Kingston Keanaaina, above, this year for the 2025-2026 season. The Lancers won the Central Coast Section Division I title last year.

a mobility element to his game.

"He's been in the system for four years; he executes it really well. He's a little bit more of an on-the-run kind of guy," Calcagno said of Franzino. "Drew is a lit-

tle more prototypical, he's a little bit taller, more pocket passer sort of guy, so it just depends on which way we go."

At the receiver position, the Lancers will look at several players who also play

on defense to make contributions, relying on safeties Sean Walsh and Sefanaia Alatini and cornerbacks Max Haberlach and Dom Oteiza on the offensive side. While the skill positions will have

See ST. FRANCIS, Page 17

Mountain View football ready for start after long offseason

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

The start of football season is a time of anticipation and excitement, and the Mountain View football team is ready for its Aug. 29 opener against Palo Alto after months of preparation.

"Those guys have all put in a great deal of hard work from January on in their off-season training," Mountain View head coach Rick Esparza said. "Hopefully it's going to go a long way and carry us pretty far."

A young team that gained experience last year will have returning starting quarterback Ishan Devarapalli lead the offense. Devarapalli is a junior who will provide leadership and accountability to the team and program. Esparza noted Devarapalli's arm strength and accuracy have increased since last year after spending the offseason working on his quarterback mechanics, with Devarapalli expected to be a threat with his arm and his legs.

"Tremendously smart young man, competitive, hard worker, team leader and captain," Esparza said. "This year, as a junior, he brings back an entire year of experience. Having experience in that position is invaluable."

The Spartans will lean on Braden Greene at the running back position after he spent last year as a starting wide receiver, with Esparza describing him as a tremendous athlete who is a vocal leader and leads by example.

"I think he's pound for pound probably the strongest guy on the team, in the weight room," Esparza said. "He's very fast out on the track. Super hard worker, all about the team."

Mountain View will look to senior and three-year varsity player Brigham Robinson to be the defensive catalyst. Robinson was the starting inside linebacker last year and will be a key player on defense and at tight end.

"He's really the heart and soul of our team," Esparza said of Robinson. "Everything that we do, on and off the field, in the locker room, in the weight room, around campus. He's



GABRIELA TELES/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

The Mountain View football team practicing ahead of the new season.

very involved with the entire school community. He bleeds black and gold. That guy is all about the team and his school. He's going to be a big-time player."

The entire offensive line returns after all being underclassmen last year, while the defense has experience

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Sports

ST. FRANCIS

From Page 16

new players, most of the experience will come from the three returning starters on the offensive line. Right tackle John Fifta, a USC commit, is a formidable presence on the offensive line at 6'5 who can inflict damage, while Lehigh University commit Case Jacobson and Deon Jackson will return as guards and play on both sides of the ball. St. Francis has historically been a run-first team that relies on its big guys up front to open holes for the running attack.

Defense will be the strength of the team thanks to Walsh and Alatini returning at the safety positions, while Stanford commit Chase Cahoon is back for his third season as a starter. Linebacker Jackson Cahoon, the 2024 WCAL linebacker of the year, and cornerback Quentin Robinson have graduated, but five starters return on the defensive side

compared to just three on the offensive side.

"I think our defense is going to be really good," Calcagno said. "We return a lot of guys. I think the secondary and linebacker corps are really good."

St. Francis has set itself a tough schedule to open the season, starting with Cathedral Catholic from San Diego, followed by a trip to McClymonds. One of the toughest tests of the season will come when De La Salle, which played in the California CIF Open Division championship last year against Mater Dei, visits Sept. 12. Talented Riordan will visit St. Francis Sept. 26 in the first game of the brutal WCAL season. Calcagno noted that playing good teams earlier on helps the team identify weaknesses quickly and work on them in the non-league time rather than waiting until late in the league season to make adjustments.

"Our expectations are to get better every week," Calcagno said. "We play a really tough schedule in preseason and then open up with Riordan, who's probably the favorite in the league. That's a tough first four games."

St. Francis schedule

Home games are in bold.

St. Francis vs. Cathedral Catholic 7 p.m. Aug. 29

McClymonds vs. St. Francis 7 p.m. Sept. 5

St. Francis vs. De La Salle 7 p.m. Sept. 12

St. Francis vs. Archbishop Riordan 7 p.m. Sept. 26

Bellarmino vs. St. Francis 7 p.m. Oct. 3

St. Francis vs. Archbishop Mitty 7 p.m. Oct. 10

Junipero Serra vs. St. Francis 1:30 p.m. Oct. 18

St. Francis vs. St. Ignatius 7 p.m. Oct. 24

Sacred Heart Cathedral vs. St. Francis 7 p.m. Oct. 31

St. Francis vs. Valley Christian 7 p.m. Nov. 7

FOOTBALL

From Page 16

returning through several defensive linemen and linebackers. The team had several sophomores play last season on a young team.

"Taking their bumps as sophomores is going to pay off in dividends this year, coming back for another year of varsity football," Esparza said.

Mountain View finished 2-8 overall last season and remains in the Peninsula Athletic League De Anza Division after finishing fifth (1-4) last year, with Esparza expecting tough, competitive games throughout the year.

"Between King's Academy, Capuchino and Burlingame, those are three extraordinary tough teams to play, and then the teams that are coming up from our B leagues in San Mateo and Carmel, they're coming up for a reason;

couple of other really well coached teams, and they've had a lot of success over the years," Esparza said.

Mountain View schedule

The Mountain View home games are in bold.

Palo Alto vs. Mountain View 7 p.m. Aug. 29

Mountain View vs. Woodside 7 p.m. Sept. 5

Mountain View vs. Live Oak 7 p.m. Sept. 11

Menlo School vs. Mountain View 3:30 p.m. Sept. 19

Mountain View vs. Carmel 7 p.m. Oct. 3

Mountain View vs. San Mateo 7 p.m. Oct. 9

Capuchino vs. Mountain View 7 p.m. Oct. 17

King's Academy vs. Mountain View 7 p.m. Oct. 24

Mountain View vs. Burlingame 7 p.m. Oct. 31

Los Altos vs. Mountain View

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

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Stepping Out

Lauren Gunderson's 'Little Women' makes debut at TheatreWorks

By Brandon Roth

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

A new production of "Little Women" will make its way to TheatreWorks on Sept. 24, and it is expected to bring new life to Louisa May Alcott's 1868 story of independence, sisterhood and women's rights.

TheatreWorks co-commissioned this new

version alongside City Theatre Company in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Northlight Theatre in Skokie, Illinois and People's Light in Malvern, Pennsylvania.

Lauren Gunderson, a Bay Area playwright whose credits include "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley," "The Revolutionists" and "The Half-Life of Marie

Curie," wrote this new story with the help of the various theatre companies. TheatreWorks will be in its second cycle for an audience.

Giovanna Sardelli, the director of "Little Women," said that Gunderson does a great job in her scripts, showcasing "strong, independent women" and knew her adaptation

of this story would help bring the March sisters' lives to contemporary audiences. She said there is a desire from the community right now to have stories that feature characters overcoming adversity. She said the play is an inspiration for people trying to find themselves in the world and finding freedom.

"The story gives me the courage to forge my own path, to claim the life I've created for myself and am creating," Sardelli said. "There's a kindred spirit in these sisters for every woman, regardless of the path you choose. That's what I think is so special about it. There are characters who go off and choose love, a domestic life. Then there's the character who wants to find themselves in this story to feel seen, validated and inspired. I think that's what makes it such a universal and timeless story."

She said the United States is at a place where womanhood is being redefined through a pushback movement of being placed into traditional roles. She said all the actors have captured

each of the characters' personalities and how they see themselves in the world.

Elissa Beth Stebbins, who is set to play both the author Louisa and the protagonist Jo, said rehearsals are starting soon and she is excited to meet the cast. She said Gunderson's script pulls information directly from the story while also weaving in some autobiographical details on Alcott's life. She said the author "really kept in mind" the main theme of the sisters, showing that one should not be static in life.

"One of the things that's so beautiful is the way that people – and especially Joe – she's allowed to grow and change," Stebbins said. "She's allowed to be mean to Amy and then love Amy really hard. She's allowed to flirt with Laurie and have a possibility of something there and then decide it's not for her. She can say, 'I don't think I want marriage. I don't think I need that in my life.' She's always learning, which I really love."

For more information on ticket prices and dates, visit theatreworks.org/mainstage/season-55/.

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COURTESY OF MARK KITAOKA

Lauren Gunderson's adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women" will make its world premiere at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, performing Sept. 24 – Oct. 12. Pictured is TheatreWorks' production of Gunderson's hit drama "Silent Sky," which featured from left, Matt Citron, Jennifer Le Blanc, Elena Wright, Sarah Dacey Charles and Lynne Soffer.

To pitch a story for Stepping Out,
email section editor
Brandon Roth at brandonr@latc.com.

Your Home

Planting a Los Altos garden

By Christina Casillas
Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

In the July edition of the Your Home section, Town Crier staff proudly displayed the bounties and gorgeous flora of their home gardens. We then asked for members of the community to send us pictures of their own gardens and summer harvests, and they did not disappoint.

From fragrant roses to an old trumpet vine, Los Altos resident Basia Baney noted that her flow-

ers appeal to the senses of humans and hummingbirds alike. Her garden also produces delicious delicacies, from heirloom blood red peaches grown from a seed by her and her husband to creamy Lamb Hass avocados.

Los Altos resident Nita Sharma's garden has provided well for her and her family. From chilies to squash, potatoes, cherry tomatoes and green beans, she's harvested a variety of different vegetables this Summer season.

The Town Crier thanks all those who sent us photos of beautiful gardens and harvests.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NITA SHARMA AND BASIA BANEY

Left, Los Altos resident Nita Sharma's summer harvest, including green beans, chillies, cherry tomatoes, potatoes and opo squash. Above, Los Altos resident Basia Baney's garden is producing an abundance of heirloom blood red peaches. Right, her trumpet vine is as delightful to hummingbirds as it is to the human eye – she said the vine is “hummingbird heaven.”



Moving with your stuff, part two

By Lyn Rogers

“Your new home should be the story of who you are and be a collection of what you love.” – Nate Berkus

Whether you move for your career, a more affordable home, or for your health, you're in great company. Approximately 9% of households relocate every year, which translates into roughly 28 million people in the U.S. alone. You may be moving locally or far away, but you don't want to leave all of your precious belongings behind. You want to surround yourself with the familiar, and at the same time, you want everything to arrive at your new location in the same condition as the day you packed it.

Studies show that between 24%-45% of people wait until the last minute to pack for a move. Many people underestimate how long packing will take and over half (55%) of people feel overwhelmed by the moving process. Considering that the average American home has been estimated to contain close to 300,000 items, starting to pack immediately will help to relieve a lot of the stress.

It's vitally important that you start gathering together all of your packing supplies as soon as you make concrete plans to move. I cannot emphasize enough that you should be purchasing more rolls of tape, bubble wrap (both large and small), packing paper, permanent markers and boxes than you think you will need.

Conquering Clutter

Anything you don't use can either be returned to the store or gifted to others in need. Try to get free boxes at the grocery store, if they are made of strong cardboard and clean.

Some types of items you may need include wardrobe boxes for hanging clothes, dish packing kits for fragile items, mattress covers, plastic wrap for furniture, smaller boxes for books and art/mirror boxes. You should start with these rooms (in order): guest rooms and storage areas, dining room and formal spaces, living areas, bedrooms (except what's needed on a daily basis), kitchen



PORMEZZ/ADOBE STOCK

Moving can be made easier with organization and starting early.

(save for last week), bathrooms (pack the day before moving). Make sure you keep special boxes or bins with you in the car for the first few days. These should include all necessary medications, important documents, electronics and their chargers, a couple of changes of clothes, paper plates and utensils, toi-

let paper, and other items to make your first nights more comfortable.

Wardrobe boxes have extra room on the bottom for some of your shoes. Be sure to put shoes in bags to protect your hanging clothes. Fill empty spaces in other boxes with

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Your Home

Gathering ideas for next year's garden



COURTESY OF MELINDA MYERS

Above is an All-America Selections display garden in the Boerner Botanical Gardens in Wisconsin.

By Melinda Myers

Special to the Town Crier

Summer is a time when many gardeners begin making plans for new additions to next year's gardens. You may already be doing ongoing evaluations of your own plantings and may want to include tours of others' gardens.

A walk around your neighborhood can provide inspiration and a chance to observe plants thriving in the same or similar conditions that exist in your landscape. Local garden tours allow you to take a closer look at both front and backyard gardens filled with plants, garden art and more.

Whether you tour alone or with a group of friends, it is a great opportunity to meet the gardener, gather ideas, exchange gardening secrets and get inspired. Many of the garden tours are sponsored by garden clubs, libraries, beautification groups and other similar organizations. The proceeds from the event usually support a worthy cause in the community. You'll find local garden tours promoted online, in local publications, garden centers, botanical gardens and other similar venues.

The Garden Conservancy's Open Days program is a one-of-a-kind private garden tour. Participating gardens are located around the country in small and large lots that feature a variety of styles, plants and features. All you need is a little time and a ticket to participate in the self-guided garden tours. A listing of the Open Days gardens, their location and dates for each garden is listed on their website.

Visit your local or nearby public botanic gardens and arboreta. They feature plants in gardens and natural settings with similar growing conditions to nearby home gardens. They often feature new and unique varieties, traditional favorites and garden designs, providing inspiration to all

who visit.

All-America Selections (AAS) Display Gardens are another valuable resource for gardeners. AAS is a nonprofit organization that trials and evaluates plants for outstanding qualities suitable for the home garden. They have been helping gardeners grow award-winning flowers and vegetables since 1932.

Never-before-sold plant varieties bred for home gardens are planted, observed and evaluated at various trial gardens throughout North America. Trial gardens are located at public gardens, seed companies or universities. The potential plant introduction is observed and its performance evaluated throughout the growing season. Volunteer judges rate the plants on improvements in characteristics such as aesthetics, performance and productivity as well as pest and disease tolerance. A plant must have significantly improved qualities to be considered for an AAS award.

Display gardens feature the newest AAS winners in a well-maintained setting where you can view the winners. There are nearly 200 display gardens in the United States and Canada located in public botanic gardens and arboreta, municipality gardens, garden retailers, university gardens and more. Some locations also offer related educational opportunities, open houses or field days during the growing season. The closest garden to Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View are the Gardens at Heather Farm in Walnut Creek.

Take some time to enjoy and evaluate your gardens. Then set aside some time to visit local gardens for ideas and inspiration.

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

MOVING

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towels or clothes, such as robes and pajamas. Nothing should rattle when you shake the box.

Label every box with the name of the room and spe-

cifically what's inside. Write "Kitchen-pots and pans," instead of just kitchen. You can use permanent markers, special labels, a spreadsheet, or an app to help you locate everything when you arrive to make unpacking seamless. A new adventure awaits you

as you navigate the unknown and see all the exciting possibilities at your new location.

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

Your Home

Seasons change: Houseplant care does too

By Christina Casillas

Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

The first day of fall is Sept. 22; while current warm weather may suggest otherwise, the days will slowly grow darker and temperatures will steadily cool. With the change, evaluating how one cares for indoor plants is especially important.

Specifically, this is a reminder to change how often an indoor houseplant is watered. During the hot summer months, plants generally need to be watered at an increased rate. Heat causes the water in soil to evaporate quicker, and less water in soil warrants increased watering.

But as temperatures

cool, soil will stay wet for longer periods of time – meaning there is less need for increased watering.

Although the heat will most likely linger, it's important to water indoor plants less frequently as fall weather begins to set in. Likewise, it's important to check how plants – especially those near or in the pathway of drafts or air vents – are doing. If you use air conditioning in the summer and you've noticed those plants near a vent grow thirsty faster than other plants in the home, con-



sider moving it. Hot air is just as unpleasant for a houseplant as cool air is, and it will cause soil to dry quicker than cool air (heat holds onto water particles better than cool air does).

Take some time to check in on your houseplants this week – will you need to move anything? With decreased light in the fall, will you need to move any houseplants to an area with more light during the -ber months? Preparing now will help limit any heartbreak in the future.

A few tips for growing a bee-friendly lawn

By Melinda Myers

Special to the Town Crier

Boost the bee and pollinator appeal of your lawn by incorporating microclover, self-heal, creeping thyme, crocus, grape hyacinths and other bee-friendly flowering plants in your lawn. You'll create and enjoy a carpet of green with splashes of color and one that requires less ongoing maintenance. The pollinators will benefit from the nutritious sources of nectar and pollen your bee lawn provides.

Flowering bee lawns include traditional lawn grasses combined with other hardy grasses, like fine fescues as well as warm season centipede grass. Kentucky bluegrass and Bermuda grass also combine well with bee-friendly plants but require more ongoing care than fescues and centipede grass. You'll be creating a more diverse lawn that not only appeals to bees but also is more resilient to pests and environmental stressors than traditional lawn grasses. Consult your local university extension service for help in selecting the best lawn grasses and bee-friendly plants.

Like any new addition to the landscape or garden, it does require some effort. But once established, you'll be spending less time with ongoing care like watering, mow-

ing and fertilization.

Start by evaluating your current lawn situation. If grass is growing well in the area, so will a bee lawn. This is not an all or nothing endeavor and like any new undertaking, starting small is always a good strategy.

Consider converting just lesser-used spaces. This allows bees and butterflies to forage in peace. And even though native bees are docile and typically don't sting, neither the kids nor bees want to share the same space.

Keep your neighbors in mind when selecting a space for your bee lawn. Those neighbors with pristine lawns may be less tolerant of your bee lawn. Selecting areas surrounded by walks and drives will also help keep aggressive plants inbounds.

Consider starting your bee lawn by overseeding the white microclover into your existing lawn. Clover is adaptable, tolerates foot traffic and drought, and blooms for a long period, providing bees with high-sugar-content nectar and protein-rich pollen. Microclover can also be combined with other bee-friendly plants. You can seed these at the same time or add them later as you expand your bee lawn.

Sow microclover seed in late winter, early spring or late summer in the south and early spring or late summer

in the north. Outsidepride's Miniclover with Nitro-Coat (outsidepride.com) aids in establishment and allows you to use no-till, minimum-till and broadcast seeding techniques. Even though it is not native, research found clover attracts and supports a diverse group of native bees.

Once your bee lawn is established, mow high, at least three inches, so the flowering plants can bloom and support the bees and other visiting pollinators. Leave the grass clippings on the lawn. This is a good practice for both traditional and bee lawns. Short clippings break down quickly, adding moisture and nutrients back to the soil. Once established, you'll only need to water during extended dry periods and seldomly, if at all, fertilize. Skip the pesticides that can harm the pollinators you are trying to attract.

Increase your landscape's pollinator appeal further by growing more bee- and pollinator-friendly plants in your gardens. Helping these important members of our community is good for the environment and all of us.

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

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Business & Real Estate

Los Altos-based AI company launches new program

By Andres Baisch

Town Crier Editorial Intern

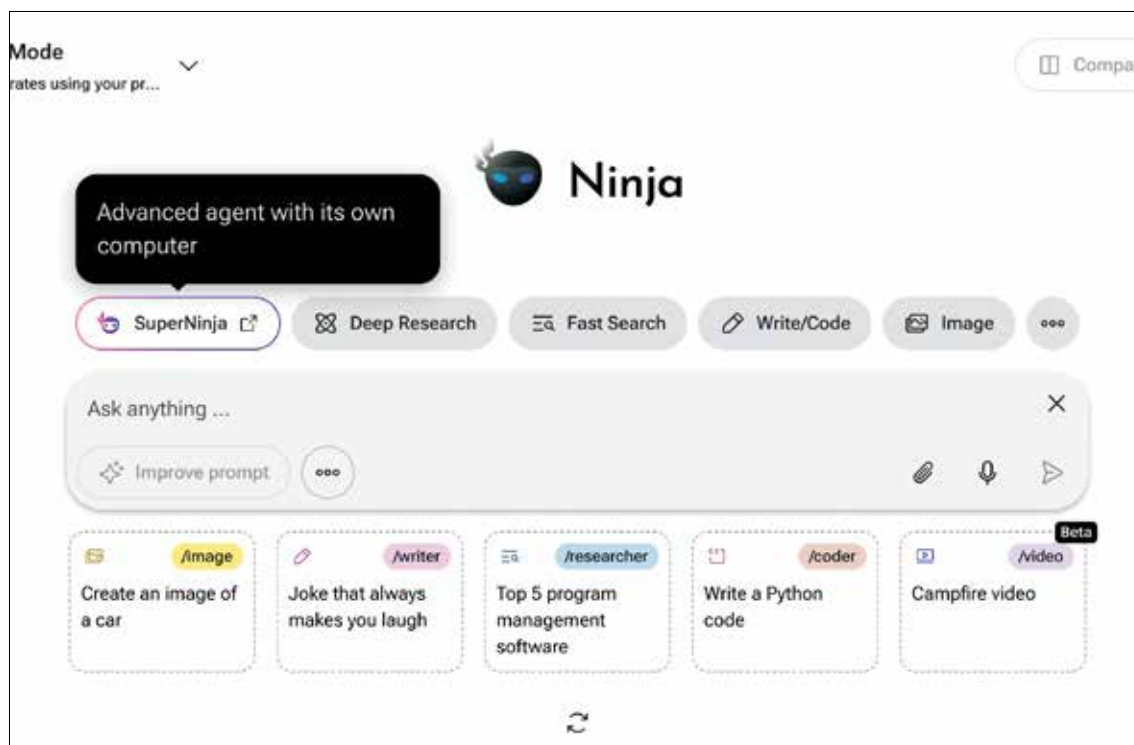
New AI software from a Los Altos-based company promises to save its users time and money by completing multiday tasks in minutes.

NinjaTech AI Inc. in July launched SuperNinja, which operates on a computer in the same way human workers do, according to the company's vice president of product, Divya Chirasani. The program runs data analysis, coding applications and builds websites in the user's preferred format.

"Our main goal was to reduce the errors that AI can make," Chirasani said.

NinjaTech, founded in 2022, has been working on SuperNinja since January 2023, according to Chirasani. Originally called Deep Research, the program was renamed SuperAgent before the company settled on SuperNinja after fine-tuning the product.

"SuperNinja is the evolution of Deep Research," Chirasani



SCREENSHOT OF NINJATECH AI WEBSITE

NinjaTech AI Inc. released SuperNinja, the purple/pink option above. It's described as an "advanced agent with its own computer," in theory saving users time and money, the business claims.

said. "SuperNinja is giving the computer an instructive browser."

While other AI agents run in a browser or as a plug-in,

Chirasani said SuperNinja operates with its dedicated environment. This means that SuperNinja can install software and manage files as if it were a

real user in a digital workspace.

"People use (SuperNinja) for strategic questions," Chirasani said. "SuperNinja will be able to give them recom-

mendations."

Chirasani noted that SuperNinja can make adjustments to websites 10 times faster than other AI tools.

"Nobody complained because this is still such a great technology," Chirasani said of other AI software. "But as AI progresses, can we somehow make it more delightful using custom chips?"

Utilizing its own OS, SuperNinja can remotely run applications and execute commands with help from the custom chips created by Cerebras Systems, according to the company website.

SuperNinja's pricing tiers start at \$25 per month, which Chirasani said is less expensive than the competition.

"We're doing it because we are using open source, fine-tune (SuperNinja) and can host it with our partners, providing lower cost than our competition," she said.

For more information, visit ninjatech.ai/product/superninja.

Be careful: The two most effective ways to avoid being hacked

By Artie Green

It's virtually impossible to go about daily life these days without doing things online in some fashion. Buying stuff, connecting with others, making travel plans: These are just a few of the many activities that the internet has made both ubiquitous, simple and quick. But with convenience comes risk. The downside is that if some miscreant can acquire personal information or passwords, the risk of having one's identity and/or money stolen increases significantly. However, by focusing on doing just two things right, the odds of that occurring – at least within the current generation of technology – are greatly reduced.

The first thing to do is to protect oneself against phishing, a type of social engineering relying on deceptive email or text messages designed to trick you into revealing personal information – such as account numbers or passwords – or downloading malware.

According to Akamai Technologies, a Massachusetts-based content delivery and cloud storage network, phishing is the most common source of cybercrime. In 2023, Akamai estimated that over three billion malicious emails are sent every day. These messages use emotional appeals (fear, greed, curiosity) and/or a sense of urgency to psychologically manipulate the receiver into responding. The emails may appear to be from an employer, the government or a financial institution. Alternatively, the sender's address might look like that of a close friend, and the text might include some personal information further suggesting that the message is legitimate.

The way to protect oneself from this risk is to treat every email as a possible fake. Do not respond or click on any embedded link without first following these steps:

- Hover the cursor over the sender's email to determine if it

Nest Egg Briefs

appears to be legitimate. Even if it does, email addresses can be spoofed.

- If the message appears to be from a company or institution, look for any misspellings or grammatical errors.

- If the message appears to be from a friend or family member, make sure the style and grammar is familiar and consistent.

- If in any doubt, do not respond. Delete the message.

Even if the message appears to be legitimate after the above checks, do not provide any personal information in a response regardless of who it's from. Email is an unsecure medium. But what if the message has a link or attachment? Before clicking on it:

- Hover the cursor over the attachment link without clicking to determine if the address appears to match the sender's

address. If it doesn't, delete the message without responding.

- If the message appears to be from a business or organization, do not click on the link. Instead visit the organization's website by typing the address into your browser.

- If the message appears to be from a friend or family member, call them first to make sure it's really from them.

A similar approach should be followed for phone text messages.

What's the second thing you should do to keep yourself protected? Set up two-factor authentication with all online accounts. If you're not familiar with the term, it's a security measure that requires you

to provide a second form of identification to gain access to your account. Most commonly it involves receiving a code via text message on your phone that you must enter after logging in. This simple approach makes it harder for someone else to access your account even if they've somehow gotten your password.

There are other more sophisticated tools and actions you can take to protect yourself online. But if you utilize just these two, you will likely reduce the risk of theft significantly.

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

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706 N. SAN ANTONIO ROAD
LOS ALTOS



LUXURY AND LIVABILITY IN NORTH LOS ALTOS

Behind gated grounds spanning over a third of an acre, this exceptional home blends luxury and livability with ample space for multi-generational living. Constructed with high-end steel and finished with top-tier materials, the home offers more than 4,500 square feet across three thoughtfully designed levels. Expansive formal rooms, a spectacular gourmet kitchen, an office, and a lower level with its own kitchen and living room are just a few of the standout features, while four en suite bedrooms ensure comfort and privacy. Outdoor spaces provide serene venues for entertaining or unwinding, and an additional bonus area of approximately 970 square feet includes a kitchen and three versatile rooms currently used as bedrooms. Conveniently located minutes from downtown Los Altos and The Village at San Antonio Center, this home is also close to parks, and within walking distance of acclaimed schools like Egan Junior High and Los Altos High (buyer to verify eligibility).

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706NSanAntonio.com

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23171MoraGlen.com

Offered at \$7,500,000

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11722 PUTTER WAY LOS ALTOS



WARM AND WELCOMING IN LOS ALTOS

Set at the end of a secluded, tree-lined cul-de-sac in the Country Club neighborhood, this welcoming home is surrounded by lush landscaping, with a graceful stone staircase leading to the front door. Sunlight fills the two-level layout, where hardwood floors, arched entryways, and crown molding add timeless appeal. The living room's fireplace creates a comfortable gathering spot, while the dining room opens to the back patio for effortless indoor/outdoor meals, and the chef-quality kitchen features premium appliances from brands like Thermador and GE Monogram. Three spacious bedrooms reside upstairs, including the primary suite with a jetted tub and shower. A large backyard patio and expansive front lawn offer plenty of space to enjoy the outdoors, and the home also includes air conditioning, a 2-car garage, and extended driveway parking. All just minutes from the Rancho Shopping Center, the Los Altos Golf and Country Club, nearby nature preserves, and top-rated schools Loyola Elementary, Blach Intermediate, and Mountain View High (buyer to verify eligibility).

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OBITUARY NOTICE

DR. IRWIN A. HEYMAN



*September 15, 1941 –
July 5, 2025*

Irwin passed away peacefully on July 5, 2025, in Palo Alto, California.

Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, Irwin graduated from Forest Park High School, where he played on the basketball and baseball teams. He also served as treasurer of the National Honor Society and was class president in his senior year.

He earned both his PharmD and Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Maryland, where he began his academic journey as an undergraduate. He later completed his postdoctoral training at Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Heyman built a distinguished career in the fields of toxicology and pharmacology, rising to leadership positions at several pharmaceutical companies, including Abbott Laboratories and Syntex Pharmaceuticals. A persistent theme in his work was ensuring the safety of drugs; that the products reaching patients were both safe and effective. He also shared his deep expertise with the next generation of scientists and industry leaders by teaching professional courses in drug development at UC Berkeley Extension.

An avid tennis player and cyclist, Irwin embraced staying active. He was a passionate sports fan, especially of the San Francisco 49ers, the Golden State Warriors, and the San Francisco Giants. Known for his sharp wit and natural warmth, he brought joy and laughter to everyone around him.

For Irwin, family was the center of his life. He is survived by his beloved wife, Yakira, his children Rebecca, David, and Adam, and his cherished grandson, Archer. He was often quoted as saying, "Our friends are our family", and true to those words, he leaves behind a wide circle of dear friends.

He was laid to rest on July 10, 2025, at Alta Mesa Memorial Park in Palo Alto. A shiva was held at the Heyman family home in Los Altos, California.

FERN LANDPHERE BAILEY



*May 13, 1939 –
August 5, 2025*

Fern Landphere Bailey, 86, of Los Altos, California, passed away August 5 surrounded by loving family at her home. Born Martha Fern Campbell in 1939 in Idaho Falls, ID, to Charles and Martha, and the eldest of four girls, Fern was raised on a Three Forks, MT, farm, where she rode horses, and operated trucks and tractors as a young teenager. Fern and her sister Bonnie were well known in the area for their piano recitals of hymns, spirituals, and classics, and Fern was a straight A student from elementary through high school.

Fern possessed a pioneering spirit and enrolled at Stanford University in 1957, and in 1967 began her career as a financial services executive with Pollock Financial Group, where she passionately collaborated for more than 40 years.

Fern married Tony Landphere in 1960 and had four children. After Tony's passing in 1973, Fern married Will Bailey, who brought three more children to the family, and Fern and Will added another child in 1975. With eight children, most of whom were heavily active in a multitude of sports, Fern was the director of several athletic boards at the Little League, Pop Warner, Babe Ruth, and high school levels, while her husband Will coached many teams, and it was not uncommon for Fern to attend 3 or 4 different athletic contests in a day.

Family and her career (and "work family") were the absolute loves of Fern's life. Aside from her very large and extensive family, including numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles, Fern loved to entertain and invite people into her home, as well as gardening, playing piano and singing, jigsaw and crossword puzzles, projects of most any kind, and helping those in need. An exceptionally devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Fern was adored by her family and all those within her orbit.

Surviving Fern are her husband, Will Bailey; children and their

spouses, Laura (Marty) Ramirez, Ken (Rachel) Landphere, Jim (Cleo) Bailey, Mike (Kristi) Landphere, Jeff (Dina) Bailey, Ed (Corinne) Landphere and Matt Bailey; sister, Bonnie; step-brothers, Marvin and Jack; thirteen grandchildren (four spouses); three great grandchildren; sister-in-law, Susan; and son-in-law, Tim. Fern was predeceased by parents, Charles and Martha (and stepfather, Kenneth Lane); ex-husband, Tony; sisters, Linda and Mary; step-brother, Russ; daughter, Amy; and grandsons, Adam and Mikey.

A celebration of Fern's life will be held at St. Nicholas Catholic Church (473 Lincoln Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022) on October 18.



CARL COTTRELL



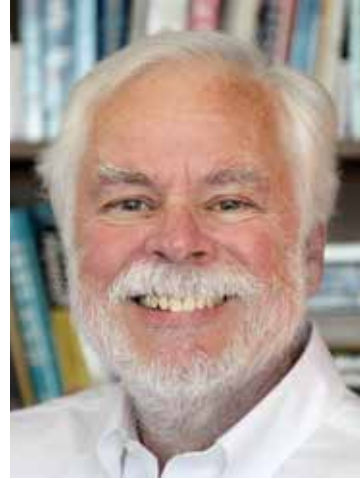
*February 2, 1928 –
August 14, 2025*

Carl Jones Cottrell, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully on August 14, 2025, surrounded by his close family. He was passionate about God, boating, golf, and his beautiful family. Born in Ocala, Florida, on February 2, 1928, Carl built a life defined by his faith, humor, and loyalty. He spent two years serving in the U.S. Army from 1946 to 1948. He worked for 39 years at Hewlett-Packard, which enabled him to travel extensively and live abroad.

Many will remember Carl for his contagious sense of humor, which left a lasting imprint on many lives. He was a mentor to many, imparting words of wisdom and instilling integrity and a strong work ethic. Carl is survived by Marlene, his beloved wife of nearly 51 years; his four daughters and their spouses; 13 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; and countless friends who will always carry his memory in their hearts.

A celebration of Life service was held on August 23rd. In lieu of flowers, donations in Carl's name can be made to Hospice of the Valley and the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

JOHN HARPOOTLIAN



*July 30, 1943 –
July 13, 2025*

Los Altos Hills community leader, John Richard Harpootlian died on July 13, 2025, at the age of eighty-one at Stanford Medical Center after collapsing at his home in Los Altos Hills, CA. He was born on July 30, 1943, in New Rochelle, New York. His parents, Adeline Mary and John Harpootlian, predeceased him. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Duffy Price, his sister, Linda Matz, and nephews, nieces, and cousins.

John spent his formative years in New Rochelle, New York. John attended New Rochelle High School, Stevens Institute of Technology, and Brandeis University, earning a master's degree. He began working as a software engineer at Hewlett-Packard upon moving to the Bay Area in 1969. In 1974, he developed computer products for nuclear medicine diagnosis using the Anger Gamma Camera that initiated early steps in development of MRI imaging. He later worked at the Electromagnetic Systems Laboratory (ESL), which merged with TRW. He retired after over 25 years of work developing computer-based equipment for medical, military, and private research applications.

Since 1978, John & Dorothy lived in Los Altos Hills and actively participated in the founding of community organizations such as Hills 2000 – Friends of the Hills, Town wide committees, and the

participation in the election of many council members.

Additionally, they traveled extensively with family & dear friends to Hawaii, England, Scotland, and Italy – where they developed lasting reciprocal friendships and dear friends.

John is remembered by friends for hosting many "Usual Suspects" weekly parties at the Palo Alto Elks Club where he was a long-time member.

Following his wife Dorothy's retirement from UCSF in 1993, John became more involved in community work in Los Altos Hills. He was an advocate for government accessibility and transparency. He began videotaping the Los Altos Hills council meetings in 2002 and believed that transparency of town council meetings provided better government and improved the relationship with its citizens.

From 2006 - 2012, John served six years as a planning commissioner and was elected to the Los Altos Hills Town Council 2012-2016 and served as mayor in 2016. He also chaired the 60th anniversary of the incorporation of Los Altos Hills.

John had an interest in playing contract Bridge from the early 1970s and achieved the rank of Ruby Life Master and was an active Member of the Palo Alto Bridge Club – American Contract Bridge Club (ACBL).

John's wishes were that upon his death he wanted internment to be at his family's gravesite located at Armenian Cedar Grove Cemetery in Flushing, New York.

A memorial celebration is planned by family and friends for September 19, 2025 from 4:00-7:00 p.m., at the Palo Alto Elks Club.

Instead of flowers, John was hopeful that in his memory, donations would be made to erect a stone bench for the residents to sit upon to enjoy the open space terrain in Los Altos Hills or donate to the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) to the support and protect of landscapes and wildlife habitats for future generations.

Peninsula Open Space Trust
222 High Street, Palo alto, CA
www.openspacetrust.org





GATHER *together*

SEP

LIVE MUSIC

September 4: 6pm-8pm

**MADDY
HUDSON BAND**

COMMUNITY SOCIAL

September 13: 4pm-6pm

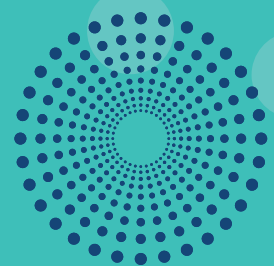
**END OF
SUMMER SOCIAL**

Gather at The Village at San Antonio Center for outdoor fun.

Join us in the park every month for Live Music on First Thursdays and Community Socials on Second Saturdays.



Visit our website



THE VILLAGE
at San Antonio Center