



## Sports

Spartans surge: Mountain View High's girls soccer team proves rich in talent, experience

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## Your Health

Los Altos teen – with an assist from his physician father – launches health recommendations website

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## Business & Real Estate

MV Candle Company adds storefront presence to online business

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# Los Altos Town Crier

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WEDNESDAY • December 15, 2021

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



PHOTOS BY SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Los Altos City Council members, from left, Mayor Anita Enander, Neysa Fligor, Lynette Lee Eng and Vice Mayor Sally Meadow perform a ceremonial burial of a Los Altos time capsule last week.

## Do not unearth for 45 years: Los Altos holds ceremonial burial for time capsule

By Bruce Barton  
Staff Writer/bruceb@latc.com

Los Altos city officials held a ceremonial burial for a time capsule Dec. 9 outside the new Los Altos Community Center. The capsule, set to be unearthed in 45 years, contains a range of items chronicling the center's October opening and the community's response to the COVID pandemic.

The time capsule, according to an accompanying plaque, is "commemorating the opening of the new community center during unprecedented times."

See TIME CAPSULE, Page 5



City workers prepare to place a time capsule in a prepared hole at the new Los Altos Community Center site.

## Storm tests neighborhoods' wet-weather defenses

By Eliza Ridgeway  
Staff Writer/elizar@latc.com

The storm that swept into the Bay Area over the weekend brought 2 feet of snow to the mountains, and by Monday afternoon the Santa Cruz Mountains had already seen 7 inches of rain – and the weather hadn't let up yet.

The seasonal deluge tested Los Altos' efforts to keep storm drains clear. The yearly ritual of inspecting and clearing the channels that send stormwater back into the system starts weeks before the rains begin.

As trees change color and drop a blanket of slippery leaves on local streets, the city sends a battalion of sweepers out to clear public rights-of-way in between the season's storms. Manny Hernandez, Los Altos' maintenance services director, said residents can help by not piling up or adding to the leaf piles as they accrue.

"Don't add to them because then the street sweepers can't get over them, and don't pile up the gutter leaves – leave the leaves in the gutter and the street sweeper will come by," he advised.

The city sweeps each street twice in December and January, double the cadence from the rest of the year, with an eye to addressing the leaves that grow increasingly wet and slippery as rain comes. Los Altos used to do its leaf removal in November and December, but local trees have been changing – as city officials watched the patterns of leaf drop change, they tried pushing back the maintenance schedule for the first time this year, following the



HOWARD BISCHOFF/TOWN CRIER

Mountain View has a sandbag station on Whisman Road – bring your own shovel. Los Altos' sandbag station, outfitted with sandbags and shovels, is located in the parking lot at McKenzie Park.

cues of the trees.

Warm fall seasons can cause trees to hang on to their leaves longer than anticipated. Whether this becomes the norm, in a region experiencing years of drought in addition to steady temperature increases, remains to be seen.

As the leaves do finally start to fully release from the skeletal outlines of mid-December trees, Hernandez asks residents to clear sidewalks – the public right-of-way in front of homes remains the responsibility of each property owner – and the city plans to clear public paths in parks and city property.

### Preventing a deluge

The city's street crews inspect every storm drain in Los Altos at the start of the winter season to check for obstructions or clogs that may have developed during

See STORM, Page 7

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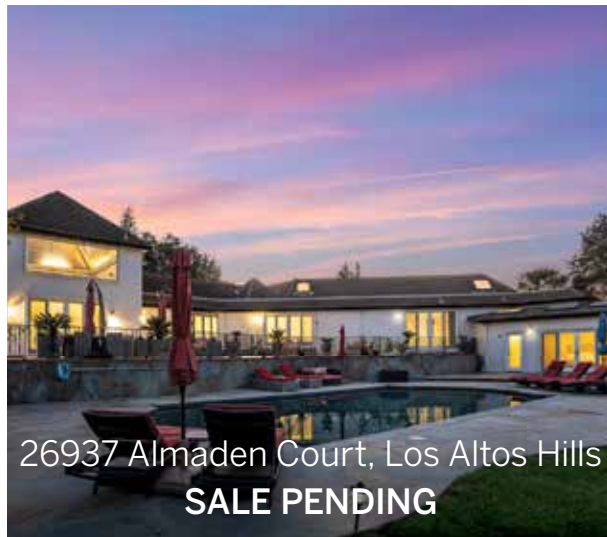
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# Around Town



ABOVE PHOTO BY SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER;  
RIGHT PHOTO BY S.M. LIEU/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER



A second storm is predicted to sweep through the Bay Area starting Wednesday, but moments of grace lit up town amid even the heavy rains on Monday, as captured by Shelly Bowers, above. Roving photographer S.M. Lieu caught nighttime photos of the new sculpture – “Tower” by San Francisco artist Charles Gadeken – outside the Los Altos Community Center on a recent dry evening, right.

What seasonal scenes have you spotted around town? Share photos of decor, events or candid moments by emailing [elizar@latc.com](mailto:elizar@latc.com).

*Correction: Last week's article on the Joint Community Volunteer Service Awards luncheon incorrectly stated it was the 44th event. It was the 38th.*



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# News

## News Briefs

### LA council agenda includes SB 9 response

Los Altos City Council members were scheduled at Tuesday's council meeting to finalize a set of design standards for residential sites in the wake of new state housing laws that take effect Jan. 1.

City officials drafted standards based on "current practice," addressing everything from floor-area ratio to choices of construction materials.

Council members added modifications, up for approval at Tuesday's meeting. The meeting took place after the Town Crier's Monday press deadline. For updates, visit [losaltosonline.com](http://losaltosonline.com).

The standards are in particular reaction to the passage of State Senate Bill 9, which allows property owners to subdivide a single-family lot and build up to four units.

Among other agenda items, the council was set to approve on its consent calendar a \$250,000 appropriation to "mothball" the landmark Halsey House in the city's Redwood Grove preserve. The council opted at its Nov. 30 study session for the mothballing, which is aimed at preserving the structure and preventing further deterioration while the city determines future uses.

### Work continues on Fremont project

Motorists can expect continued detours and delays as work continues on the Fremont Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation Project between Grant Road and the Sunnyvale border.

Pavement removal and resurfacing were scheduled last week, with eastbound traffic restricted on Fremont from Grant to Belleville Way.

The project also includes new striping for Class IIB buffered bike lanes along with green bicycle pavement markings.

In the current stage, the south side of the street (eastbound from Grant Road to Sunnyvale) is closed and all eastbound traffic is redirected to Grant Road and over to Foothill Expressway and Homestead Road to reach Sunnyvale and Highway 85. Westbound traffic is being maintained.

The project is scheduled to wrap up in February.



SCREENSHOT FROM DEC. 7 COUNCIL MEETING

Los Altos City Council members were all smiles last week during the virtual ceremonial passing of the gavel and Mayor's Medal to Anita Enander, shown at top right displaying the medal.

## There's a new mayor town: Enander steps up to lead Los Altos in 2022

By Bruce Barton  
Staff Writer/[bruceb@latc.com](mailto:bruceb@latc.com)

Los Altos City Council members were all on their best behavior Dec. 7 as they appointed a new mayor and vice mayor to serve over the next 12 months.

Neysa Fligor yielded her 2021 mayoral role to Anita Enander, who will serve as Los Altos mayor through the bulk of 2022. Sally Meadows was appointed the new vice mayor. Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian was on hand to congratulate the council members.

All five offered comments that were cordial, positive and supportive as they reflected on their work over the past year.

Before beginning her acceptance speech, Enander asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. She also recognized 70-year resident Irwin Martin, who died Dec. 5 and was one of the longest-serving members of local American Legion Post 558.

Pointing to the example of the late U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, Enander encouraged council members and residents to "stand above politics to celebrate compromise and view those with whom we disagree as who they are – our neighbors, not our enemies."

She urged the council to be "selfless" in service to the city's residents and gave thanks to city staff for their work.

"When I ran for office, I advocated for no grand projects," Enander said. "It seemed to me

### Getting to know the new mayor: A brief Q&A

*Anita Enander, elected to the Los Altos City Council in 2018, is the 60th mayor of Los Altos (or 47th, counting those who served twice). She will serve in the position until December 2022. Below is a brief question-and-answer interview she conducted with the Town Crier via email following her Dec. 7 appointment.*

**Q: Tell us a little about yourself: How many years have you lived in Los Altos? What brought you to town? What made you decide to volunteer for the city and ultimately run for council?**

**A:** In late 1977, my then-fiance (Mike) was riding his bike on Foothill and turned into town, liked what he saw, and suggested we shop for a house here. Although I grew up in the Valley, I had never been in Los Altos. I instantly loved the feel of the neighborhoods and the town. We moved to a home here in early 1978 and

that representing the interests of residents and helping our city run better was job one. ... This will be a very challenging year. We will confront some rather inconvenient truths about our pension liabilities and infrastructure. What I can promise you is transparency, even if the truth is not pretty. I will listen to all viewpoints. I will encourage

are still at the same address.

I was busy with a career (my own management consulting business, which involved a lot of travel) and didn't pay much attention to city affairs until Mayor Megan Satterlee led tours of First Street to get feedback on the new construction that had happened during 2010-2015. I became more informed about zoning and land-use issues and ended up applying to serve on the Downtown Buildings Committee. Working on the DBC led to becoming a Planning Commissioner. That led to running for council.

**Q: What do you see as the current state of the city – what's the good and not-so-good news?**

**A:** The good: We have a terrific new city manager (Gabriel Engeland). We have a very solid source of revenue from property taxes. We have a very safe city. We have

See Q&A, Page 6

my colleagues to work together for the community and strive to lead by example. There's a lot to be done, but you have before you a city council that can make it happen, a staff and leadership that can make it happen if we all work together – including the residents."

See MAYOR, Page 6

## Info sought in 2 cases involving minors

Town Crier Staff Report

Police in Mountain View are seeking leads on a suspect who allegedly followed and inappropriately touched a student as she was walking to school last week.

The incident occurred on the 1900 block of California Street at approximately 7:45 a.m. Dec. 8. The student, a girl, was walking on the north sidewalk when she felt as if someone was following her, Mountain View Police spokeswoman Katie Nelson said, and when she turned around she saw a man right behind her. The girl said the man touched her inappropriately, held her hand and told her to come to his apartment.

The girl was able to break free and ran down California Street, notifying school staff immediately upon her arrival on campus. Staff called the police, who interviewed the girl and searched the area. Although they were unable to locate the alleged suspect, police have images of him. He's described as an adult male, approximately 6 feet tall, wearing a blue surgical mask, black hoodie and dark-colored sweatpants with a white stripe down the leg on both sides.

The police department chose not to disclose the girl's school, citing an interest in protecting her privacy.

Anyone with information on the incident is asked to call (650) 903-6344 and reference case number 21-06937.

### More victims sought in other MV case

Mountain View police officers are also seeking information about other possible victims in an investigation into a community volunteer who worked with local youth and has been arrested on suspicion of lewd acts with and annoying or molesting minors.

A community liaison at the Gateway Neighborhood Center in Sunnyvale contacted police

See MINORS, Page 7

# News

## Not quite normal, but close – local retailers appreciate return to busy shopping season

By Katherine Simpson  
Special to the Town Crier

Between the pandemic restrictions of the past year and new supply-chain challenges, downtown Los Altos businesses are preparing for another unusual holiday shopping season. Still, they're optimistic and thankful for community support as the 2021 season marks a return to more normalcy.

Ellen Biolsi, owner of The Cranberry Scoop on State Street, said the Thanksgiving weekend was a good kickoff to the season.

"It's been busy downtown, and we're all very grateful for the support of the community," Biolsi said.

Katchig Jingirian, president of Smythe & Cross Jewelers on Main Street, said his business is "really excited about the season this year."

"Overall, overcoming COVID and all of the restrictions from last year has been a challenge, but the community has been so gracious and so supportive of the

businesses downtown," he said.

Like businesses nationwide, Smythe & Cross had to plan ahead for the holiday season this year to account for shipping delays.

"We actually started our order process much earlier than we normally do," Jingirian said.

Jingirian's noticed more people dining out downtown, thanks to increased vaccinations and fewer restrictions on dining this year.

### Supply-chain delays

Leslie Chiaverini, owner of Adventure Toys & Teachers' Supplies on Main Street, said she is seeing fourth-quarter sales exceeding 2019 numbers.

"We are getting the foot traffic," she said.

Chiaverini noted supply-chain problems are having an impact. For example, popular puzzle maker Ravensburger of Germany is not taking any more orders.

"I've never done orders as late as I am doing now," she said. "We're chasing what we can. ... Some vendors have the product but don't have the workers to

pack it and get it out the door."

Popular items at Adventure Toys continue to include puzzles and Pokemon products, she said.

Morgan Meade, who manages A Runner's Mind on Main Street, echoed Chiaverini's observations. She said foot traffic has picked up substantially compared to last year, and the store also has surpassed sales from this time in 2019.

Like so many other retailers, A Runner's Mind has been experiencing supply-chain disruptions, with footwear orders coming in several months late and popular, mid-range shoe sizes selling out as quickly as they arrive. She said given how challenging it has been to restock – and the inconsistent availability of various sizes – she's advising customers to plan ahead to start sourcing shoes now that they may not need for a few months.

Asked about the impact of parklets on her stretch of downtown, Meade noted the "good ambience" of restaurant activity driving foot traffic at

See **RETAIL**, Page 7

## TIME CAPSULE

From Page 1

The capsule was the idea of outgoing Mayor Neysa Fligor, who wanted to commemorate the times during which the new community center was opened. The center, a 24,500-square-foot, \$38.3 million facility at 97 Hillview Ave., had its grand opening in early October.

Many of the contents are community center- and pandemic-related: a copy of the COVID-19 emergency order; the program from the grand opening; a piece of ribbon from the center's ribbon-cutting; a hand sanitizer bottle; a Town Crier article about the center's opening; and a social-distancing sign.

Donna Legge, the city's Recreation and Community Services director, also noted a collection of comments from residents who were asked to offer a "silver lining" about living under pandemic conditions; and she pointed to a ceremonial sage from the Muwékma Ohlone Tribe used Sept. 16 to "cleanse and bless the facility" prior to the opening. The Ohlones were early settlers in the area now occupied by Los Altos.

Also included: a "fun facts" sheet for 2021, describing the movies and songs of the day; and a sock monkey, representative of a group of seniors who have met regularly for decades at the city's community center to make the stuffed animals for sick children, using donated materials.

### Capturing the moment

Fligor said the capsule "was really an opportunity for us as a city to capture what we've all been going through the last two years. ... The idea was, how do we capture this moment, but more importantly, how do we capture the fact that during these unprecedented times, we were able to build a community center? And so that's why I thought it was worth doing a time capsule ... so that 45 years from now, our community can really look back and understand how resilient we were and what we were able to do during a global pandemic."

City officials decided on 45 years as the time length because it was 45 years ago that the city of Los Altos began using the old Hillview School facilities as its

community center. The city demolished the deteriorating Hillview buildings to make way for the new facility.

New Mayor Anita Enander, appointed Dec. 7, helped lead fellow council members in a ceremonial groundbreaking with shovels. Also in attendance were newly named Vice Mayor Sally Meadows and Councilmember Lynette Lee Eng.

"You all know what a special day this is," Enander said to city staff on hand for the ceremony. "Almost as special as the day we opened this community center. So many people did so much to make this happen."

"I don't know if I'll be around in 45 years when we uncover the time capsule, but I really hope the future generation that does will really appreciate all the work that you all did, that the council did, and so many more people," Fligor added.

The fiberglass-cased time capsule won't actually be buried until city officials ensure there is no conflicting infrastructure underground.

It will be buried approximately 6 feet underground, Legge said, at an unspecified date.



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## MAYOR From Page 4

### 2021 accomplishments

Fligor, the first Black Los Altos councilwoman elected to office, also noted she was the first mayor to lead an entire year of council meetings virtually. Meetings remain remote due to ongoing COVID induced restrictions.

In her outgoing remarks, Fligor offered a quote on facing challenges: “If you run into a wall, don’t turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it or work around it. As a council, we did a lot of that this year. ... As a result, we able to accomplish some wonderful things for our community.”

She checked off a long list of 2021 accomplishments, among them the opening of the new Los Altos Community Center and the hiring of City Manager Gabriel Engeland. Engeland, known for his expertise in municipal finances, was selected on a unanimous vote.

Enander touted Engeland’s hiring as the city’s most important 2021 achievement. Engeland is tasked with straightening out the city’s budget shortfalls

brought on in part by the pandemic.

Other noted 2021 accomplishments: a 95% vaccination rate among residents 12 and older; a resolution de-escalating a controversy involving a resident and a council member that dominated five months of council meeting discussions; the adoption of an off-leash dog hours pilot program; the launch of a Los Altos-Los Altos Hills Veterans Day celebration; the adoption of an ordinance for recycling organic waste; progress on a downtown theater; and the approval of a new downtown parklet program.

In addition to the budget, Fligor cited the challenge of adopting a new housing element that requires nearly 2,000 new housing units.

Nonetheless, Fligor said she was “optimistic about the state of Los Altos going forward. We’re very fortunate to live in a community that’s rich in volunteerism, philanthropy and community engagement.”

Councilmember Jonathan Weinberg praised Fligor for her mayoral leadership.

“You always tried to get consensus without compromising

your principles,” he said.

Added new Vice Mayor Meadows: “You set a high bar for mayorship. You’ve been running efficient and coherent council meetings, even when they go until one o’clock in the morning sometimes. You’ve been representing the city well on regional boards and organizations, and you’ve been present at so many events throughout town all year long, and I think perhaps you’ve actually proven it is possible to be two places at one time because you seem to be everywhere – and that’s good.”

Meadows said it was “an honor, a privilege and a responsibility to serve our city and our residents, and I take that very seriously. ... To my fellow council members, I look forward to continuing to work effectively and constructively to accomplish what we’ve been elected to do for our community.”

Councilwoman Lee Eng stressed “civility and the preservation of our city’s character. I cannot emphasize how important empathy and compassion is. Together, we can get things done. We don’t do it as individuals, but we do it as we work together.”

## Q&A

From Page 4

amazing residents who volunteer untold hours of time working for the betterment of the city – on commissions, at the library and Senior Center and History Museum, at a myriad of nonprofit organizations that help not just Los Altos, but people in surrounding communities.

The not-so-good: Our budget and finance systems aren’t up to the task. As a result, we have had some unfortunate omissions in planning for certain financial obligations, and both staff and council lack accurate and timely information to make good decisions.

For years, we have also deferred and delayed making both policy and financial decisions affecting our infrastructure so that we’re in a deficit with a large list of unfunded needs – a situation made worse by revenue losses from COVID. Like many businesses, we’ve had very high attrition in recent years, and we need to attract and retain top-caliber employees to deliver services as our residents expect and deserve.

**Q: What do you see as the city’s top three priorities this year?**

**A:** (1) Getting our financial

affairs in order. (2) Rebuilding our staff and establishing new ways of delivering services in the post-COVID environment. (3) Planning how to grow our city by 15-20% during the next eight years, in conformance with state requirements for housing.

**Q: If there is one thing you would like the city to accomplish in 2022, what would it be?**

**A:** We have to fix our financial systems and budget planning.

**Q: What is one thing people would be surprised to know about Anita Enander?**

**A:** Pick one:

- I have owned and managed an international corporation with employees in eight and clients in 32 countries.

- I’ve had a lifelong love affair with Arabian horses: breeding, training, riding and lecturing about them. I’m also a published author of a book and many articles about Arabian horses (some of which have been translated into German and Arabic), with a particular interest in the population genetics of the original desert Arabian horse created by the Bedouin. If you see me in town in blue jeans, it’s because I’ve just been with my horses.

**Pictures with Santa**

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## RETAIL

From Page 4

different times of day.

“The energy is something that’s palpable, especially at mealtimes,” she said.

Although the city won’t have official sales data until April, Anthony Carnesecca, the city’s economic development coordinator, said downtown seems lively this holiday season.

He pointed especially to the success of the city’s parklet program, allowing for outdoor dining, and downtown events in attracting people to shops.

“The big thing is the return trips,” Carnesecca said.

He explained that often visitors will come downtown for an event or to eat out, will see a business they hadn’t noticed before and return on another date to shop. These “return trips” can create a “symbiotic” relationship between businesses and restaurants downtown, Carnesecca said, where demand at one vendor can drive traffic to another.

Carnesecca also cited the Festival of Lights Parade, the Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony and other events as possible draws for traffic downtown, at Loyola Corners and at Rancho Shopping Center throughout the holiday season.

*Eliza Ridgeway and Bruce Barton contributed reporting to this story.*

## STORM

From Page 1

the long, dry months of ... most of the year.

“Not all of our storm drains drain,” Hernandez explained enigmatically.

“People think all storm drains lead to the bay, but not all storm drains in Los Altos are set up like that,” Hernandez said.

The city is riddled with dry wells, which look like storm drains but connect to no subterranean system of pipes. They capture the rainwater’s moisture and return it into the ground itself, directly within the well, but this system works only if the pits don’t become piled up with leaves and overflow.

After a big storm system moves through, the city gets called about clogged drains that turn out to be overwhelmed dry wells, which can overflow after heavy rainfall even when well tended. As the city’s staff drive around peeking into drains to check for needed work, they have discovered neighborhood oddities,

like the above-ground stormwater channel on Stardust Lane. Hernandez walked the street, puzzled while trying to find its drain before he developed a theory that a street-level slant explained the missing drain – water funnels to the end of the cul-de-sac, where it gurgles through a pathway into a storm drain on an adjacent street.

“What is unique in this city is the storm-drain system,” Hernandez said. “There are some streets in the system that I’ve walked through and checked that actually drain into little pathways and alleyways to neighborhood. A dry well could drain into another street’s storm drain.”

This weekend provided an example of the preparation required as the city watches for inbound extreme weather and plans for additional standby staff.

Hernandez said that when a storm system is known to be on the way, the city fuels up its vehicles and chainsaws and charges its small equipment. During the

storm itself, the police department fields many of the emergency calls about obstructed roadways and works closely with city maintenance for safety responses.

“The police department was telling them where to respond, and did some of the clearing themselves,” Hernandez said of the record-breaking rainfall in October, thus far the biggest storm of the season.

After the storm clears, the city passes back through to clean up debris with resources like its bucket truck, which can reach up high into a tree, as well as a chipper for clearing material in the field.

PG&E deployed vegetation-management crews in advance of the storm system last week, focused on trees near power lines, and put thousands of workers on standby for anticipated storm-driven power outages. Gusty winds can drop trees, limbs and debris onto power lines, a heightened risk during periods of sustained drought that have stressed local vegetation.

## MINORS

From Page 4

regarding a 17-year-old who reported an inappropriate request for content, and when detectives were on-site interviewing the teen, staff at the

center notified detectives of another incident involving a possible second victim. The 13-year-old disclosed conduct “consistent with lewd acts with a child” that had occurred the previous weekend.

Mountain View police detectives, collaborating with the

Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety, arrested Mountain View resident Rafael Madrigal, also known as “Rafa,” Dec. 6.

Because of his regular interaction with children as a community volunteer, investigators believe there may be additional

victims. He did not have a supervisory or leadership role at the center, but had volunteered at some community events, according to Nelson.

Detective Christine Powell asks anyone with information to email her at christine.powell@mountainview.gov.



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# Comment

## Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

The year 1952 proved a wet one in the Bay Area, with Adobe Creek overflowing its banks in January. This photo was taken from Fremont Road, near the intersection of West Edith Avenue facing approximately to the northeast.

## The case for ethnic studies

By Tanya Maluf

A statement was made at the Sept. 27 Mountain View Los Altos High School District Board of Trustees meeting following an update on the development of an MVLA ethnic studies course. It was cautioning that students not be “indoctrinated” once the ethnic studies curriculum has been implemented.

I would like to reframe these words to caution that MVLA not continue to indoctrinate the students attending Los Altos and Mountain View high schools, including my child, with a one-sided and incomplete version of our country’s history.

There is much fervor over a course of study that was not developed for K-12 students and is not being taught in K-12 schools. I urge readers to do their own research on the topic. Do not be swayed by the deluge of misinformation about Critical Race Theory (CRT). Ethnic studies are not CRT. Teaching a complete and true history is not CRT. CRT is an erudite and complex framework within which high-level scholars, lawyers and think tanks assess sources of systemic disparity in any culture. CRT focuses on societal structures, while history and ethnic studies look at events, cultures and peoples.

What the parents of MVLA demand is an ethnic studies curriculum that will present a more comprehensive history of the United States and allow for many more students to see themselves represented in this history and recognized for the work of their ancestors that contributed to the growth of this country.

This curriculum is also an acknowledgment of the rich histories of the peoples who inhabited and worked the land before Europeans landed on the shores of what has become the United States of America. It is a celebration of the cultures of those who were taken from their homes and brought to the United States as slave laborers, before they traveled the Middle

## Other Voices

Passage and arrived on a ship in chains, and “would have the arc of their lineages forever changed” (Clint Smith, “How the Word Is Passed”). It is a complete history of the people who built the Transcontinental Railroad. It is an in-depth study of why a people were interned because of their ancestry. It is a realization that this all occurred by design and with intention, which means it can be designed to be better. “How different might our country look if all of us fully understood what has happened here?” (Smith).

The true history of our country is not to be feared and denied to students. The students have a right to learn that the full breadth of our history is both pre-eminent and problematic; that there were glories and there were crimes. Teaching a curriculum that embraces the full spectrum of our collective past will empower today’s young minds to think about how new systems would ensure equality and equity for all and not just a few. This knowledge will inspire students to be inquisitive and to dig deeper into understanding our current systems and how to influence change. Understanding the ancestral and generational injustices certain Americans have suffered will engender empathy and a willingness to help correct the wrongs and misjudgments of the past. Students will feel seen and will want to be heard.

I believe we share the same hopes and goals for MVLA student outcomes. We want our students to be well equipped to learn and understand how impactful the past is on the present. We want them to know how capable they can be to improve the future. And as they prepare for life after high school, we owe them the freedom to learn the truth and decide for themselves how they will use this knowledge in their adult lives.

*Tanya Maluf is a Los Altos resident.*

## Letters to the Editor

### Congratulations to Town Crier on 75 years

A letter to the editor reminded us that the Town Crier has been publishing for longer than we

have been alive (“Thanks to Town Crier for 75 years,” Nov. 24). And also, before Los Altos was incorporated as a city in 1952.

We moved here in 1973 and

have been reading the paper regularly ever since. Where would Los Altos residents be without it? Oh, sure, there’s lots of social media, but for comprehensive coverage of whatever is going on around here, the Town Crier is best.

We congratulate you, and hope you will be around to give us all the news for at least another 75 years. Thanks.


**Lizabeth Burch**  
Los Altos

### Menorah approved, how about Nativity?

I was pleasantly surprised to read in the Home for the Holidays supplement to the Town Crier that the Los Altos Recreation and Community Services department has issued a special event permit allowing the religious display of a menorah on public property.

I would love to see a Nativity scene displayed somewhere close to Los Altos City Hall and encourage our local churches to contact the recreation department for permission.

**Ken Girdley**  
Los Altos



# Los Altos Town Crier

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Submit letters to the editor on local issues by emailing [bruceb@latc.com](mailto:bruceb@latc.com). Please limit letters to no more than 200 words. Anonymous letters will not be published.



# Community

## Hidden Villa reopens Farm Tours for teachers and their students

By Laurie Schutters  
Special to the Town Crier

Hidden Villa's Environmental Education Program is blooming again after taking a hiatus during the pandemic.

Hidden Villa, the nonprofit educational organic farm and nature preserve in Los Altos Hills, boasts the ideal learning setting – a 1,600-acre outdoor classroom where children learn science in the field.

Bay Area teachers can participate in the experiential programs at Hidden Villa to support student mastery of Next Generation Science Standards through in-person Farm Tours for the youngest students and Farm & Wilderness Explorations for students in grades 2-6.

Staff can adapt their core programs on request to meet teachers' learning goals.

Scholarship assistance is available for schools serving students in need, and grants for transportation costs are now available through Environmental Volunteers for those who register soon.

Another offering, Hidden Villa Friendship Coveys, is named after the

*Scholarship assistance is available for schools serving students in need.*

groups of California quail scurrying all around Hidden Villa, exploring everywhere. Friendship Coveys are in-person, eight-week after-school sessions beginning in March.

In addition to all of the usual adventuring, the spring version of Coveys will add in calming routines and exercises to help kids cope with pandemic anxiety and build emotional resilience.

Families and other small groups can register for a YES tour, a two-hour, guided weekend tour that focuses mainly on the farm but also touches on the natural environments next to the farm.

*Teachers, families and small groups can sign up for tours and activities at [hiddenvilla.org](http://hiddenvilla.org). Free Online Learning Resources are available at [hiddenvilla.org/online-learning](http://hiddenvilla.org/online-learning).*



LAURIE SCHUTTERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Schoolchildren search for animal tracks during their wilderness exploring at Hidden Villa. After studying the tracks, a Hidden Villa intern brought out her identification materials for the kids to discover which animal made the tracks.

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## Mtn. View, Google to protect monarch butterflies

Town Crier Report

The city of Mountain View is establishing several new pollinator habitats at the Shoreline at Mountain View wildlife and recreation area to help preserve and protect the monarch butterfly.

The Mountain View City Council last April proclaimed its support for taking actions to protect the monarch butterfly as part of the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge.

The city's butterfly habitat preservation effort is the result of a \$30,000 grant from Google Inc.

"Thanks to this generous grant from Google, we can better support the monarch butterfly's repopulation and migration in Mountain View," Mayor Ellen Kamei said. "I was proud

to support the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and look forward to our community being able to experience the wonder of these butterflies and other pollinators through the creation of these new habitats."

Erin Beller, ecology program manager at Google, said the grant builds on Google's broader \$1 million commitment to restore and enhance hundreds of acres of habitat for monarchs and other pollinators across California, including on its own campuses.

"We're grateful for the city of Mountain View's partnership and the local ecology experts and community groups that are helping us create beautiful, biodiverse and accessible nature that supports monarchs and other wildlife," Beller said.



COURTESY OF CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

**Monarch butterflies will benefit from new pollinator habitats at Shoreline at Mountain View wildlife and recreation area.**

The city will use the grant funding to develop and maintain three pollinator habitats on 7.7 acres at Shoreline. Phase 1 will include a 0.5-acre site within the 9-acre North East Meadowland area. Phase 2 will include two areas: a 2.7-acre site near Pond 1 at Shoreline Golf Links and a 4.5-acre site near Pond 2 on the golf course. Both habitats are expected to be completed in 2022.

The Google grant also will support the city's community outreach efforts promoting the benefits of butterfly-friendly plants and pollinators. The efforts will include engaging with community gardeners and garden groups as well as providing native seeds, such as milkweed and butterfly-friendly seeds, to local residents through the Mountain View Public Library's Seed Library program.

## Japan Society gala exceeds expectations

Town Crier Report

The Japan Society of Northern California held its 35th annual Award of Honor Gala, with Los Altos Hills resident Nobuko Saito Cleary serving as chairperson, at the San Francisco War Memorial Opera House Nov. 19.

The site of the gala was significant, as the event commemorated the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of San Francisco at the War Memorial Opera House in 1951, re-establishing relations between Japan and the Allied Powers in the wake of World War II.

Izumi Nakamitsu, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, commended Saito Cleary in a recorded message as an example of someone who fosters Japan-U.S. relations.

Nakamitsu's message also served as a reminder of the many countries involved in ending the war and the start of the friendship that came from the treaty.

Many Los Altos area residents attended the event, including Tom Brunner of Glaucoma Research Foundation and his wife, Wally; Vickie

Grove and Chiung-Chi Chen of the Community School of Music and Arts; Elisabeth Ward of the Los Altos History Museum; and Marc Sidel of Hidden Villa. Others who supported the gala but could not attend were Marc Benioff, Jim and Becky Morgan, Tony Ley, Fusako Hoyrup and Ina Tateuchi.

Gala Award of Honor recipients were Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. and Moderna Inc., two companies involved in the fight against COVID.

The gala also featured a message from Consul General Hiroshi Kawamura of the Consulate-General of Japan in San Francisco, Japan Society of Northern California president Takahide Akiyama and an opera singer from the Adler Fellowship Program at the San Francisco Opera.

The event raises funds to support the more than 40 programs presented by the Japan Society of Northern California, with the goal of sharing business, cultural, athletic and other mutual endeavors between the U.S. and Japan.

Saito Cleary said she was "pleased and proud" the fundraiser exceeded expectations, generating \$275,000.

## Holiday Wish List



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# Holiday Shopping & Dining Guide



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# Community

## Rancho grants Santa wishes for pets and local residents



COURTESY OF HOPE DALY

Rancho Shopping Center's "Selfies with Santa" event, held Dec. 4, offered opportunities for families to pose for photos with Santa Claus. The event was co-sponsored by the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce and the Rancho Merchants Association. At the same time, Rancho's Los Altos Veterinary Clinic hosted a Santa selfies event for pets, above.



TED SIMON/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Attendees of the "Selfies with Santa" event included, from left, Chamber of Commerce president Kim Mosley; Hope Daly, representing Rancho; Michelle Laufer; Renee Barton, owner of Redwood Grill; and local realtors Ellen Barton and Nicole Colclough.

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# Community

## Los Altos History Museum set to host 1920s-themed fundraiser

Town Crier Report

The Los Altos History Museum is “puttin’ on the Ritz” for its Roaring Twenties-themed fundraiser, “Dancing

through the Decades: Entertaining the ‘20s,” scheduled 5:30-10:30 p.m. Feb. 5 at the museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road.

Decorated with period artifacts from its collection, the museum

will be transformed with an art-deco-themed tent, where a classic silent film will play and a red carpet rolled out to greet guests. Top Shelf Big Band will play tunes from the ‘20s, and dancers from

Areté Dance Center will kick off the dancing with the Charleston. Guests may bid on 1920s-themed auction items, sip wine and cocktails at the speakeasy and dine on dishes provided by local caterers, supper-club style.

According to Fundraising Committee chairperson Kelly Davis, the event will launch a new tradition for the museum, replacing the long-running Crab Feed as the signature fundraiser.

“We wanted to come up with a festive theme we could build upon each year,” Davis said. “Focusing on bygone time periods provided that foundation. And by trying something new, we hope to attract people who haven’t been involved in the museum before.”

Proceeds will support the museum’s operating expenses for exhibitions, programs,

collections, facilities and staff. A fund-a-need opportunity will raise funds for a unique component of the reimagined permanent exhibition, the cornerstone of the museum’s displays. Now in development, the new permanent exhibition will feature cutting-edge technology, showcasing place-based storytelling and object-based learning.


Guests at the fundraiser will see renderings of the project, slated to open in early 2023.

“Dancing through the Decades” will comply with all COVID regulations in effect

Tickets are \$185, with an early-bird price of \$150 until Jan. 1.

*For tickets and more information, call (650) 948-9427 or visit [losaltoshistory.org/Decades20s](http://losaltoshistory.org/Decades20s).*

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We feel so blessed to enjoy a career which truly makes a difference in people's lives and here is a perfect example of that...



The seller of this home had unfortunately just lost her husband to a massive heart attack. The seller, in her sixties, had very little money saved and could not afford the payments, so she was forced to sell. Her husband was basically a hoarder and the home had major deferred maintenance. Her plan was to sell her home and with the proceeds buy a modest home close to her sisters' family in a small town in Illinois and would likely need to work as well to make ends meet. The other Realtors she interviewed said "sell to a developer in its current condition who in turn, will flip it for a profit, as there is so much work necessary."

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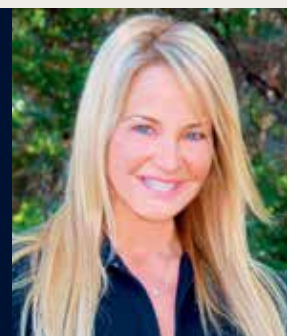
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# Stepping Out

## 'Life' goes on at TheatreWorks

Joe Landry's take on classic holiday film runs through Dec. 26

Town Crier Report

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley celebrates the holidays with "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play," running through Dec. 26 at the Lucie Stern Theatre in Palo Alto. The play also may be viewed online.

The holiday-themed production – adapted by Joe Landry from the screenplay by Frances Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Frank Capra and Jo Swerling – offers the beloved 1946 film as a 1940s-era radio play, complete with live Foley-style sound effects.

The story of George Bailey's love, loss and redemption on Christmas Eve features five actors – Moses Villarama, Sarita Ocón, Luisa Sermol, Phil Wong and Todd Cerveris – who take on dozens of roles and provide all of the live sound effects in the play. Giovanna Sardelli directs.

Performances are slated 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, 2 and 7:30 p.m.



KEVIN BERNE/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

George (played by Moses Villarama) is embraced by radio actors (Phil Wong, from left, Luisa Sermol and Todd Cerveris) in a scene from "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play."

Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays. The Lucie Stern Theatre is located at 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

In-person ticket prices start at \$30; savings are available for educators, seniors and patrons 35 and under. Patrons must present a vaccination card, a photo of the card or a digital vaccine

record with matching ID at the door.

Streaming tickets are \$25; those who purchase them will be emailed a link to watch the program at home on their computer, smart TV or other streaming device.

*For tickets and more information, call (877) 662-8978 or visit [theatreworks.org](http://theatreworks.org).*

## LA Stage Co.'s 'Brilliant' play closes Sunday

Town Crier Report

Los Altos Stage Company's production of "Every Brilliant Thing," the second production of its 2021-2022 Back in the Barn Season, is slated to close Sunday.

Written by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe, "Every Brilliant Thing" is a one-actor show that in this production will feature two actors – Tamarin Ythier and James Schott – alternating the solo performance role on different dates during the run. LASC's associate director, Gary Ferguson, directs.

"Every Brilliant Thing" is a drama about de-

pression and the lengths people will go to for those they love. You're 6 years old and mom is in the hospital. Dad says she's done something stupid because "she finds it hard to be happy." So, you start to make a list of everything that's brilliant about the world – everything that's worth living for – and you leave it on her pillow. Soon, the list takes on a life of its own.

Performances are set for 8 p.m. today through Friday, 3 and 8 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday at Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave.

Tickets are \$20-\$40.

*For tickets and more information, call (650) 941-0551 or visit at [losaltosstage.org](http://losaltosstage.org).*

## 'Celtic Christmas' comes to downtown Mountain View next week

Town Crier Report

Tomáseen Foley's "A Celtic Christmas" celebrates its 26th anniversary with a performance scheduled 7 p.m. Dec. 22 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.

Billed as a family-friendly event, the nationally touring show re-creates the joy of Christmas Eve in a remote farmhouse in Foley's native parish of Teampall an Ghleanntáin in the

west of Ireland in the 1950s. It was a time when the neighboring families would gather around the fire to grace the wintry night with traditional Irish Christmas carols, knock sparks off the flagstone floor with their traditional dances and fill the night with the laughter of their stories.

"When I was a child, it was around the fireplaces of my neighbors' thatched cottages that I experienced the last remnants of the old communal way

of life," said Foley, who also directs the show. "The family was the center of the community then, and the community was the center of life itself, the shining axle around which the great wheel of the universe revolved. Stories, music, song and dance were the spokes of that slowly turning wheel."

Tickets are \$35-\$63.

*For tickets and more information, call (650) 903-6000 or visit [MVCPA.com](http://MVCPA.com).*



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# Sports

## Sports on the Side

### SFHS grads honored for football seasons

Two St. Francis High graduates have been selected All-Mountain West Conference First Team for their performance on the football field this season: San Jose State defensive end **Viliami Fehoko** and Fresno State defensive back **Evan Williams**. Fehoko, a redshirt sophomore, registered seven sacks, broke up five passes and totaled 36 tackles for the fifth-place Spartans (5-7 overall). Williams, a junior, made three interceptions, broke up six passes and recorded 89 tackles for the second-place Bulldogs (9-3).

### Tree lot now open at Mtn. View High

The Spartans Tree Lot is open at the Mountain View High football stadium. Noble firs and Nordman firs are offered, along with wreaths, tree stands and decorative reindeer. Trees are also being sold via delivery. Proceeds benefit Mountain View High athletics. Operating hours are 5-8 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends. For more information, call (650) 407-1932 or visit SpartansTreeLot.com.

### Local high schools seek coaches

Los Altos High needs a head coach for diving, along with varsity and JV coaches for badminton. To apply, contact athletic director **Michelle Noeth** at (650) 960-8857 or michelle.noeth@mvla.net. St. Francis High seeks assistant coaches in a variety of sports. To apply, visit tinyurl.com/8hwxav5b.

### NFHS puts out call for sports officials

Due to a shortage of high school officials, the National Federation of State High School Associations seeks referees and umpires. These are paid positions, hours are flexible and training is provided. To apply and for more information, visit highschoolofficials.com.

## Spartans have it all

MV soccer team loaded with talent & experience

By **Pete Borello**

Staff Writer/peteb@latc.com

When asked if her Mountain View High girls soccer team has any weaknesses, senior forward **Isabella Walker** paused for a moment before answering.

"I don't think so," she said.

Those who have seen the Spartans play – or simply glanced at their roster – would probably agree.

Off to a 3-0-1 start, the team is teeming with talent and experience. Mountain View returns 10 starters. The roster of 28 features 13 seniors, including three – Walker, Julia Webster and Sophia Sasaki – who have played integral roles since they were freshmen. As an added bonus, seniors **Allie Montoya** and **Charis Toney** are back in the fold after devoting the past two years to playing elite-level club soccer. Freshman phenom **Laila Edris** and stellar sophomores **Freyja Arnarsdottir** and **Karena Shah** headline a formidable group of underclassmen.

**Jeff Panos**, in his third season as coach, said this is "for sure" the best team he's had at Mountain View, and it ranks "among the top three or four" of his 24-year coaching career.

Guiding a team of this caliber still comes with challenges, though.



MAL TAAM/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

**Mountain View High forward Isabella Walker, right, battles St. Francis defender Casey Fisher for the ball in last week's game.**

"It's tough to decide who plays," he said. "Not everyone is going to get as much playing time as they'd like, so they have to buy into the team concept."

Walker doesn't expect that to be a problem.

"We have such great team chemistry," she said. "It is a huge team, but I think it's good to keep all the sophomores together."

Many of the Spartans' nine sophomores have been playing together for years in club, and Panos said having them on the team now will pay off next season.

Last season, Mountain View played only 10 games due to the pandemic and placed second to Los Gatos in the SCVAL De Anza Division at 8-2-2. There were no playoffs.

Two seasons ago, the Spartans

won the Central Coast Section Division I title after being denied a berth in the Open Division, which comprises the top eight teams. Their lofty goals for this year include an Open invitation.

"We want to get back to the top of the SCVAL – we haven't done that for at least three years – qualify for Open and NorCal after that," Panos said.

Not that Mountain View is looking that far ahead, according to Walker.

"We hope to do all that," she said, "but we're focused on the present right now – winning each game and doing our best."

The Spartans kicked off the season with wins over Willow Glen and Menlo, then played St. Francis to a 1-all tie Dec. 7 in the  
**See SPARTANS, Page 22**

## LA boys & girls basketball teams register big wins

By **Pete Borello**

Staff Writer/peteb@latc.com

The Los Altos High boys basketball team surely opened some eyes by nearly beating host St. Francis a week into the season and have likely gained more believers since by winning four in a row.

The last three victories came at the **Prep Sports Summary** Burlingame Lions Club Tournament, which Los Altos won Saturday by beating the host team 52-40.

"Burlingame had a big student section at the championship game," Eagles coach **Trevor Naas** said. "It was a loud and exciting high school basketball environment. Our guys played with poise and handled the environment well. We were able to set the tone with our defense early and held them to 14 points in the first half."

The Eagles led by 16 at intermission and after three quarters. **Andrew Reilly** totaled 16 points to lead Los Altos; **Jake Skaggs** and **Varun Madabhushi** added 11 each. Skaggs, who scored 18 points in the Eagles' 63-61 opening-round win over Half Moon Bay and in their 55-42 victory against Hillsdale in the semifinals, was selected tournament MVP. Reilly and **Zach Fagin** were named to the all-tourney team.

**See SUMMARY, Page 23**

## Panthers drop first game in nearly 2 years

By **Pete Borello**

Staff Writer/peteb@latc.com

The St. Ignatius High girls basketball team had good reason for its joyous celebration of Saturday's 59-54 win at Pinewood School, even if it was an early-season game.

The Wildcats not only ended the Panthers' 19-game winning streak, handing the defending Central Coast Section Open Division champs their first loss in 21 months, but also avenged last season's playoff loss.

"I think off the jump, we weren't ready for what they came with," Pinewood senior **Elle Ladine** said. "We got them last year, and I'm sure they were really hungry for us."

Pinewood got them 80-41 six months earlier in the CCS Open semifinals. Ladine had a team-high 22 points in that game. The Uni-

versity of Washington commit was held to 17 points Saturday, which still led the Panthers.

Ladine, the first player off the bench a season ago, is now the most experienced member of a Pinewood squad that graduated its five starters (all of whom are now playing in college). Barely tested in their first two games this year – blowout wins of Lick-Wilmerding and San Ramon Valley – the Panthers' inexperience proved to be their downfall Saturday. It showed on both ends of the court.

"It's a different team – high ceiling – but we made a lot of mistakes," coach **Doc Scheppler** said. "The kids still don't understand what a winning play is – like screening out on a free throw, like showing on a ball screen, like playing the way we've played for years upon years. They are just not there yet."

Yet, Pinewood still had a chance to beat

**See PANTHERS, Page 22**



R. ALAN HWANG/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

**Pinewood's Elle Ladine puts up a shot against St. Ignatius. She scored 17 points.**

# Sports

## PANTHERS

From Page 21

St. Ignatius (5-0). Down by as many as 12 points in the first half, the Panthers rallied to take their first lead late in the third quarter on a 3-pointer by Emily Lee.

The 44-42 advantage didn't last long – Sabrina Ma scored the next four points to put the Wildcats up two at quarter's end – but Pinewood kept pace. With 6:28 to play, Kaile Cruz buried a trey that put the Panthers back on top, 48-47.

Ma answered with a midrange jumper, though, and Mali Ennis made a drive on the Wildcats' next possession to extend their lead to 51-48. After Pinewood's Jade Ramirez split free throws, Ma drained a top-of-the-key 3 that gave St. Ignatius a five-point edge with 4:31 left.

The Panthers sliced that deficit to 54-53 over the next two minutes, thanks to a Skylar Chui free throw and a baseline 3 from Cruz. That's as close as Pinewood would get. Ma sank five throws in the final 91 seconds, while the Panthers missed four 3s and mustered only a free throw by Chui.

"We picked it up a bit in the second half," Ladine said, "but unfortunately, it wasn't enough to cover the damage they did in the beginning"

Ma did most of that damage,

scoring 20 of her 34 points by halftime.

"She's an awesome player," Ladine said of the San Jose State-bound senior guard. "We weren't ready for her, either."

Ma nearly outscored the Panthers in the first quarter, producing 14 of her team's 23 points. Pinewood scored 15, with seven of those points coming from Ladine. She accounted for the Panthers' first five points, banking in a shot from the middle of the paint before going 3-for-4 from the foul line.

Lee totaled 13 points, good enough to make her Pinewood's second-leading scorer. Eight of those points came during Pinewood's 14-2 run in the third quarter.

After making 4-of-13 shots from beyond the arc in the third, the Panthers were just 2-of-12 on 3s in the fourth. They finished 10-of-37 from deep (27%).

"We got the looks, especially in the second half, and those are shots we hit all the time in practice," Scheppler said. "I say it every year – it's my best shooting team – and they didn't shoot well today."

Only Ladine and Lee scored in double figures, and they both shot below 30% from the field. Cruz had nine points and Ramirez scored six. Ramirez, a junior point guard, also recorded six assists and four steals.



PHOTOS BY R. ALAN HWANG/  
SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

**Pinewood's Emily Lee, above, fires up a 3-point shot Saturday against visiting St. Ignatius. Teammate Jade Ramirez, right, drives to the basket.**



MAL TAAM/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

**Mountain View High's Allie Montoya tries to get the ball past St. Francis' Layne Kohler.**

## SPARTANS

From Page 21

Fremont Firebird Classic. Down 1-0 early, the Spartans knotted the game on Montoya's penalty kick in the 60th minute. The Stanford University commit scored both goals in Saturday's 2-0 win over Los Gatos. Montoya has a team-high five goals for the season.

"We have two of the best wingers in Allie and Isabella," Panos said. "Their speed and technical skill are hard to match up with."

Walker is among seven players on the squad with at least one goal. That group includes midfielder Edris, who knocked in the game-winner against Menlo and has a team-best five assists.

"She's active and aggressive on the ball," Panos said of the freshman. "She's a great addition who fits in well."

And it's only a matter of time before Webster gets a goal; the attacker has 14 in her high school career. Montoya (23) and Walker (18) are the only current Spartans to score more.

Mountain View can defend as well, having allowed just two goals so far. Backline standouts include senior Elechi Iroaga – whom Panos called "our stalwart in the back," and team captain Abby Westcott. Northwestern-bound Toney, recovering from an injury, is expected to join this unit soon. Goalie Sasaki recorded five saves against St. Francis.

The Spartans open league play at home against district rival Los Altos 3:30 p.m. Friday.

Before returning to school from the holiday break, Mountain View travels to Fresno to take on Bullard Dec. 28 and hosts Menlo-Atherton 11 a.m. Dec. 30.

Panos said he scheduled the overnight trip to Bullard for bonding purposes – an idea Walker endorses.

"I'm really excited," she said. "I think it will help with the chemistry of the team."

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# Sports

## SUMMARY

From Page 21

“It was a good team win,” Naas said. “We had many players contribute. Shawn Toney played great defense and Alonso Gomez, Jerwayne Williams, Akshaan Ahuja and Andrew Yuan all made contributions off the bench.”

Los Altos (5-1) opens SCVAL De Anza Division play at Palo Alto (4-1) 7:45 p.m. Friday.

### Girls basketball

Los Altos remained unbeaten by beating Lynbrook 42-29 at Saturday's Leland Shootout.

In what coach Erik Stuart called “a very physical game,” the Eagles withstood the Vikings' pressure defense on the way to their fifth win of the season.

Abby Lu scored 10 points to lead Los Altos. The senior guard

put up 14 points in the Eagles' previous game, a 54-10 home rout of University Dec. 8. That's the fewest points Los Altos has allowed an opponent since 2015.

Junior Maggie Byrne scored 10 points versus University and tallied 12 a day earlier in her first varsity start, a game the Eagles won 52-23 over visiting Cupertino.

Los Altos visits Palo Alto (5-1) 6:15 p.m. Friday to open its SCVAL De Anza Division slate.

### Wrestling

Mountain View placed 20th out of 42 teams at Saturday's Webber Lawson Tournament, held at Fremont High in Sunnyvale.

Calvin Conaway finished third in the 220-pound weight class and Nate Wilson won the consolation championship at 145 pounds.

## Local high school sports schedule for Dec. 15-21

### Girls basketball

*Friday*  
Los Altos at Palo Alto, 6:15 p.m.

*Saturday*  
St. Francis vs. San Benito at Presentation Shootout, 3:30 p.m.

*Monday*  
Pioneer at Mountain View, 6 p.m.  
Los Altos at Monte Vista Christian of Watsonville, 7 p.m.

### Boys basketball

*Friday*  
Mountain View at Carlmont, 2 p.m.  
St. Francis vs. Sacred Heart in Frandsen Tournament at Bellarmine, 7:30 p.m.  
Los Altos at Palo Alto, 7:45 p.m.

*Saturday*  
Terra Nova at Pinewood, 12:30 p.m.  
Los Altos vs. Menlo in Peninsula

Showcase at Menlo-Atherton, 1 p.m.

St. Francis vs. Hillsdale in Frandsen Tournament at Bellarmine, 6 p.m.

*Tuesday*  
Pioneer at Los Altos, 7 p.m.  
Mountain View at Scotts Valley, 7 p.m.

### Boys soccer

*Saturday*  
St. Francis at Homestead Christmas Cup, TBA

### Girls soccer

*Thursday*  
Leland at St. Francis, 4 p.m.  
*Friday*  
Los Altos at Mountain View, 3:30 p.m.  
*Saturday*  
Mountain View and St. Francis in Firebird Classic at Fremont, TBA



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St. William: 4pm & 6pm

*Livestreamed at 6pm*

[www.stnicholasandstwilliam.org](http://www.stnicholasandstwilliam.org)

### Christmas Day

St. Nicholas: 8am & 10am

St. William: 9am & 11am



**St. Nicholas Church**  
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**St. William Church**  
611 S. El Monte Ave  
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## St. Paul Lutheran Church MISSOURI SYNOD

### HOLIDAY SEASON WORSHIP CALENDAR

#### ADVENT MIDWEEK

Wed., Dec. 8, 15, 5:30PM

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday, Dec. 24, 6:00PM

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday, Dec. 25, 9:00AM

#### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, Dec. 26, 9:00AM

*\*No Service on New Year Eve\**



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St. Paul Lutheran Church  
1075 El Monte Avenue, Mountain View

## Christmas Mass Schedule



**St. Simon Church**  
1860 Grant Road  
Los Altos, Ca. 94024  
650-880-1401

### Christmas Eve, Friday Dec 24

3:00 pm Outside

5:00 pm Inside, Livestreamed

11:30 pm Christmas Carols followed by  
Midnight Mass, Inside Livestreamed

### Christmas Day, Saturday Dec 25

7:30 am, 9:00 Livestreamed, 11:15 am

*Livestreamed Masses on Facebook and  
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[www.stsimon.church](http://www.stsimon.church)

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### Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021

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9:00pm Candlelight Eucharist with Choir

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## Your Health

Your Health is published monthly. For advertising information, email sales@latc.com.

**GenkiGuide: Enterprising teen creates platform for health recommendations**By Kaitlyn Huang  
Town Crier Editorial Intern

In an effort to keep his community healthy, Los Altos teen Aristotle “Aris” Yang has created a website that provides people with personalized health recommendations.

Named GenkiGuide – the word “genki” is Japanese for “healthy” – the site aims to create an interactive experience for individuals, according to the 16-year-old, by considering physical traits such as age, gender, height, weight and daily practices to offer basic preventive health-care recommendations.

“My ultimate goal is to help people who are in need of a doctor,” the Monta Vista High School junior said, “because there’s a lot of people out there who do not have health insurance, or their doctors are too busy and they can’t remind patients to get certain things done.”

Aris is the site’s main developer and his dad, Dr. Hugo Yang, is GenkiGuide’s physician consultant. Factors such as physician shortages, lack of health insurance and access to electronic health notifications leave many people unsure of how to manage their own health, Dr. Yang said.

“The information is there (online); people just don’t know how to access it,” he added. “GenkiGuide makes it easy because it caters toward each patient. You’re not looking at 500 recommendations and trying to filter which ones are important for you. It does it for you.”

Before users can access the personalized recommendations, they must fill out a questionnaire about their physical characteristics. Several recommendations will then appear, pulled from organizations such as the United States Preventive Services Task Force, the U.S. Centers for Disease



COURTESY OF HUGO YANG

**The Yang family collaborated on a personalized health resource that decodes technical jargon.**

Control and Prevention and the American Cancer Society.

“These are the ones that primary care physicians tend to refer to and to use,” Dr. Yang said.

The recommendations include both the original medical jargon and a translated version comprehensible to the public. GenkiGuide only offers Grade A and B recommendations – preventive care with a greater chance of benefiting the patient compared to those of Grades C, D and I.

See **GENKI**, Page 27

**Omicron variant detected here, driving booster-shot urgency**By Eliza Ridgeway  
Staff Writer/elizar@latc.com

The omicron variant identified last week in Santa Clara County spurred a call from regional health officials for residents to speed up their uptake of booster shots.

Although nearly 80% of eligible county residents have done a full primary course of a COVID-19 vaccine, only 40% have gotten the booster shot that appears able to combat the new, greatly mutated variant that appears particularly capable of causing mild symptomatic infection in vaccinated individuals.

At a press briefing Dec. 10, Dr. Sara Cody, the county’s director of public health, said the first person locally identified with the omicron variant was fully vaccinated “but not yet boosted.”

“Immunity wanes with the primary series,” Cody said. “I would say with full conviction that every single person who is eligible for a booster – that means you are age 16 or older – should get the booster. It lessens the chance that you will become infected and infectious, and it drastically reduces the risk of hospitalization or death.”

Local resources exist to navigate the sometimes vexing task

of booking a booster sooner rather than later. County sites such as the Mountain View Community Center are showing inconsistent appointment availability, but there is no shortage of vaccine supply and no-appointment drop-in clinics are occurring on a daily basis around the county, including one scheduled noon to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Los Altos Community Center.

The local patient who contracted the omicron variant first experienced symptoms Nov. 30 after travel to Florida, got tested Dec. 1 and self-isolated at home with very mild symptoms that resolved quickly. The county received sequencing results showing the omicron variant Dec. 9 for the patient, and Cody said the county’s other primary surveillance system – sewer testing – also triggered a first positive for the variant last week in the north county region, in the Los Altos/Los Altos Hills/Palo Alto area, where this patient resides.

Cody described this as an imported domestic case, arising from community exposure in Florida rather than international travel.

“We have been anticipating a detection here because our population is large, our population is large, our population is large.” See **OMICRON**, Page 28

**Pain during sex: Common, but not ‘normal’ – and can be addressed**

By Kim Gladfelter

On the first Friday of each month, PhysioFit Physical Therapy & Wellness hosts an online “Ask a PT – Q&A Friday” session to give patients and local residents the opportunity to learn about a range of health topics from a licensed physical therapist. The free sessions have opened the door to some important discussions about pelvic health and more.

Today’s column topic is inspired by a question asked by an attendee at a recent session: Is pain during sex normal?

**Staying Active**

Pain before, during, or after sex is clinically known as dyspareunia. But if you’re one of the three out of four women who experience painful sex at some point, you might think about it in other terms – words such as “frustrating,” “embarrassing” and “uncomfortable” come to mind.

Sex shouldn’t hurt, and even though pain during sex is relatively common, it’s not “normal.”

Men can struggle with painful sex, too, but I will focus on the impact on women.

**Symptoms**

Pain during sex can vary, but many women report signs and symptoms including:

- Pain with penetration (including sexual penetration only or all types of penetration, for example, insertion of a tampon)
  - Burning or aching pain near the genitals
  - Throbbing pain that persists for hours after intercourse
  - Deep pain during thrusting
- These symptoms might occur

only once or twice or could persist for a long time. Unaddressed, painful intercourse can have a dramatic impact on a woman’s sex life, her intimate relationship and her physical and psychological well-being. These symptoms shouldn’t be ignored, especially if they repeatedly occur.

**Causes**

According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, there are two main types of pain with sex that women may experience: pain related to a woman’s gynecologic health and pain related to her

sexual response and function.

Gynecological reasons or causes for pain:

- Pelvic floor dysfunction
- Ovarian cysts (fluid-filled sacs that form on or in an ovary)
- Endometriosis (a relatively common condition that causes a tissue similar to the inner lining of the uterus to grow outside the uterus)
- Scar tissue (adhesions) in the abdominal and pelvic region due to prior injury or surgery (for example, cesarean section, hysterectomy, hernia repairs)
- Vaginismus (when muscles

See **PAIN**, Page 26



## Resolve to end failed resolutions

By Tracey Downing

As 2021 draws to a close, we can't help but reflect on all that has been achieved in the past year. Resilience was tested, new routines were established, and we persevered through more uncharted territory. Looking to the new year, thoughts of a fresh start tend to enter our headspace.

This process is exhilarating, filled with hope and promise that this year will be better than the last. Taking action feels good. More often than not, however, the goals being set are lofty and tend to be a bit vague. In a survey of 1,500 adults published by Statista, 50% of respondents resolved to exercise more or improve their fitness, 48% to lose weight, 44% to save money and 39% to improve their diet.

While the intention is admirable, the majority of resolutions are abandoned before the month of January is over. After reviewing more than 31.5 million online global activities in January, Strava, the social networking app for athletes, pinpointed the second Friday in January as the day motivation begins to wane and resolutions are abandoned.

Rather than repeating the cycle of good intentions, here are some tips to make commit-

## All Things FiT

ments you can keep.

• **Choose wisely.** This year, I challenge you to approach your choice differently. Knowing that small changes applied over a long time (365 days) lead to big results, think about one thing you could do each day that would make you feel better. One thing that would make you a tiny bit happier on a daily basis or that would make your days just a little bit more enjoyable.

Then, before resolving, really consider the choice: "How would my life be different if I followed through on my New Year's resolutions? How would I feel different? What would look different? How would my relationships be different?" In each of these cases, the next question would be, on the most fundamental level, would making these changes make your life, and/or the lives of those you are closest to, better? Imagining yourself and your life once you have successfully followed through on your resolution is one of the keys to not only choosing the "right" resolution, but also sticking to it once you have resolved to do so.

• **Plan to act.** We are all familiar with the saying "failing to plan is planning to fail," yet when it comes to shifting a habit in the new year, over and over, we fail to plan. The list of most common resolutions sounds more like proclamations than plans. There's no real action or responsibility tied to them.

Defining what it would mean to be successful enables us to work backward to determine the small steps we are able to take consistently. Making even one shift in behavior consistently will make this year different from the last, which is the goal of resolving in the first place.

• **Celebrate success.** Habit change is not an all-or-nothing equation, it is a process, and often an imperfect one. A key to maintaining motivation is the sense of progress or feeling of success. Change, no matter what the change, is hard. Celebrate all the steps, big or small, taken in a positive direction in place of beating yourself up about the missteps or harshly judging the size of the step as not enough. Half-steps in the right direction are still progress. Acknowledge that tomorrow presents a fresh opportunity to maintain your resolve.

See RESOLVE, Page 27

## PAIN

From Page 25

in the pelvic and genital region involuntarily contract or spasm when something penetrates the vagina)

• **Vulvodynia** (a chronic condition that causes abnormal sensations in the vulva, including itching, burning and soreness)

• **Vaginal infections** (vaginitis), including bacterial vaginosis, yeast infections and sexually transmitted infections

• **Certain congenital defects** that affect the shape, depth and overall structure of a woman's reproductive organs

These aren't the only factors or causes that could lead to painful sex. The only way to know for sure what's causing your discomfort is to speak with a health-care provider.

### Managing the pain

If you repeatedly experience painful sex or are concerned about the sensations you notice while being sexually intimate, consult with a health-care provider who can offer personalized guidance. Discuss your symptoms, review your sexual and medical history, and implement specific tests or examination techniques that can help pinpoint an underlying cause or diagnosis.

A physical therapist specializing in women's health and pelvic health can be a valuable resource when dealing with underlying conditions such as pelvic floor dysfunction or adhesions. Pelvic health PT is personalized to meet the needs of each patient and typically includes techniques that have been shown to help reduce pain during sex and other symptoms.

Physical therapy includes:

- Posture/alignment evaluation and re-education
- Pelvic muscle relaxation exercises
- External and internal trigger-point release
- Myofascial release
- Scar massage
- Pelvic floor and fascia stretches
- Dilators and therawand techniques
- Breathing

I encourage women to speak honestly about their sexual health problems with their partner, trusted health-care provider or women's health physical therapist. Know that your concerns are legitimate and deserve to be addressed.

**Kim Gladfelter is owner of PhysioFit Physical Therapy & Wellness in Los Altos. For more information, call (650) 887-6046 or visit physiofitpt.com.**

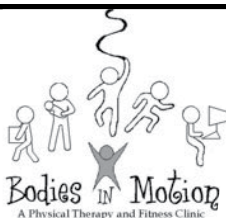


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# Your Health

## GENKI From Page 25

“What impressed me the most is the detail provided in the recommendations,” GenkiGuide user Jeff Roberts of Boulder Creek said. “I get the ‘what,’ but also a very detailed ‘why,’ and having a link to the background information is really helpful.”

Users can choose to fill out the questionnaire anonymously

or create an account and access special features such as a “to-do” list to check off completed recommendations, custom reminders and email notifications for recurring appointments.

Although GenkiGuide can act as a “personal assistant,” Aris said it does not replace traditional physician care.

“It’s not supposed to supersede health care or health insurance, but it’s rather a tool to give

information that people can use ... for their health care,” he said.

### Inspiration

Aris said his inspiration for GenkiGuide came when his mom received an electronic notification one day that she was due for a mammogram. He became curious as to how electronic health messages worked, especially for basic preventive care appointments, as he was

suddenly reminded of his grandfather, who died of lung cancer.

“I asked my mom, ‘Well, did my grandfather get any of these reminders, so that maybe he could have gotten some treatment for lung cancer?’” Aris said. “And my mom said that he did not, so it made me feel bad knowing that maybe he could have done something about it so that he could have lived a little longer.”

Aris then asked his dad if a platform for health recommendations already existed, and the doctor confirmed that there was – but only for physician reference.

“When you read those recommendations, they’re in doctor speak, which makes it very hard,” Dr. Yang said.

That inspired Aris to create a similar platform, but for public access.

Aris said he began the project over the summer and completed it in late September, spending approximately 1,000 hours on it. He had his share of difficulties, such as bugs that could take multiple hours to fix. However, he was able to persevere and it “paid off in the end,” he said.

Aris is currently working to improve the website as more people start to use it. He said he intends to make GenkiGuide a tool that can bring tangible benefits to users.

“If at least one person can just take our questionnaire, get a checklist of recommendations and take action, I think that would be really successful,” he said.

*For more information, visit [genkiguide.com](http://genkiguide.com).*

## RESOLVE From Page 26

• **Reflect on change.** Learning is the opposite of stagnation. Every change we try to make is an opportunity to learn something, whether it is about ourselves or about the move itself. If we look at resolutions like an experiment or an opportunity to learn something about ourselves, we can tap into our inner curiosities: “Is it true what they say? Does regular exercise really make you more energetic? Does daily gratitude really lead to feeling more fulfilled?”

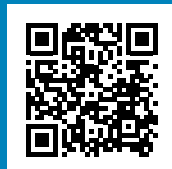
Making a single resolution isn’t going to teach you anything, but carving out a few minutes a week to reflect and consider what is happening as a result of the small changes you are making daily will pay dividends in maintaining your motivation.

*Tracey Downing is owner and co-founder of FiT (Focused Individual Trainers), located in Rancho Shopping Center in Los Altos. For more information, call (650) 947-9831, email [tracey@focusedtrainers.com](mailto:tracey@focusedtrainers.com) or visit [focusedtrainers.com](http://focusedtrainers.com).*



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# Your Health

## OMICRON From Page 25

is diverse and our population is mobile,” Cody said.

She described a “sewer shed surveillance system” that collects samples from four zones across the county each day and detected the omicron variant in a sample collected Dec 7.

“This tells us that these surveillance systems are both giving us the same information,” she said.

### What does omicron change?

Cody said that local COVID infections have been increasing dramatically among unvaccinated residents, and steadily but more gradually among the vaccinated. She said this underscores the importance of boosters, in addition to continued testing, masking, ventilation and distancing.

“I think we need to rededicate ourselves to these practices,” Cody said. “By distancing, I mean both the distance that we keep between people as well as the size of gatherings and just the general number of people that each of us are in contact

with every day.”

Dr. Marty Fenstersheib, the county’s COVID-19 vaccine officer, pointed to the region’s vaccination rates, some of the highest in the U.S., as a continuing success that includes almost 40% of the 5-11 age group having received at least one vaccine dose. But he noted that that booster uptake, hovering around 40% overall, is particularly low among 18- to 29-year-olds, for whom it is only 20%. He added that vaccination rates for children still show racial disparities, with communities with many Latino and African-American residents in the southern and eastern parts of the county seeing in some instances half the child vaccine coverage of other areas.

According to Cody, investigators know omicron spreads quickly, possibly quicker than the delta variant, and that contact tracing will likely not prove an effective containment measure as case numbers rise. She said that as the community transitions to using more in-home tests, which are not reportable to the county, it will become increasingly important to have other metrics for tracking the virus, ranging from wastewater

surveillance to general symptom surveillance and tracking hospitalizations. Hospitalizations provide only a lagging indicator of infections that have begun weeks earlier, and can gauge severity but provides no early warning.

County clinics are taking appointments at [sccfreevax.org](http://sccfreevax.org). Vaccinations through the county are no cost to the public, insurance is not required and there are no immigration requirements. The county expanded hours at its Mountain View Community Center vaccination site, which will offer appointments 8 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 23.

### Pop-up clinic requires no appointment

The city of Los Altos is partnering with the county to host a COVID-19 Booster Pop-Up Clinic noon to 7 p.m. Dec. 21 at the Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave.

No appointment is necessary to receive a booster, and the shots are administered free of charge. The booster is available for those age 16 and older who received their last Pfizer or Moderna vaccination at least six

months ago, or their Johnson & Johnson vaccination at least two months ago.

“With the recent emergence of the omicron variant, there is a lot of uncertainty,” Los Altos City Councilmember Neysa Fligor said in a city press release. “But the one thing we can do to protect ourselves and others is get the booster shot.”

County Supervisor Joe Simitian, who also serves as chairperson of the county’s Health and Hospital Committee, said pop-up clinics like Los Altos’ use convenience to help increase booster shot rates.

“We know that if we make it easy for folks to grab a shot or a booster, more people will do it,” he said. “That’s why I’m so pleased the city and county are partnering in this way. For those who want to get a booster but have been struggling to find a convenient time and place, this provides an option that is both easy and local.”

**For more information on the Los Altos pop-up clinic, visit [losaltosca.gov/covid19](http://losaltosca.gov/covid19).**

**For more information on testing, vaccinations and the latest COVID updates, visit [covid19.sccgov.org](http://covid19.sccgov.org).**

## Seasonal guidance

The county health department provided the following guidelines for those intending to travel or gather for the holidays.

- Get tested immediately before travel, upon return and again three to five days later.
- Have everyone age 5 and up get their COVID vaccine.
- Have everyone age 16 and up get their COVID booster.
- Wear a mask indoors and in crowded settings. It is important to wear medical-grade masks and adjusting them so they fit tightly.
- Keep group gatherings small in size and short in duration. Gather only with close family units.
- Outside gatherings are safer than indoor gatherings.
- Be cautious around elderly or immunocompromised individuals, and consider COVID testing before such interactions.



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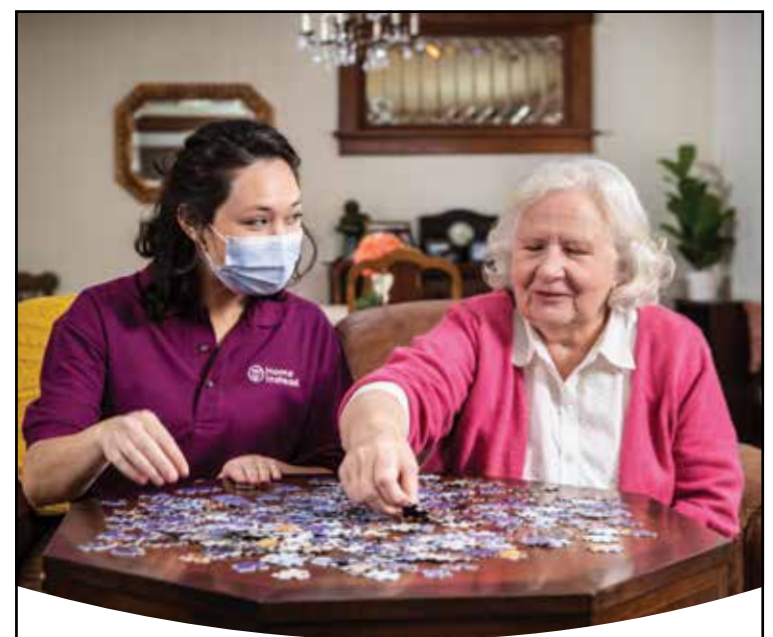


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# Schools

## LAHS students lead virtual Hour of Code for elementary school

By Angela Tam

Staff Writer/angelat@latc.com

With guidance from Los Altos High School's Computer Engineers of the Next Generation club, fourth- and fifth-graders at Monta Loma Elementary School in Mountain View spent an hour Dec. 1 playing games on their computers while learning to code.

Members of CENG hosted the Hour of Code via Zoom. Los Altos High students formed the club to inspire underrepresented elementary and middle school students to pursue computer science.

Katy Stadler, a senior and co-president of CENG, was among the student volunteers assisting the fourth-graders. She focused primarily on leading students through the Compute It! game, which gives them a set of instructions in code and then requires them to navigate through a series of dots with different colors.

Kyle Stadler, Katy's assistant



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MEGHAN PERFECT

**Monta Loma Elementary School students participate in the virtual Hour of Code event led by Los Altos High's CENG club.**

and brother, helped prepare for the event, setting up the games and providing organizational support. Kyle, a sophomore and member of CENG, was unable to attend the Hour of Code due to a class conflict. He noted that such conflicts are rare, as CENG typically does not take away time from the school day; only the Hour of Code and Hackathon, another CENG-hosted event, occur on school days.

"Most of the standard classes we teach are usually on the weekend or after school," Kyle said. "We can sign up for which ones we want to teach based on our schedules ... (and) the teaching is on Zoom."

### Stimulating interest

Recalling her own experiences, Katy said computer science and programming can be daunting subjects.

"I thought (teaching computer science) would be cool, because you can help kids understand that they don't have to be a tech-y person to understand computer science," she said. "They can do it no matter what."

Katy said it was also intimidating to see that her computer science class at Los Altos High was filled mostly with boys and only a handful of girls. CENG aims to spark kids' interest early.

"I wanted to get a hands-on view on how the (elementary) girls were learning computer science, and actually impact their education in it," she said. "I initially started out as an article writer and wrote blurbs (for CENG) before I got into teaching, and that was my favorite part – the hands-on teaching part."

Kyle, on the other hand, said he always enjoyed experimenting with the electronics platform Arduino and making do-it-yourself projects. Because he lives in Silicon Valley, Kyle has been exposed to coding and recognizes its importance.

"The more I did it, the more I enjoyed computer programming," he said. "Once Katy joined CENG and I heard about it, I was thinking that since I enjoyed computer programming, I should take a try at this. Once I got into it, I really liked teaching these younger kids and exposing them to computer science, because I know it's really important in the modern day that we live in. ... It really makes me happy when the kids I teach finally understand a topic, and that's what keeps me going and enjoying this club."

### Role models

Katy said that though she was initially nervous about the Hour of Code due to scheduling conflicts and teaching so many kids, she was happy with how the event turned out.

"When I was closing everything down, kids were typing in the chat, 'Oh, my gosh, that was so fun!' and stuff like that, so I actually feel really good about it," she said. "Our goal was not to

See CODING, Page 30



COURTESY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL MADRIGALS

Members of Mountain View High School's Madrigals perform in full costume. The Madrigals are scheduled to sing in the choral department's annual holiday concert, set for Friday in Palo Alto.

## Mountain View High Madrigals go the extra yard for concert performances

By Angela Tam

Staff Writer/angelat@latc.com

With embroidered gowns, dazzling jewelry adorning the girls and flowing velvet capes on the boys, members of the Mountain View High School Madrigals choir look as if they walked straight out of a medi-

eval tapestry.

The Madrigals are decked out in striking costumes that evoke another era, with parents tailoring them to each member, as they perform at various holiday events.

Maya Itty, a senior and alto in the choir, said parents go above and beyond, securing the materials, hand-sewing the costumes

and customizing them to fit.

"(The costumes) are very over the top, but they're kinda cool," she said. "I think the costumes are really nice. They're attention-catching. When we wear them around school, everyone's like, 'Oh, there's a Madrigal.' It's recognizable."

Senior Emmanuel Leblond, a tenor in the choir, said the Mad-

rigal costumes are unique and add a fun dimension to the performance.

"It adds an extra layer of unity to the choir and really sets us apart from other choirs, where they have the standard tie," he said. "It's an extra little touch that I've come to appreciate over the years. ... It's really distinctive. I don't know many other

choirs that have costumes that date back to this era."

In addition to their costumes, the Madrigals must wear something else – masks.

With the ongoing pandemic, they must perform at indoor events this holiday season with their masks on, per Mountain View High policy, but they may

See CHOIR, page 31

# Schools

## St. Francis religion teacher emphasizes importance of social justice

By Angela Tam

Staff Writer/angelat@latc.com

St. Francis High School instructor Maddie LaForge teaches a social justice course for juniors, but she and her students are not always in the classroom.

LaForge and her students volunteered at the Second Harvest of Silicon Valley food bank Dec. 6, donating their time and efforts to help the nonprofit with its packaging work. Without support from the St. Francis' service-learning coordinator, LaForge said, projects like this – and other large-scale volunteer experiences – would not be possible.

"The care and attention given to the service-learning program show that this is a vital part of our school's mission and identity," said LaForge, who also teaches religious studies. "As a religion teacher, I work closely with our campus minister, who coordinates with Second Harvest food bank. Our campus minister organizes the schedule, helps us complete the registration process with Second Harvest, and organizes transportation for our students to be off-campus for the school day."

LaForge's social justice students learned about the San Jose-based Second Harvest – the Bay Area's largest food bank – and food insecurity before they volunteered. Together, they discussed how the service opportunity related to social injustices in the region, including poverty and economic inequality.

LaForge believes that volunteering is a great way for St. Francis students to engage in hands-on learning.

"It is so healthy for students to get on their feet, move out of the classroom and into the community. It is hard work but also very meaningful," she said. "Students see the impact that they make with each box of food they pack, and they feel they are making a difference in someone's life. Our students are happy to get off campus and do something different, and have shared that they feel service work is very gratifying."

### Empowering students

In LaForge's experience with teens, they are hardworking, motivated and caring, despite sometimes getting a bad rap for being apathetic or unengaged. She hopes educators, mentors and

other adults in young people's lives empower them to use their gifts with confidence and joy.

LaForge and her students also see their volunteer experience through the lens of their Catholic faith, especially how learning of injustice moves them to act in ways of love, charity and justice. The class uses a "see, evaluate, act," model of Catholic Social Teaching, wherein students learn to pay attention to see instances of injustice in the world, evaluate issues of injustice using critical social analysis and faith-based reflection, and consider how they are called to act to make a more just and hopeful world.

"As a Holy Cross school, our social justice class is an integral part of our religious studies curriculum," she said. "The Catholic religion embodies a rich tradition of faith that does justice."

Aspects of Catholic Social Teaching include human dignity and human rights, solidarity, care for creation and a preferential option for the vulnerable. At the junior level, which LaForge teaches, St. Francis offers two semester-long religious studies courses: social justice and moral issues. With engaged and motivated students, LaForge delves



COURTESY OF ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL

St. Francis teacher Maddie LaForge delves into moral issues in her social justice class with a hands-on approach.

into the moral issues of the day.

"We bear witness to injustices in our world. We evaluate the injustices around us using critical, social analysis and faith-based reflection, and we do our best to listen to where and how we are called to make a difference," she said. "Volunteering in our service-learning courses is one way in which our students embody the Gospel call to care for our neighbors in a meaningful and concrete way."

### Summer learning

LaForge plans to accompany St. Francis students to Puerto Rico next summer on a week-

long service immersion trip. St. Francis also will send 11 groups of students and educators on weeklong trips across the United States that include visits to Texas, Louisiana, South Dakota and Appalachia.

"Our service-immersion program provides opportunities for students to learn and grow individually and in community, and allows us to do more service work on a larger scale," LaForge said. "These trips aren't just about the volunteer hours. Students are formed by the communities they serve, and that leaves a lasting impact on the people they become."

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## CODING

From Page 29

drill a bunch of information into their heads, it was just to introduce them to the idea that comp sci can be fun, and if you're interested in it, that's cool."

Monta Loma principal Trisha Lee said her school has enjoyed collaborating with CENG students over the past several years.

"It is wonderful to see our students make connections with high school role models and learn about ways they can continue to get involved with computer engineering," Lee said. "Our students have been given the opportunity to participate in after-school Scratch, Java and Python classes in addition to the Hour of Code event."

Lee said students particularly enjoy engaging in the activities and choosing which games to play. Many of the students will revisit the games after being introduced to them, she added, and some sign up for classes to continue their interest.

For more information on CENG, visit [cengclass.org](http://cengclass.org).

# Schools

## St. Simon hosts Christmas drive-thru

Town Crier Report

The St. Simon Parish Life Group is set to transform the St. Simon Parish School campus, creating a drive-thru light show through a Christmas village scene 6-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Local residents are encouraged to decorate their cars before driving through to see the lights and displays created by St. Simon families.

At the end of the light show, an optional drop-off will accept donations for St. Vincent de Paul, in place of St. Simon's traditional Giving Tree. St. Vincent de Paul provides food, clothing, household items and/or monetary assistance to people in need.

St. Simon Parish School is located at 1840 Grant Road, Los Altos.

For more information on the school, visit [stsimon.school](http://stsimon.school).

## CHOIR

From Page 29

take them off once outside.

However, they are not ordinary masks.

Itty and Leblond, like other choir members, wear mask specially designed for singers.

"(The mask) doesn't touch your mouth," Itty said. "It goes farther out, so you have room for your voice to resonate. It is quite thick; it definitely makes it harder to hear the people around

and also to breathe because you need a lot of air when you're singing. But it is better than a regular mask because it's not on your mouth."

### Holiday concert

The Madrigals are set to perform at the Mountain View High choral department's annual holiday concert 7 p.m. Friday at Palo Alto United Methodist Church, 635 Hamilton Ave.

The concert will include performances by other Moun-

tain View High choirs, alumni, the Chamber Orchestra and the Wind Ensemble.

Proof of vaccination is required for attendees over the age of 12.

Tickets are \$2-\$10, free for choir alumni.

To purchase tickets, visit [mvhs-choral-department.ticketleap.com](http://mvhs-choral-department.ticketleap.com).

For more information on the Mountain View High choral department, visit [jilldenny.weebly.com](http://jilldenny.weebly.com).

Have a suggestion for a schools-related story?  
Email Angela Tam at [angelat@latc.com](mailto:angelat@latc.com).

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# Business & Real Estate

## Where there's a wick, there's a way

MV resident's candle company goes from online to in-person business

By Nina Crofts  
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Jacqui Marchessini launched Mountain View Candle Company in the middle of the pandemic, making candles in her studio and delivering them to people's doors. She has since expanded the business, opening an in-person store that offers candle-making experiences.

"I've always liked candles," the Mountain View resident said of what inspired her to start the business. "I would always buy them, and I started making candles for the holidays as Christmas presents. I started doing a bit of research, seeing if I can make mine better – if I can incorporate some proprietary blends and things like that. I always take gambles, but it really became a hobby about four years ago."

In addition to delivering handmade candles in the early days of her business, Marchessini held do-it-yourself candle workshops over Zoom. She would put together a DIY kit, deliver or ship it, and walk customers through the process of making their own

candles at home.

Mountain View Candle Company officially opened its brick-and-mortar store Sept. 24, following what Marchessini described as a successful run as an online-only business.

Requiring masks and following county COVID protocols, she leads candle-making classes, showcases artists' creations and sells a variety of handmade candles.

"We have decorated it really nice, with a very homey feel, so you can relax," Marchessini said. "If you come in, we have a wall of jars of candle vessels. You choose your color, and then I would sit with you, show you how to wick it and show you how to blend in fragrances."

Mountain View Candle Company's fragrance list includes season-appropriate fragrances, as well as signature holiday and romantic fragrances.

"Then we would help you mix in your color, and see if you want to add some jewels or crystals for your wax," Marchessini said. "The whole process takes about an hour, depending on how much time you're spend-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACQUI MARCHESSINI

Mountain View resident Jacqui Marchessini, above at left, owns Mountain View Candle Company. The store, above right, opened in September. Patrons can purchase candles or make their own, right.



ing on fragrance blending, which takes some time."

Marchessini also has worked to open up the store's space to local creators, highlighting the collaborative nature of the art and giving candlemakers a space to advertise their work. Several of them are selling their work, she added, with 100% of the proceeds donated to a different non-profit organization each month.

The company's candles are plant-based, according to

Marchessini, made of soy wax that is a renewable resource and nontoxic. The store sells signature candles – with titles such as "Mermaid" and "Sophia" – along with sprinkle candles and specialty items that include tea light holders and wax melts.

Mountain View Candle Company is located at 320

Mountain View Ave. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. For more information, visit [mountainviewcandleco.com](http://mountainviewcandleco.com).

## The holidays are here, and so are toy scams

Better Business Bureau

### BBB Scam Alert

Every year, there's always a few must-have toys on most kids' holiday wish lists. The toys sell out fast and become expensive and hard to find. On top of that, the microchip shortage has parents worried about getting their deliveries on time.

This year's hot picks, according to Amazon, include Galactic Snackin' Grogu Animatronic (aka Baby Yoda), game consoles (such as Nintendo Switch and PlayStation) LEGOs and L.O.L. Surprise dolls.

Scammers are using the toys' popularity to trick parents out of their money.

### How the scam works

You are looking for these toys, but they are sold out at every store you visit. You decide

to look online. A quick search takes you to a page that miraculously has the toy in stock. The site may look professional and have original images of the product. It may even offer the product at discounted prices, claiming a "last-minute deal" or "flash sale."

Unfortunately, many such offers are fake. In many cases reported to BBB Scam Tracker, buyers thought they were ordering a high-quality, animatronic toy. Instead, they received a cheap counterfeit version. In other cases, the products never shipped at all, and the websites vanished. In either case, when the dissatisfied customers tried to follow up with the company,

See SCAM ALERT, Page 34



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## Transactions

### Los Altos

**62 S. Clark Avenue**, G. & A. Sud to F. & M. Khanna for \$4,550,000  
**100 First Street No. 217**, LGM Investment LLC to Fads Family Trust for \$2,798,000  
**107 Higgins Avenue**, C. & N. Mesel to H. & Y. Zhu for \$5,100,000  
**400 La Prenda Road**, Innovative Homes LLC to D. & G. Xing for \$5,650,000  
**239 Marich Way**, A. Guralas to Mao Family Trust for \$3,300,000  
**974 Mercedes Avenue**, B. Weinstein to F. & R. Dwivedi for \$3,700,000  
**1595 Morton Avenue**, Ranelagh Trust to Mehta Trust for \$5,550,000  
**484 Orange Avenue**, Aerie Trust to V. & S. Tan for \$4,898,000  
**1024 Seena Avenue**, Roche Family Trust to Bobbarjung-Rao Trust for \$4,125,000  
**250 Stratford Place**, H. Survivors to J. & H. You for \$4,400,000  
**24213 Summerhill Avenue**, Bernacchi Trust to H. & J. Zhang for \$5,822,000  
**360 University Avenue**, Nemeth Family Trust to Stark Trust for \$4,750,000

### Los Altos Hills

**12864 Viscaino Road**, B. Dehlinger to M. & A. Shah for \$4,570,000

### Mountain View

**2461 Benjamin Drive**, Woodhull Family Trust to S. & S. Chetty for \$2,610,000  
**181 Del Medio Avenue No. 302**, J. Chien to J. & Y. Wang for \$765,000  
**1101 W. El Camino Real No. 117**, X. Hu to H. & S. Liu for \$900,000  
**183 Hamwood Terrace**, J. & J. Hsieh to J. Zhang for \$1,600,000  
**182 Isis Court**, B. Li to C. Wang for \$1,365,000  
**230 Jason Way**, W. Janssen to G. & F. Mai for \$2,150,000  
**112 Magnolia Lane**, Mitchner Trust to L. & T. Yu for \$2,000,000  
**725 Mariposa Avenue No. 207**, S. Prohaska to Lawrence Properties LLC for \$800,000  
**2469 Marjorie Court**, J. & M. Park to R. Kachemir for \$2,365,000  
**417 Mountain Laurel Court**, Lee Trust to M. & A. Gueniot for \$1,928,000  
**1738 Plaza Court**, F. Wright to T. & C. Chou for \$2,121,000

**255 S. Rengstorff Avenue No. 130**, K. Nelson to L. & J. Hansen for \$775,000

**1921 Rock Street No. 30**, J. Barton to W. & M. Liu for \$928,500

**311 Scarlett Terrace**, Redwoods at Montecito LLC to LYQ Trust for \$1,950,000

**323 Scarlett Terrace**, Redwoods at Montecito LLC to Y. & T. Cheung for \$1,826,000

**2255 Showers Drive No. 371**, Tay-Lee Family Trust to D. & F. Prakash for \$1,450,000

**2723 Saint Giles Lane**, Weller Trust to S. & C. Cao for \$3,456,000

**801 Sonia Way**, K. Wharton to S. & B. Ni for \$2,570,000

**709 Sylvan Avenue**, Nobriga Family Trust to S. & M. Malu for \$2,400,000

**2346 Toledo Circle**, MV Maravilla 2019 LLC to S. & C. Ding for \$1,720,000

**2348 Toledo Circle**, MV Maravilla 2019 LLC to S. & B. Shih for \$1,969,000

**59 Tyrella Court**, P. Kancheria to G. & D. Hong for \$1,579,000

### Cupertino

**10745 N. De Anza Boulevard No. 117**, Kim Family Trust to K. & T. Xu for \$1,095,000

**10559 Felton Way**, F. Zhu to Goyal Family Trust for \$4,250,000

**22305 Rancho Deep Cliff Drive**, Ewan Family Trust to Y. & Y. Sun for \$1,780,000

**20725 Scofield Drive**, Hoyt Trust to L. & J. Wu for \$2,950,000

### Overall

#### Los Altos

Total sales: 12  
 Lowest sale: \$2,798,000  
 Highest sale: \$5,822,000  
 Average sale: \$4,553,600

#### Los Altos Hills

Total sales: 1  
 Average sale: \$4,570,000

#### Mountain View

Total sales: 22  
 Lowest sale: \$765,000  
 Highest sale: \$3,456,000  
 Average sale: \$1,783,100

#### Cupertino

Total sales: 4  
 Lowest sale: \$1,095,000  
 Highest sale: \$4,250,000  
 Average sale: \$2,518,800

– Cal REsource

## SCAM ALERT

From Page 33

they found that the staff either didn't respond or refused to provide a refund.

One shopper told BBB Scam Tracker that he or she fell for a phony deal on gaming consoles.

"I was online searching for an in-stock Nintendo Switch OLED," the shopper said. "The Nintendo site did not have any in stock. I searched on Google for Nintendo Switch OLED and found this site (name redacted) for \$99.99. I thought, 'Wow, that is cheap, and let's go for it!'"

The shopper also bought a PlayStation 5 for the same price with a different email (because only one promotional item per email) and received an email confirmation that said to wait 24-48 hours for shipping information.

"I go to check today on order status, and they took their website down," the shopper said. "I tried emailing them and the email just returns back to me undeliverable."

Another consumer found what he or she thought was a great deal on LEGOs, but the product never shipped.

"The product never arrived, even though (name redacted) gave me the runaround for three months saying it was on the way," the shopper said. "I checked the tracking number they gave me with the USPS, and they didn't have anything with that number, ever. It was a fake to begin with."

### How to avoid toy scams

The BBB advises consumers to purchase toys only from reputable stores and websites. The best way to avoid getting scammed when purchasing toys is to buy them directly from a known and trusted seller.

Don't be fooled by extra-low prices. Unreasonably low prices are a red flag for a scam on many products. Avoid making a purchase from a retailer you aren't familiar with just because the price sounds too good to be true, as it probably is.

Research before you buy. If a company seems legitimate but you aren't familiar with it, be extra careful with your personal information. Before offering up your name, address and credit card information, make sure the company has a working customer service number.

Review the "BBB Tip: Shop Safe and Shop Smart This Holiday Season" at [tinyurl.com/5k9r8mur](https://tinyurl.com/5k9r8mur) for more ways to protect yourself from scams while holiday shopping.

If you've spotted a scam – whether or not you've lost money – report it to [BBB.org/ScamTracker](https://www.bbb.org/ScamTracker). Your report can help others avoid falling victim to scams. If you see a questionable ad, report it to BBB AdTruth so the BBB can investigate.

*For more information on scams and how to avoid them, visit [BBB.org/AvoidScams](https://www.bbb.org/AvoidScams).*

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To all these sellers and buyers of mine this year, **thank you!** Looking forward to helping even more in 2022.

**Happy Holidays!**



# OBITUARY NOTICE

## ALICIA DONOHUE LARSEN



Alicia Donohue Larsen, 87, passed away peacefully Nov. 27, 2021, surrounded by her loving family at her Los Altos home.

Alicia was born in Newport, Rhode Island, to Madeline Pike Donohue and Richard Francis Donohue. She graduated from Salve Regina College. Alicia met John Arthur Larsen while he was attending officer candidate school in Newport. They eventually settled in Los Altos, where she resided for almost 60 years. Alicia was a loving wife and devoted mother. She had a long career with the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District and retired at age 75. Predeceased by her parents, husband John, brother Richard, and sister Nancy. Survived by her children Christian (Catherine), Richard, and Mary, and granddaughter Rachel.

Alicia loved art, reading, traveling, and many of life's little pleasures. She will be remembered for her warmth, kindness, generosity, and wit. She was much loved and will be missed by many.

The family is grateful for the loving support of caregiver Jeannette Halseth and the care teams at Sutter Palliative Care and Hospice of the Valley.

Friends are invited to a memorial Mass at St. Nicholas Church, Los Altos, on Dec. 20 at 10:00 a.m.



## JOHN "JACK" ALDEN CROSSMAN



*December 10, 1929 –  
December 1, 2021*

John "Jack" Alden Crossman was born December 10, 1929 to Mortimer and Mildred Crossman. He passed away December 1, 2021.

He is predeceased by his first wife Harolyn Stockman Crossman, son John Crossman Jr, and sister Virginia "Ginny" Johnson.

He is survived by his wife of 11 years, Barbara Crossman of Cupertino, son James Crossman (Dianna) and grandchildren Johnny and Hunter of Las Vegas, NV, and daughter Jennifer Bunge (Jon) and grandchildren Jack, Nicholas and Allie of Winnetka, IL.

Jack was a true California native, raised in the Bay Area. He attended Berkeley High School and University of California, Berkeley where he was a member of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

He then joined the United States Air Force, went to Pilot training and was assigned to Bitburg Air Base in Germany. There he flew F-86 aircraft which are single seat swept wing fighters for four years. It was his dream assignment, and said it was amazing to think they let him fly these airplanes and paid him too.

After leaving the Air Force he was hired by American Airlines. He flew both domestically and Internationally for 33 years, retiring as a Captain in 1989. He was an active member of the American Airlines retired pilots group, The Grey Eagles.

In 2010 he married Barbara and moved to The Forum where they spent their free time travelling and taking River Cruises worldwide.

Jack enjoyed following politics, many sports and was an avid Cal Bears and San Francisco Forty Niner fan. He liked to play golf and Bocce ball with his buddies.

He also enjoyed having a good scotch and a medium rare steak at his favorite restaurant.

He was a wonderful loving man and will be missed.

Private burial service will be held at Alta Mesa Cemetery in Palo Alto.



## MARCIA HERRMANNSFELDT

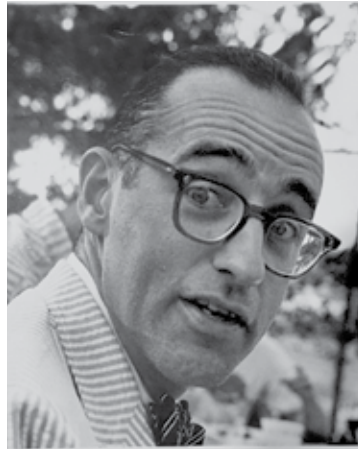


Marcia Esther Bowman Herrmannsfeldt was born in Lakewood, Ohio on March 2, 1933 to Brice and Esther Bowman. She had two older brothers, Brice and Donald Bowman. The Bowman family moved from Lakewood to Akron, Ohio in 1941. Marcia graduated from Buchtel High School in 1950 and enrolled in Miami (OH) University where she studied to be an elementary school teacher. She was married to William Herrmannsfeldt on June 12, 1954, a few days after graduation. They moved to grad school housing in Urbana where Bill studied, and Marcia helped financially by teaching second grade.

The family moved to Los Alamos, New Mexico in 1958 and then to Los Altos, California when Bill joined the team of scientists building the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. They had two sons, Glen and Paul, born in 1958 and 1960 respectively. Marcia and Bill were married for 68 years before she died on November 17, 2021 from complications of surgery for a blocked intestine. She had an affinity for animals her whole life, was endlessly creative, and became a skilled birdwatcher and photographer later in life. She loved her house and garden and kept large annual photo albums which held records of activities of the family, blooming garden, and yard critters. Marcia is survived by her husband, Bill; son & daughter-in-law, Glen & Marissa; son Paul; grandchildren, Max & Elise. She also had a special place in her heart for Shadow, her little black dog.



## DANIEL DEBRA



*June 1, 1930 –  
December 3, 2021*

Daniel B. DeBra (born on June 1, 1930, in New York, NY) passed away peacefully, on Dec. 3, 2021, at home with family, at the age of 91.

Daniel moved from New York to California to work in the growing aerospace industry--making the drive west in 1956 with his wife (Esther ("Teri") Crosby) and infant daughter. They had five more children in California over the next decade. Dan and Teri lived, fittingly, on Stardust Lane in Los Altos, for almost 60 years.

DeBra received engineering degrees at Yale University, MIT and Stanford. He worked at Lockheed in Sunnyvale, and then as a Professor at Stanford University School of Engineering's Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics (Edward C. Wells Professor, Emeritus) until retirement.

In 1981 he was elected to be a member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering based on contributions to the first drag-free satellite control systems. He also played a prominent role in the development of the NASA-funded, Gravity Probe-B experiment that went into space with precision instruments (gyroscopes) and was designed to test Einstein's theories around relativity, time and space, as well as other projects. He also served as a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserves and was a civilian pilot.

Dan was a genial, consistently physically active man who enjoyed life. He was on the Yale track team in college, and was a runner for many years. He was an avid bicyclist (more than 200,000 miles of riding in North America, 15+ double century rides, many 100+ mile day trips to the coast and back with friends as well as to attend business meetings)--experiencing a few broken bike frames along the way, that fortunately he out-lived.

The family garage was a creative forge, bursting with creative engineering projects: bikes, cars, jets, hand-built furniture, etc. He was a downhill skier (serving on the National Ski Patrol in the Sierras), scuba diver, mountain climber, backpacker and hiker.

His family, friends and ex-students around the globe are grateful for the gift of many outdoor adventures with him over the years.

In his 80s, he joined "Nancy's hiking group" and explored many Bay Area hills and trails, and once had an infamous encounter with a "red-headed heifer." Dan's son David continued to accompany Dan on local walks and made it possible for him to enjoy plenty of outdoor time in his final years.

Family, friends and students enjoyed Dan stories and even those who knew him well were often surprised with new ones: "Wait, when did you meet the Pope?" "What do you mean you fell asleep on the ocean floor when you were scuba diving?" And, the thing of it was, even though his sister once accused him of having the gift of Irish Blarney, his stories were all true (mostly).

He was pre-deceased by his mother (Gertrude Boyle DeBra), father (Arthur DeBra) and sister (Marie Pegram); and is survived by his wife Teri, six children: Corinne DeBra, Lisa Knapp (Jeff), Heidi DeBra (Tim Thompson), Jacques DeBra (Denise), David DeBra and Kathryn DeBra; and ten grandchildren (Cassie, Megan, Monique, Marit, Myles, Petra, Asher, Sierra, Jackson and Justin).

As a tribute to Dan, enjoy taking a walk or ride outside; or consider making a donation to Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), Sempervirens Fund, or charity of your choice.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.



# Public Notices

## **CRAVE YOGA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680345**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: CRAVE YOGA, 257A Moffett Blvd., Mountain View, CA, 94043 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation, CRAVE YOGA, 257A Moffett Blvd., Mountain View, CA 94043. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/15/2021. (12-15,22,29-21,1-05-22)

**219-T**

## **PT Works FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680848**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: PT Works, 794 Altos Oaks Drive, Los Altos, CA, 94024 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation, Shaddock - Physical Therapy Works, Inc., 794 Altos Oaks Drive, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/15/2016. (12-15,22,29-21,1-05-22)

**218-T**

## **OXOMOHCO BIRTH AND BODY- WORK FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680755**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: OXOMOHCO BIRTH AND BODYWORK, 4546 El Camino Real Suite 207, Los Altos, CA, 94022 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual, Jasmin Olvera Dena, 1340 Foxdale Loop Apt 421, San Jose, CA 95122. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. (12-15,22,29-21,1-05-22)

**217-T**



## **CHILDREN'S HOUSE OF LOS ALTOS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680748**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: CHILDREN'S HOUSE OF LOS ALTOS, 770 Berry Avenue, Los Altos, CA, 94024 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation, E.M. EDUCATION LTD., 1595 Kensington Circle, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/18/1983. (12-15,22,29-21,1-05-22)

**216-T**

## **Cortes Electric FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680417**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: Cortes Electric, 48 Saron Ave, San Jose, CA, 95116 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual, Eduardo Cortes, 48 Saron Ave, San Jose, CA 95116. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/03/2016. (12-15,22,29-21,1-05-22)

**215-T**

## **Cortes Electric FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680417**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: Cortes Electric, 48 Saron Ave, San Jose, CA, 95116 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual, Eduardo Cortes, 48 Saron Ave, San Jose, CA 95116. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/03/2016. (12-15,22,29-21,1-05-22)

**215-T**

## **FLIPPLY USA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680696**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: FLIPPLY USA, 1914 Waterloo Ct, San Jose, CA, 95132 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual, Hasher Khan, 1914 Waterloo Ct, San Jose, CA 95132. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/30/2021. (12-08,15,22,29-21)

**214-T**

## **BOUND FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680716**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: BOUND, 828 Onyx Ct., San Jose, CA, 95117 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual, Montserrat Llauradó, 828 Onyx Ct., San Jose, CA 95117. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. (12-08,15,22,29-21)

**213-T**

## **JUNKAWAY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680337**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: JUNKAWAY, 1524 W. San Carlos St, San Jose, CA, 95126 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: married couple, Guillermo Quiroz, 1059 Leith Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95054, Adriana Uribe, 1059 Leith Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95054. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/02/2021. (12-08,15,22,29-21)

**211-T**

## **Critter Care of Silicon Valley LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680301**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: Critter Care of Silicon Valley LLC, 4861 Blue Ridge Dr., San Jose, CA, 95129 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company, Critter Care of Silicon Valley LLC, 4861 Blue Ridge Dr., San Jose, CA 95129. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. (12-08,15,22,29-21)

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: Ly Law Offices, 510 N. 1st Street, Suite 221, San Jose, CA, 95112 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company, Critter Care of Silicon Valley LLC, 4861 Blue Ridge Dr., San Jose, CA 95129. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. (12-08,15,22,29-21)

**210-T**

## **Cooper Service Company FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680551**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: Cooper Service Company, 1023 Parma Way, Los Altos, CA, 94024 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a trust, Patricia Nancy Grimm, Successor Trustee, 1023 Parma Way, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 04/01/2016. (12-08,15,22,29-21)

**209-T**

## **COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PETITION OF JIE CHEN ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME 21CV390892**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioner: Jie Chen filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Jie Chen

Proposed Name: Nina Jie Chen

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

NOTICE OF HEARING 02/22/2022 at 8:45 a.m. Room: Probate (b) The address of the court is: 191 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

3. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this

county: Los Altos Town Crier Date: 11/24/2021 /s/ Julie A. Emede Judge of the Superior Court (12-15,22,29-21,01-05-22)

**208-T**

## **Ly Law Offices FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680295**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: Ly Law Offices, 510 N. 1st Street, Suite 221, San Jose, CA, 95112 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual, Huan Dinh Ly, 3102 Summer Creek Drive, San Jose, CA 95136. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/01/2021. (12-01,08,15,22-21)

**204-T**

## **COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PETITION OF MANGALA SAVADI ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME 21CV390685**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioner: MANGALA SAVADI filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: MANGALA SAVADI

Proposed Name: ANITA KINAGI

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

NOTICE OF HEARING 03/01/2022 at 8:45 a.m. Room: Probate (b) The address of the court is: 191 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

3. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Altos Town Crier Date: 11/22/2021 /s/ Julie A. Emede Judge of the Superior Court (12-15,22,29-21,01-05-22)

**202-T**

## **COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PETITION OF SANJANA ARORA AND SWAPNIL L SHAH ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME 21CV390276**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioner: Sanjana Arora and Swapnil L Shah filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Siddharth Swapnil Shah

Proposed Name: Nick Shah

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

NOTICE OF HEARING 02/22/2022 at 8:45 a.m. Room: Probate (b) The address of the court is: 191 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

3. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Altos Town Crier Date: 11/12/2021 /s/ Julie A. Emede Judge of the Superior Court (12-15,22,29-21,01-05-22)

**201-T**

## **CONFIDENCE COACHING U FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680446**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: CONFIDENCE COACHING U, 4671 Albany Circle, #134, San Jose, CA, 95129 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company, TECHSERVICEUSA LLC, 2785 S Bascom Ave, Apt 2, Campbell, CA 95008. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/20/2021. (11-24-21,12-01,08,15-21)

**196-T**

## **DEEP CLEANING SOLUTION SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680179**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: DEEP CLEANING SOLUTION SERVICES, 3135 Impala Dr #2, San Jose, CA, 95117 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual, Reyes Marti-

**198-T**

## **Powerhouse Liquors FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680354**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: Powerhouse Liquors, 909 E Duane Ave, Sunnyvale, CA, 94085 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation, Golden Field CA Inc, 1355 McCandless Dr #771, Milpitas, CA 95035. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. (11-24-21,12-01,08,15-21)

**197-T**

## **TECHSERVICEUSA LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN680371**

The following person(persons) is(are) doing business as: TECHSERVICEUSA LLC, 2785 S Bascom Ave, Apt 2, Campbell, CA, 95008 Santa Clara County. If the principal place of business identified above is not in Santa Clara County, a current fictitious business name statement for the fictitious business name(s) being filed at this time must be on file in the above-identified County that is the principal place of business before the statement can be filed. Does not apply because the principal place of business is in Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company, TECHSERVICEUSA LLC, 2785 S Bascom Ave, Apt 2, Campbell, CA 95008. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/20/2021. (11-24-21,12-01,08,15-21)

**196-T**

# Public Notices

nez Santiago, 3135 Impala Dr #2, San Jose, CA 95117. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/18/2021. (11-24-21,12-01,08,15-21)

195-T

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA  
PETITION OF PRITAM PRAKASH PRADHAN  
AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE  
FOR CHANGE OF NAME  
21CV385697

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:  
1. Petitioner: PRITAM PRAKASH PRADHAN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:  
Present Name: PRITAM PRAKASH PRADHAN

Proposed Name: PAUL PRAKASH PRADHAN

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

NOTICE OF HEARING 01/11/2022 at 8:45 a.m. Room: Probate (b) The address of the court is: 191 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

3. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Altos Town Crier Date: 11/9/2021 /s/ Julie A. Emede Judge of the Superior Court (11-24-21,12-01,08,15-21)

194-T

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Resumes to:

Rita Yau: [rita.yau@tri.global](mailto:rita.yau@tri.global)

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- Software Engineer: direct software testing & validation; use object-oriented programming

- Software Engineer: work with containerization technology, observability, stacks, etc.

Email resume to Woven Planet North America, Inc. headquarters (Ron Zimmerman: [ron.zimmerman@woven-planet.global](mailto:ron.zimmerman@woven-planet.global))

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MARKLIN 70S COLLECTOR'S TRAIN SET, new, in-box \$175. Call (408) 658-5418.

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To place a classified ad, call:  
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### MERCHANDISE WANTED

OLD TUBE EQUIPMENT - radios, hi-fi tuners/amps, speakers, ham gear, tubes, parts, literature. (650) 279-9931

OLD WRISTWATCHES - Los Altos horologist likes to collect, trade and restore. Will buy watches, bands, parts, boxes, etc. Tom (408) 712-3430

OLD FISHING TACKLE - Los Altos senior citizen likes to restore. Will buy old rods, reels, lures, creels, literature. Greg (650) 961-3581

LONG-RANGE OFF-SHORE SALT WATER FISHING EQUIPMENT in good condition. Lures, reels, rods, and tackles. Will pay cash. Call John (650) 967-8779

### FREEBIES

FIREWOOD & MULCH - FREE mulch, 6 cubic yard minimum. Will deliver. (650) 966-6537.



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# Datebook

Datebook items are run on a space-available basis for entertainment, events, classes and groups run by nonprofits in our circulation area. Deadline is noon Tuesday for the next week's paper. Submit notices via email to [peteb@latc.com](mailto:peteb@latc.com); include a contact name, phone number and fee to participate.

### EXHIBITS

"Bamboo, Lotus, Orchids and Wisteria." Paintings by artist and instructor Susan Chan and her students Novey Chou, Bonnie Chung, Christine Law and Spring Zhang. Through Dec. 31. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road. (650) 941-8073.

"The Art of Living History." Fine art exhibit by local artist Robert Schick that records the transformation Santa Clara Valley went through in front of his eyes. Art walk and talks 3:30-4:30 p.m. Feb. 4. Los Altos Hills Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road. Free. (650) 941-7222.

### AUDITIONS

Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale. Sing varied repertoire with the symphony. Most rehearsals Tuesdays. Auditions for all sections ongoing by appointment. [chorale@symphonysiliconvalley.org](mailto:chorale@symphonysiliconvalley.org).

### CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Jazzercise Dance Mixx and Body Sculpting. Live on Zoom seven days a week. Free trial class. First 10 consecutive classes \$39. Members can access to Jazzercise Live on-demand. (408) 505-2048; [Nisaleone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Nisaleone@sbcglobal.net).

Adult Ballet Class. Led by Leslie Friedman over Zoom. 4 p.m. Tuesdays. \$48 for four classes; \$15 drop-in. [livelyfoundation@sbcglobal.net](mailto:livelyfoundation@sbcglobal.net).

### CLUBS/GROUPS

Meditation group. Meditations drawn from Buddhist teachers, including Thich Nhat Hanh and Jack Kornfield. Susan Murphy at [somurphy@earthlink.net](mailto:somurphy@earthlink.net) for Zoom login. Free.

Sons in Retirement (SIR) Los Altos Branch 35. Active mature men who meet for lunch to socialize, enjoy food and listen to speakers. Third Wednesday of each month. Palo Alto Elks Lodge, 4249 El Camino Real. (408) 313-6852; [pschutz3@comcast.net](mailto:pschutz3@comcast.net); [sirinc2.org/branch35](http://sirinc2.org/branch35).

Los Altos & Los Altos Hills Newcomers Club. Helps new residents become better acquainted with their neighbors and new community. Activities include programs, luncheons, hiking, bridge and book clubs. (650) 948-3421; [losaltosnewcomers.com](http://losaltosnewcomers.com).

InSpirit Praise & Prayer Healing Room. Healing service for those battling an illness or injury, or feeling discouraged. Mantra: With God, there is hope. 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Union Church campus, 858 University Ave., Los Altos. Interdenominational ministry, member of the International Association of Healing Rooms. [InSpiritPrayer@yahoo.com](mailto:InSpiritPrayer@yahoo.com).

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