



Los Altos Town Crier

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

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losaltosonline.com

WEDNESDAY • December 25, 2024

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays



FROM THE STAFF OF THE LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER

PHOTO BY SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER; GRAPHIC DESIGN BY MIKE ECHEVERRIA AND LUCY CHEN/TOWN CRIER

The Town Crier staff wishes you a happy and safe holiday season. Pictured from left are Bruce Barton, editor in chief; Curtis Driscoll, sports editor; Howard Bischoff, associate publisher (added in due to the wizardry of our production staff—he was out of town); Janice Fabella, advertising sales; Leah Brown, circulation; Mike Echeverria, graphic designer; Linda Monterrey, real estate advertising; Lucy Chen, junior graphics designer; Melissa Rodriguez, production manager; Maria Crowder, sales manager; Christina Casillas, managing editor; Brandon Roth, reporter; Dennis Young, publisher. Not pictured: Vanessa Connell and Mary Larsen, copy editors; Pete Borello, intern manager.

ALSO INSIDE – DECEMBER 25, 2024

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Los Altos Town Crier Holiday Fund 2024



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

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

WHERE THE MONEY WILL GO:

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Community Services Agency’s Keep Low Income Seniors Housed. Provides housing financial assistance to seniors

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Day Worker Center of Mountain View. Connects day workers with jobs offered by homeowners and businesses.

Help One Child. Performs foster parent recruitment, support, training.

Hidden Villa. Provides summer camperships for underprivileged families.

Hope’s Corner. Provides meals and shower facilities for the underserved and unhoused.

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

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

KCI Makerspace Program. Provides teachers with tech tools at the Krause Center for Innovation at Foothill College.

Music for Minors. Provides music education to schools through docent training.

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

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

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Margaret Sentous.....	\$200.00
In Memory of Ray Piontek	

Total Donors	163
Total \$\$ to date.....	\$185,751.64



Los Altos Town Crier Holiday Fund 2024



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The Town Crier Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of the LAMV Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Around Town

City adds three emergency volunteers



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARRY GUY

Left to right: Jim Fenton, Fred Evans, Matt Mow, Dianah Marr, Keith Lantz, Los Altos Police Captain Katie Krauss, Cookie Murata and Jim Clark.

Town Crier Report

The Los Altos Police Department welcomed three new Los Altos Disaster Service Worker Volunteers (DSWV) Dec. 17. Residents Matt Mow, Dianah Marr and Keith Lantz, completed more than 20 hours of online and in-person Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training offered by the

Santa Clara County Fire Department before being qualified to join the DSWV.

CERT training focused on disaster response knowledge, like search and rescue, injury assessment and treatment, building and infrastructure assessment and hazardous conditions assessment.

There are currently 120 other residents who are DSWVs.

The new DSWVs are mem-

bers of Resilient Los Altos, a group of more than 300 residents who are block action team leaders, CERTs, and/or amateur radio operators improving emergency preparedness.

Resilient Los Altos is an incubator program of the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation.

To learn more about RLA, see resilientlosaltos.org.



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A year marked by tragedy, triumph

2024 was a mixture of controversy and progress
Town Crier Staff Report

File this past year under the “never a dull moment” category. It started with the aftermath of a Christmas 2023 three-alarm fire that gutted a large office building at the corner of San Antonio Road and El Camino Real. It ended with a tsunami warning. In between were tragedies (a bicyclist killed along Foothill Expressway), controversial censures (Rebecca Eisenberg of Valley Water), ousters (county school board superintendent Mary Ann Dewan) and closures (Baskin-Robbins in downtown Los Altos).

International conflicts rippled into local cities, including Los Altos, which saw speaker after speaker at council meetings voice outrage over the Hamas-Israeli war.

All it took was a warning letter from a Malibu attorney to force Los Altos into a change from at-large to by-district council elections, beginning in 2026.

An unusual vote deadlock in the March primary between Joe Simitian and Evan Low spurred a recount that had Simitian lose by five votes and bring to an end (at least temporarily) a 41-year-career in local politics.

Despite it all, there were milestones to celebrate for some: The hiring of new Los Altos Police Chief Saskia Lagergren; the passage of a Los Altos School District bond measure for funding facilities upgrades; and the start of a permanent outdoor dining program in downtown Los Altos. Read on for a recap of some of the biggest stories of 2024.

January

Vicki Reeder, advocate for local theatre and social justice, is named Los Altan of the Year. More than a dozen Los Altos businesses grapple with their future after a Christmas day fire at 4600 El Camino Real; demolition of the building begins Jan. 24.

See REVIEW, Page 5



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTOS

Clockwise from top left: A Christmas Day 2023 fire decimated a commercial office building at 4600 El Camino Real; Los Altos main library officials unveil plans for an interior remodel; an artist applies his colorful touch to a mural at De Martini Orchard; potholes along El Camino Real finally disappear via a Caltrans repaving project; downtown restaurants sport new outdoor dining areas; and the Los Altos Heritage Orchard makes headlines throughout the year due to questions about preservation.



2024: The Year in Review



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTOS

Above, Jardin Drive's traffic and parking woes continue despite a new attempt to redesign the configuration of the street. At right, brilliant software engineer Maria Jabon had her life tragically cut short when a vehicle collided with her bicycle along Foothill Expressway in Los Altos Hills. Distracted driving – the driver was on his cell phone – was determined as the cause of the crash. The incident underscored the dangers of cycling on busy roads with preoccupied drivers.



REVIEW

From Page 4

The city of Los Altos readies to plant 300 juvenile Blenheim apricot trees in front of the 10-acre orchard surrounding city hall; the orchard proves to be a point of contention throughout the year.

A Jan. 2 ruling by a federal appeals court prohibits cities, like Los Altos, from enacting gas ban laws. Los Altos city council members informally agree at their Jan. 23 meeting to direct city staff to look into other ways of restricting gas to meet the city's goals in its Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP).

February

As in previous years, local cities are rocked by strong

winter atmospheric rivers that bring heavy winds and rain. Strong wind gusts topple trees and power poles, leaving many in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View without power.

Maria Jabon, a 38-year-old Los Altos resident, is struck and killed while on bicycle by a motorist on Foothill Expressway in Los Altos Hills Feb. 13. The driver, 64-year-old Santa Clara resident Mesfin Mekonnen, is charged seven months later with two felonies, vehicular manslaughter and gross negligence.

A month before state primaries, a long list of candidates for local elections announce their candidacies. Especially competitive are the races for the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and California

Congressional District 16.

Despite an almost undefeated season and winning the WCAL league title, St. Francis boys soccer falls to Archbishop Mitty during the CCS playoff finals.

Los Altos City Council gives the green light to the Los Altos Police Department's military equipment policy after lengthy community discussions Feb. 27.

March

The Santa Clara Valley Water District Board votes 6-1 to censure director Rebecca Eisenberg, who represents Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View, twice at a special meeting March 14 that spans nearly five hours.

The decision follows an

See REVIEW, Page 6



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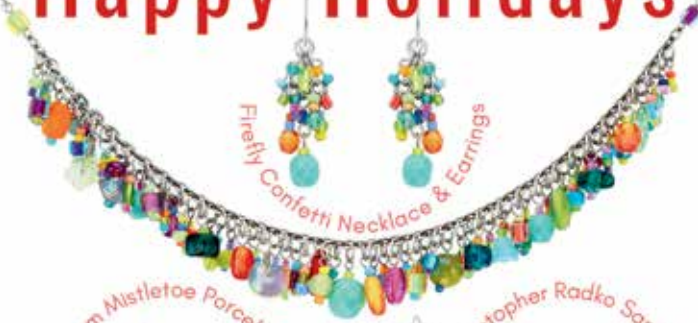

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2024: The Year in Review



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTOS

Personnel with the Community Health Awareness Council gather to celebrate a move into their new building in 2013. The 51-year nonprofit providing behavioral health services closed June 30 after a net asset transfer with Pacific Clinics.

REVIEW

From Page 5

internal investigation that substantiates claims that Eisenberg had a pattern of discriminatory, abusive and inappropriate behavior toward Valley Water staff and fellow board members.

Trustees at the Los Altos School District consider placing a bond measure on the Nov. 5 ballot. In fact, they do just that later in the year.

The \$350 million bond measure squeaks by in the general election with a little more than 56% of the vote. The measure,

intended to upgrade facilities, needed 55% to pass.

MVLA Superintendent Nellie Meyer retires after serving as superintendent for 11 years, and as an educator for 35.

April

The Los Altos City Council approves a new fee schedule for fiscal year 2024-25, which will raise fees for the city's building, engineering and planning services, after a study presented to council March 26 revealed the city was undercharging for services.

A tight March 5 primary

election race for California Congressional District 16 puts Sam Liccardo in first place, while state Assemblyman Evan Low and Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian tie for second. The unusual tie prompts a recall that Low won by five votes.

Los Altos City Council members review a proposal to build a downtown park in Parking Plaza 1. The plan would include underground parking.

Los Altos Police Chief Angela Averiett announces her departure. The city would later

See REVIEW, Page 7

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2024: The Year in Review



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTOS



Above, Los Altos City Council members discuss a plan to transform a parking plaza into a city park, with underground parking below. The idea was floated as an option in a Downtown Visioning Plan adopted in 2018. At left, Khatchig Jingirian, chairman of the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce board, left, reads a proclamation April 26 honoring Tracie Murray, center, this year's winner of the Walter and Marie Singer Award. Kim Mosley, chamber president and CEO, is at right.

REVIEW From Page 6

name Saskia Lagergren, a Los Altos native, as the new chief.

Los Altos residents are looking to the Mountain View Los Altos High School District to help fix the parking and traffic issues along Jardin Drive behind Los Altos High School.

May

Los Altos Hills residents hold a forum to air safety and burglary grievances across unincorporated areas of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills as burglaries rise after the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

Downtown Los Altos outdoor dining undergoes an overhaul as construction of 11 parklets reach the final stages.

Zaida's Kitchen, a San Jose-based food truck and cooking class that began serving up Oaxacan dishes at the Los Altos Farmers' Market this year, plans to expand.

A new mural at DeMartini Orchard celebrates the history of Los Altos, courtesy of San Jose artist Francisco Ramirez.

June

A third Luna Mexican Kitchen location is coming to downtown Los Altos at 145 First St. Founder Jo Lerma-Lopez announces plans to open the location there in the early months of

2025.

Police chief Lagergren assumes her new role. She previously served as a Santa Clara police captain of the Administrative Services and Investigations divisions.

Los Altos resident Larry Lang announces his intention to run for Los Altos City Council. Lang is an electrical engineer, technologist and investor and just finished a term as president of the Los Altos History Museum.

July

A proposal to remove 25 apricot trees by the Los Altos police station draws outcry from heritage orchard preservationists who assert that city officials are removing trees all over the civic center despite ongoing rehabilitation work on the heritage orchard.

Former Los Altos High baseball player Aaron Parker was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in the sixth round of the Major League Baseball draft. The junior catcher at UC Santa Barbara drove in 107 runs and slugged 26 home runs in his high school career.

Filmmaker Jon M. Chu, a Los Altos Hills native and son of Larry Chu Sr. (Chef Chu's restaurant founder) writes about his experiences in his new book "Viewfinder." The "Crazy Rich Asians" director also directs

the just-released blockbuster, "Wicked."

August

E-bike usage is on the rise; local leaders and experts weigh in on their safety and how to be careful on the road.

A taste of Peruvian cuisine is closer than ever before for many Los Altos residents; Callao, a new Peruvian restaurant, opens on First Street.

Los Altos resident Susan Wojcicki, an original Google employee and overall influence throughout Silicon Valley, dies from lung cancer Aug. 9. Wojcicki was probably best known as the CEO of YouTube.

September

Los Altos City Council members and residents discuss the first iterations of a new by-district area map, showing how the city divides into five separate voting districts.

Los Altos staple Baskin-Robbins abruptly closes its longtime location at 264 State St. No further information is released beyond a sign on the door.

Los Altos City Council suspends reach codes that prohibit gas in new construction, following an earlier court decision that rejected such bans.

The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office implements

See REVIEW, Page 8



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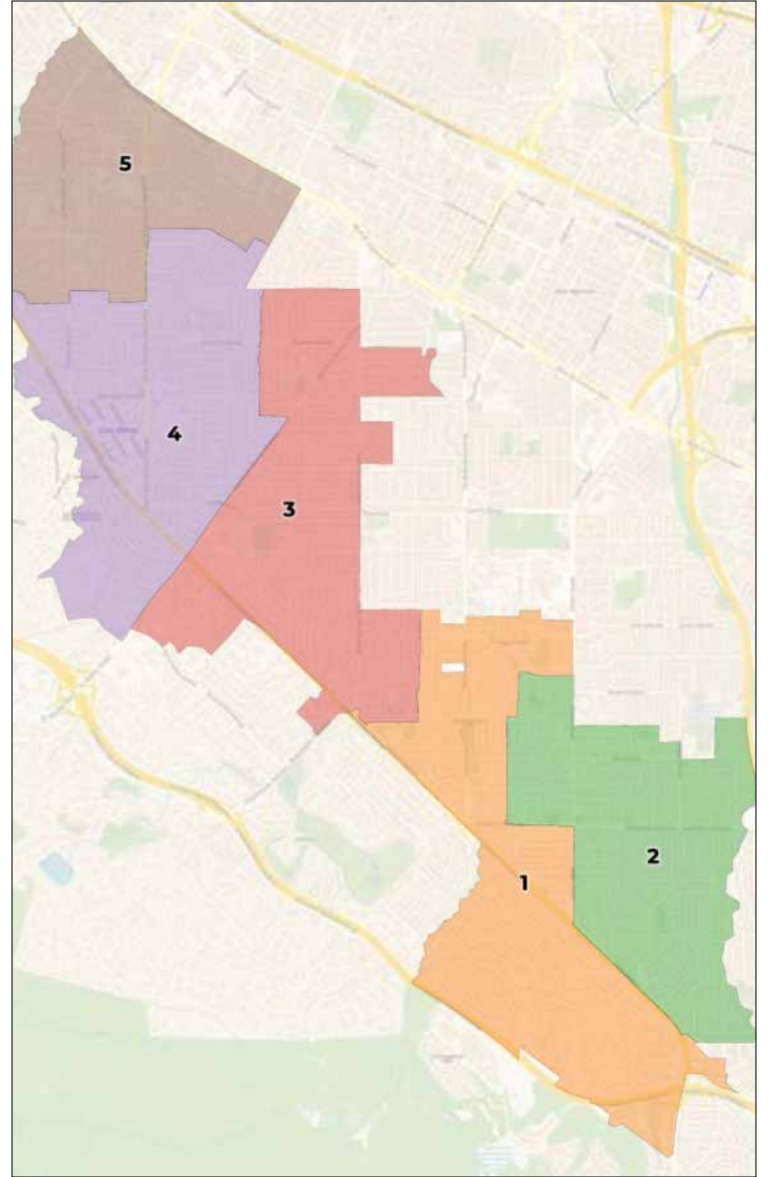
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The National Weather Service issues a tsunami warning for bay cities north of Davenport, including Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills following a 7.0 earthquake 60 miles west of the Northern California coast.

News

4600 ECR fire, one year later



SHELLY BOWERS/TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

Today marks the one-year anniversary of a Christmas Day fire that burned down an old office building at the corner of San Antonio Road and El Camino Real in Los Altos. The remains of the building were demolished, hauled away and paved over. To this day, the Los Altos Fire Department is mum on the cause of the fire or the progress of the investigation. “The investigation into the origin and cause of fire at 4600 El Camino Real last Christmas remains active,” department spokesperson Erica Ray told the Town Crier in a Dec. 16 email. “Investigators are working diligently and are committed to bringing answers and closure to the impacted businesses and community members. With the investigation still underway, we are unable to share any details to avoid compromising the investigation. County fire is committed to providing more information once the fire investigation concludes.”

Smiths named TC’s 2024 Los Altans of the Year

Town Crier Staff Report

Tom and Karen Smith of Los Altos Hills are the Town Crier’s 2024 Los Altans of the Year.

The Smiths started their community volunteerism in the early 1990s at the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce. In fact, they met at a Chamber function.

Tom, a former co-owner of McWhorter’s Stationary store in downtown Los Altos, went on to serve on the board of the Community Services Agency of Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills. Karen served as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Los Altos, participating in such Kiwanis events as the annual Pet Parade and Special Games.

Both are longtime members of the United Methodist Church of Los Altos. Karen oversaw the church’s annual Harvest Fair for nine years.

Karen has also worked with Blossom Buddies, a local group that transforms recycled flowers into bouquets to deliver to patients at care facilities. Lately, she has been helping out at the Los Altos History Museum.

The couple has been previously honored for their com-



Tom and Karen Smith

munity work. The Smiths were 2016 winners of the Walter and Marie Singer Award, a Chamber of Commerce honor for business leaders who engage in volunteerism. Tom was deemed a “Hometown Hero” in 2020 by the Community Services Agency.

Tom, from Michigan, and Karen, from Illinois, are both big believers in “giving back.” In a recent interview with the Town Crier, Tom described three phases in life: “First you learn, then you earn, and then you return,” he said.

A feature story on the Smiths is set for the Town Crier’s Jan. 1 issue. A Town Crier reception for the Smiths is scheduled 5-7 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Rustic House Oyster Bar and Grill’s Rustic Room, 295 Main St., Los Altos. The ticket price is \$75 per person. For information, contact Maria Crowder at mariac@latc.com.

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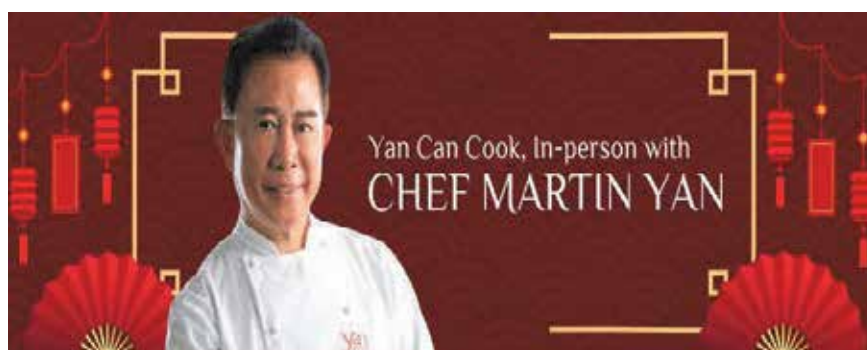
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Los Altos Town Crier



COURTESY OF RABBI EZZY SCHUSTERMAN

Los Altos Chabad is hosting its annual Hanukkah menorah lighting ceremony 4:30 p.m. this Sunday (Dec. 29) at Veterans Community Plaza. The event will feature food, crafts and live music.

Los Altos Chabad hosts annual Hanukkah menorah lighting ceremony this Sunday

By Brandon Roth
Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

Hanukkah, the eight-day celebration of lighting the menorah, is the Jewish people's reminder to honor the Maccabees, a Jewish warrior family, who defended the Second Temple of Jerusalem from the Greek Seleucid Empire in the second century BCE.

For those curious about the Hanukkah traditions, Los Altos Chabad is hosting a Grand Menorah Lighting ceremony this Sunday at 4:30 p.m. at Veterans Community Plaza, located at Main and State Streets. There will be food, crafts and live music available, and activities for children. Mayor Pete Dailey will also be speaking at the event, followed by him lighting the menorah and saying the blessings.

The Maccabees took base in the Second Temple to prevent further desecration and had barely enough oil to light their candles to keep them warm inside. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days and they were able to withstand the attacks from the Greeks and protect the Jewish people.

Hanukkah may seem like eight consecutive days of pres-

ents, but it is also an important time to gather with family and friends and learn about customs such as playing dreidel, praying over the candles or telling some jokes over wine.

Ezzy Schusterman, the Los Altos Chabad rabbi, said Hanukkah celebrates religious freedoms. Schusterman said the Greeks didn't have a problem with the culture but resisted the religion for its monotheistic viewpoints that were radical for the time. He believes the holiday is now an important part of Jewish cultural expression.

"Hanukkah is about overcoming persecution," Rabbi Schusterman said. "And to celebrate is to connect with the community, to be proud of our freedom, both as Americans and as Jewish people. It's a really a special time."

Throughout the evening Schusterman's son Zalman will play both Hanukkah and traditional Jewish music on the keyboard.

"For everybody who comes out, it's a nice sense of community connection and to celebrate the pride of who we are," Schusterman said.

For more information on the event, visit tinyurl.com/ywbay5r5.

Community

'Nutcracker' is a community celebration

By Duanni Hurd
Special to the Town Crier

Theater Review

The Western Ballet's "Nutcracker" is a cherished community pride. Amid drizzling rain at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, the Dec. 14 performance of "Nutcracker" drew fans, friends and families of the ballet school. Children and adults full of joy, cheer and holiday spirit arrived in excitement and anticipation of a journey to the Land of the Sweets, a magical world filled with beloved characters of one of the most classic holiday traditions.

P.I. Tchaikovsky's iconic score was choreographed by Yanis Pikieris, a Colombian-Venezuelan dancer and choreographer with a distinguished international career.

The "Nutcracker" holds a pivotal place in Western Ballet's educational program, per Eileen Zubiria, instructor and president of the board of directors, "It serves as a 'ladder of



COURTESY OF WESTERN BALLET

High school seniors Margot Zelkha and Zoe Lin, as well as Maggie Zhang, a junior, and Nao Wegner, a sophomore, shared the leading role of Clara, pictured above, in Western Ballet's 'Nutcracker.'

roles,' with students progressing over the years, from elves and angels to the production's principal characters. This progression fosters dedication, imagination and growth, making it a milestone for each student's journey in ballet." In addition, the production features strong community support by involving not only students but also families – parents, grandparents and siblings – to par-

ticipate together on stage as characters, or off stage as tech or stage crews.

This season's casting exemplified the school's mission as a community institution to nurture talent at every level. A total of 140 performers of all ages participated in the production.

Leading roles featured veteran artists as well as

See NUTCRACKER, Page 12



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Community

'A Sunken Town' shows how life is all about the unknown

By Brandon Roth

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

Life has many turns. You think you have a grasp on the decisions you make, but there is always something around the corner that can give your life new meaning.

Karen Nelson, a Los Altos native, travel writer and co-founder of the nonprofit Writing By Writers, said she found herself in an unpredictable situation right after college that she never saw coming. This prompted her to write her debut novel, "The Sunken Town," about a 30-year-old woman named Lindsay who unexpectedly inherits her birth mother Claire's farmhouse in Maine which forces her to confront her family's secrets.

Nelson's inspiration for her novel came from her experience in Colby College in Waterville, Maine, when her boyfriend's boss asked them to live in the home of a woman who tragically passed away after getting hit by a car. His boss was an executor of the woman's estate, and she had no relatives to inherit her property. Suddenly, Nelson and her boyfriend found themselves taking care of the woman's dog and maintaining the property until everything was in order.

Nelson originally wrote a 300-page short story about her time living in the house, but she shelved it for a few years. It wasn't until she began her nonprofit that her colleague and fellow faculty member Richard Bausen inspired her to relook at her original idea. With his

guidance, she revisited her past and combined her love of Dark Academia novels such as "The Secret History" to create a new fictional story.

"I still wanted to write about my experiences in a small college town, so I started writing a novel similar to Colby and realized I was writing a layer to my other book that was tucked away," Nelson said. "I soon was writing about Lindsay's birth mother and having a whole section about how she got pregnant and why she gave up Lindsay for adoption. I took my earlier novel off the drawer and it was a kind of prequel."

Nelson did not feel the pressure to write every day. The novel taught her to block off time in her day and not feel obligated to get something done all at once. She only wrote when she could, she said, and even while teaching, she managed to find some time to put words down.

Instead of self-isolating while writing the novel, she surrounded herself with a community that helped her meet her goals. Nelson is fortunate to be part of a writing group for the last 20 years that she could trust and that would help proofread. She also found that being around writers in her workshops helped her with different expert opinions on her craft.

"I've heard many people in the writing world share their ideas," Nelson said. "It is like I got an MFA 5,000 times over. It is wonderful to hear new peo-

ple write and learn about their process and what they have to say about dialogue. It's like having a continual education. And as far as the publishing side, it's been lovely because many people have been willing to help me, critique or introduce me to people."

Nelson is excited for those to read "The Sunken Town" to get a sense of Maine's natural beauty. She hopes people can resonate with the landscape alongside the characters. Nelson said the book is a personal journey for Lindsay to uncover the cultural differences between California and New England. Nelson was able to include local references to Maine such as snow golf and Ben & Jerry's for readers to become more familiar with the setting.

"When it comes to fiction, it is kind of the landscape of a place like Maine that had resonated with me," Nelson said. "In the next book that I have coming out soon, I used to go to summer camp up at the Feather River Canyon here in California, and that's a landscape that stuck with me. That area is where one of the terrible fires happened in the last couple of years, so I don't even know what's still there at this point."

Nelson said her debut novel is currently available in both digital and print formats on Amazon and in local bookstores.

To learn more about the book or to purchase a digital copy, visit tinyurl.com/mr2vh-vz7.

NUTCRACKER

From Page 11

professional performers and aspiring young professionals. Alexi Zubiria and David Fonnegra shared the role of Drosselmeyer. High school seniors Margot Zelkha and Zoe Lin, as well as Maggie Zhang, a junior, and Nao Wegner, a sophomore, shared the leading role of Clara. Western Ballet's Alison Share and guest artist Sakura Oka took the role of Sugarplum Fairy. High school seniors Nikita Berevoescu, Zoe Lin and Margot Zelkha took roles in "Snow Pas de Deux" and "Arabian Pas de Deux," paired with guest artists Ihosvany Rodriguez and Jeriel Garcia.

Recent graduates Sarah Conover Hui and Polina Bortok returned from college to dance in the production. Sarah, who took the role of Dewdrop Fairy, is pursuing a BFA in ballet at the University of Utah, and Polina is majoring in chemical biology at UC Berkeley and dancing with the

Ballet Company at Berkeley. Two of the featured performers, Juliann Forbes and Shannon Hearn, work in the Silicon Valley tech industry and have rekindled their passion for ballet in Western Ballet's Open Program, enabling them to perform alongside the skilled Youth Company.

Stories of growth and success were cheerfully shared at the "Sweet Tea Party" after the show in the lobby, where performers greeted the audience in costumes, celebrating the love for ballet. The Youth Company were in particularly joyful spirit, hugging friends and family and snapping photos with their teachers. Indeed, what better way to celebrate an unforgettable performance than to embrace it in such a supportive and inclusive community?

Western Ballet, a non profit institution, was founded in 1976 to meet the needs of a local ballet dance school in Silicon Valley, with a mission of making the performing art of classical ballet accessible to the general public.

Stepping Out

A winter wonderland fills the Pemberley estate in 'Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley'



COURTESY OF KEVIN BERNE

The Bennet sisters and their husbands are intrigued by the arrival of a Lord (David Toshio Crane - center) in TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley," performing Dec. 4-29 at Lucie Stern Theatre.

By Brandon Roth
Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

A delightful evening in the Regency era is upon you.

TheatreWorks is introducing a play of romance, comedy and family drama to local audiences at the Lucie Stern Theatre for one last time this weekend with four of the five Bennet sisters from Jane Austen's novel "Pride and Prejudice" in the sequel "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley." In this play, the Bennet sisters are invited to a Christmas party at Elizabeth (Kausar Mohammed) and Fitzwilliam Darcy's (Adam Griffith) Pemberley estate and provide an update of the sisters two years after from where the novel left off.

The sequel was created by Bay Area playwrights Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon and became one of the most performed plays in 2018.

When you watch the play, you feel like you are invited into someone's home for the holidays. There are many details to get distracted by throughout the performance, from the colorful – probably homemade – wreaths hanging on the walls, the large red-ribboned tree with

ornaments and garland arranged on the table. This special tale really came to life with the decorations, showing how people of the upper class celebrated the holidays.

Although the Darcy relationship was the main focus of "Pride and Prejudice," this story concerned Mary Bennet (Elissa Beth Stebbins) and how she approaches marriage, education and self-determination. Stebbins brought out an intelligent portrayal of the character who is more into her books than gossiping about men with her sisters Elizabeth, Jane Bingley (Amanda Pulcini) and Lydia Wickham (Sophie Oda). It was unusual for a woman at the time to be unmarried, but Mary did not care about how people thought of her. We see her talk with passion about her studies of sciences and philosophy and frown upon the trivial topics her sisters brought up.

Mary convinced herself that she did not need a man, but in this story, we learn there is always someone out there for everyone. Arthur De Bourgh (David Toshio Crane), a cousin of Fitzwilliam Darcy, was invited to the party of the Bennet sisters

after finding out he became heir to his aunt Lady Catherine De Bourgh's fortune. Although Arthur is now a rich man and expected to participate in society as a lord, he is inexperienced in small talk conversation. Crane portrays him as a shy man who hasn't been exposed to high society before.

Throughout the play, Lydia, the mischievous sister, tries to flirt with Arthur despite her marriage with George Wickham, but there is no denying Arthur and Mary have an organic chemistry ready to be explored. Arthur immediately was drawn in a platonic way to Mary for her intellect and their similar interests.

The audience will have a great time watching this play with the beautiful gowns and eccentric personalities of the sisters who try to get into each other's business. Any tale from this period will show you a standard view of relationships, but this play reverses the notion that there are many forms of love and if one chooses to pursue their passions instead, it should not be a disappointment.

For tickets and more information, visit theatreworks.org.

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Schools

MVHS students take part in statewide conference on education

By Shaona Das

Town Crier Editorial Intern

Five students from Mountain View High School were among the nearly 80 students throughout California who participated in last month's statewide Student Advisory Board on Education (SABE) conference in Sacramento.

Katie Pleitez Barahon, Amanda Jane Ford, Joaquin Garcia Bueno, Adamari Maay Bautista and Raul Carrera – members of MVHS's Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program – worked with other students on proposals to improve education. The California Association of Student Councils organized the annual event, held Nov. 10-13.

"(SABE) consists of a group of student representatives from various high schools across California who collaborate to discuss educational issues, propose solutions and advocate for changes to the state Senate," Ford said. "The

ultimate goal is to craft a feasible, sustainable and effective proposal to the state Board of Education on the third day."

Manisha Shah, one of MVHS AVID's lead mentors, said she encouraged the students to apply for the conference, which she and her husband both attended when they were in high school.

"In the students themselves, what I've seen is that it took a lot of courage to raise their hand and say they wanted to do this thing. They didn't know a whole lot about it," Shah said. "It can be intimidating to think about going before the state Board of Education. So I was really proud that they had the courage to raise their hand and want to be able to share their voice."

The interested MVHS AVID students completed applications, which were evaluated by conference leaders and judged on their passion for education reform and involvement in their community.

Prior to the conference,



COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS

Mountain View High students, from left: Amanda Ford, Joaquin Garcia Bueno, Raul Carrera, Katie Pleitez and Adamari Maay Bautista attend November's California Association of Student Councils conference in Sacramento.

attendees submitted ideas for proposals, which were narrowed down to five topics students could focus their research on throughout the week, such as equity in educational policy and supporting multilingual learners. Students split into groups to further research their topics and plan proposals. Each day of the conference, the attendees held discussions and brainstorming sessions, coming up with ideas for their proposals, eventually narrowing their topic.

"We agreed to focus specifically on equity and education for special needs," Ford said. "We recognized the issue was that there was too little inclusion, specialized support and understanding, and too much segregation, bullying and disparities. To address this issue, I suggested to my group that we do a peer mentorship program, whether that's in the form of tutoring or buddy systems."

While working on their proposals, Ford said attendees met with superintendents from several school districts, pitched their proposals to representatives at the state Capitol and practiced their presentation in front of panels,

acquiring feedback.

"The panelists were just people who worked in the education system. I know one of them was Naomi Eason, and she was the chief of research and education policy," Barahon said. "I know that most of them really connected to the issues that we were talking about and agreed that this was something that should be done because we had proposed a pilot program."

On the final day, attendees presented their final proposals to the board.

"It was really important for me to be there and have a proposal which had to do with students that are coming into California schools, because there's a lot of students that come from different countries," Barahon said. "As a Latino student, I feel like there's not Latin representation, especially coming to places like this. I feel like it's really important to me just to have the Latin perspective for students."

Bautista went into the conference not knowing what

to expect.

"I thought it was going to be like a kind of a thing where you just were in a room with the computer and just doing research, looking through articles and putting (together) a proposal, and that's it. But honestly, it was the complete opposite," Bautista said. "I just got to connect with my group and different students from all over California, which I find super amazing."

Carrera added that "the conference has encouraged me to start doing leadership at my school. (It) has empowered me to want to also practice my verbal articulation and practice public speaking."

Ford described the conference as "an inspiring experience. I am on various school boards, whether it's for the district or within just my school, and it's pushing me to take advantage of my roles in those and to make change for the better. SABE teaches you that you are capable, you can make change, you can be a part of something."

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Sports

Mountain View basketball aims to impress

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

Mountain View (5-1) is off to a hot start, with the team's hopes for the rest of the season riding on the play of focal points Jayden Minor and forward Jaden Feller.

Minor, a point guard known for making plays through his passing and vision, and Feller, a stretch forward with a good jump shot and a wide range of back-to-the-basket post moves, are seniors who will be expected to keep the team cohesive on the floor, Mountain View boys basketball coach Kevin Mack said.

"The expectations we have for them are pretty high," Mack said. "I think they put that same expectation on themselves. They are two of our captains and our leaders. They're shouldering a lot of weight, but I like the group we have around them as well."

The pair were both named to the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League De Anza Division all-league first team last year, and Mack believes both have improved since last year, noting Minor has taken his game to the next level when it comes to shooting the 3-pointer and getting to

the rim and finishing.

"He knows how to find guys in windows and make passes most people can't see," Mack said of Minor. I think he's done that for a long time, but I think what he's gotten really better at and expanded is his outside shooting. I think his outside shooting has gotten way more consistent. He spent a lot of time in the offseason working on his jump shot."

Mack noted that Feller has also made strides in the offseason to improve aspects of his game.

"His ball handling and playmaking from the perimeter off the dribble is something he has gotten really better at," Mack said of Feller. "That's something to look for, and some of the stuff we do offensively will have him on the perimeter, getting to the rim and doing some things off the dribble."

The Spartans have four returning starters and several shooters available to provide scoring outside Minor and Feller, with sophomore Diego Inocencio, guard Ben Maller and senior Will Chesley providing scoring. The team has 18 total players.

"We shoot the ball really well," Mack

said. "Obviously, we don't want to live and die by the three every night, but we can shoot it really well. We have complimentary guys who can fill in for those two main guys. If teams want to key in on both (Minor and Feller) we have some other guys who can do some things."

Mountain View does not have a lot of size this year and will try to speed the game up and create turnovers on the defensive end while relying on speed and shooting on the offensive end.

"Teams are going to be bigger than us at times, especially in our league, so for us it's going to be the little things, can we create turnovers, can we speed the game, can we get downhill off the dribble," Mack said.

The Spartans went 16-9 last season and finished third in the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League De Anza Division, losing in the first round of the Central Coast Section Division I playoffs against Everett Alvarez last year. The team hopes to win the De Anza Division and compete in the Central Coast Section playoffs. Mack believes every league game will be a battle to win because of how tough and balanced the league is, with Los Gatos, Milpitas and Palo Alto all in the mix with Mountain View for the top four league spots.

"I think if we do the right things, we will be in the mix," Mack said.



T. MALLIE BRATHWAITE/TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

Mountain View guard Jayden Minor.

Spartan girls ready for fast-paced season

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

To go far in the Central Coast Section playoffs, Mountain View girls basketball coach Xavier Cook knows the Spartans' (2-2) high-intensity press will need to set the standard all season.

The Spartans employ a 2-2-1 style aimed at causing turnovers defensively and generating shots in transition play, similar to last year's suffocating style.

"We want to press you for 32 minutes," Cook said. "That's how we want to play. We want to press you the whole game; we want to stay in your face. We want to make you have to work."

Mountain View returns eight players from last year and two of its key starters in seniors Alana Hernandez and Ellie Westgate. Hernandez was named to the SCVAL El Camino Division all-league first team last year and is averaging around 21 points per game this season, while Westgate was on the second team. Hernandez is the team's best scorer, while Westgate has gotten more confidence in shooting the 3-ball and has gotten more comfortable shooting the ball instead of passing, with Cook noting he wants to see her become more of a scorer.

The Spartans will also expect contributions from a large freshman class, with forward Emilia Cornfors-Gurovski and guard Kamya Patwardhan starting, while guard Fiona Lee and forward Claire Feng are coming off the bench.

"Since I've had the team, it might be the best freshman class I've had since I've been here," Cook said.

Patwardhan has been a fireplug so far, with Cook

recognizing early on she and Cornfors-Gurovski would make the starting lineup. Cook knew the team had a post player in Cornfors-Gurovski when she first walked through the door.

"She's still learning how to play basketball at this level with girls who are older," Cook said of Cornfors-Gurovski. "She's probably always played with girls who are younger than her or the same age."

Cook's focus is getting the freshmen up to speed with the rest of the team.

"We are taking senior girls and freshman girls who know nothing about each other, and you're asking them to play together and come out with a great finished product," Cook said. "They're all still learning how to play with each other."

The Spartans' pressing style also requires a lot of players to ensure there are enough fresh players to sub in as the Spartans try to tire out the opponent. Cook said the team has more depth than last year, which will help with 10 players rotating in already this season, with the main focus now on fine-tuning roles and placement within the press.

"It's like opening a box of something new, let me pull all the pieces out of the box, put it on the ground, then you put the whole thing together and make sure you didn't leave any pieces out, that's kind of us right now," Cook said. "It's putting all those parts in all the right places."

Cook sees Santa Clara and Gunn as league contenders and hopes to go further in the Central Coast Section Division I playoffs. The team has gotten to the second round the last few years, with the goal this year to go beyond that and compete for a CCS title.

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Your Home

Add a little garden diversity with native wildflowers

By Tanya Kucak

Little things run the world. In nature, the little things that run the world are dynamically balanced. With greater diversity comes a more finely tuned series of checks and balances and a healthier ecological system. A monoculture such as a lawn, or the use of pesticides, reduces diversity and can throw your local ecology out of whack. To bring things back toward balance, or simply to increase diversity, you can add native plants. Natives support the highest diversity of life, from the many caterpillars essential for feeding baby songbirds to the pollinators and other beneficial insects essential for flowers and edible crops. The ideal is a yard planted with at least half natives. But no planting is too small. Even a small container planted with natives can help, since it's the little things that matter.

For the most colorful springtime flower show, plant native wildflower seeds. The beginning of the rainy season is the best time to sow many of these seeds, but the beginning of winter is not too late.

Many spring-blooming wildflowers are a manageable size, less than a foot

Native Plants

high and wide. Wildflowers can fill the space between slower-growing trees or shrubs, add color to a meadow, or define path edges. You can sow them in place, or grow different varieties in 4-inch pots to be transplanted later.

In a container, use a well-draining potting mix. In the ground, choose a weed-free area, then rake them in and walk over the area for good seed-to-soil contact. Birds will eat unprotected seeds! If you are sowing packets of different wildflowers in the garden, it's a good idea to sow a few seeds of each in small labeled containers so that you will be able to identify emerging seedlings. Some choices are:

- Pink flowers: Farewell to Spring (Clarkia amoena) and other Clarkias.
- Blue flowers: Bird's-Eye Gilia (Gilia tricolor), Globe Gilia (G. capitata), Baby Blue Eyes (Nemophila menziesii), Five-Spot (N. maculata), Desert Bluebells (Phacelia campanularia), Lupines, and Chinese Houses (Collinsia heterophylla).
- Yellow flowers: Tidy Tips (Layia platyglossa), Meadowfoam (Limnan-

thes douglasii), Goldfields (Lasthenia californica), Tufted poppy (Eschscholzia caespitosa) and the orange California poppy (E. californica). Tarweed (Madia elegans) and Sunflower (Helianthus annuus) are tall, robust plants that bloom from summer into fall.

Once the spring flowers set seed, you can leave the seeds for birds to eat, collect them to sow next fall, or if the area is not watered in the summer, let them fall to the ground to see if they flourish again the following year.

Reliable online seed sources for California native wildflowers are Larner Seeds (larnerseeds.com) and Theodore Payne Foundation (theodorepayne.org). For less-common varieties, try Seed Hunt (seedhunt.com) or the California collection at Nature's Seed (natureseed.com/california-seeds/). On other sites, such as Amazon, packets of "California wildflowers" often include nonnatives (scarlet flax, calendula and Shasta daisy, for example) that can dominate the mix and become weedy. Instead, look for "California native wildflowers" and carefully read the label.

Finally, the Santa Clara Valley chapter of the California Native Plant Society sometimes offers seeds or plants



PHOTO COURTESY OF TANYA KUCAK

Native flowers can be quite colorful.

at the regular meetings (cnps-scv.org). Another alternative is to buy 4-inch pots of native wildflowers. You may be able to find native annuals in late winter to early spring at local nurseries, or at Linda Vista Natives in Saratoga; Yerba Buena Nursery in Half Moon Bay; or Richmond-based Curious Flora or Watershed Nursery.

Tanya Kucak gardens organically. You can reach her at tanyagarden@gmail.com.





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What areas do we organize first?

By Lyn Rogers

“For every minute spent organizing, an hour is earned.” – Anonymous

Lots of articles have ideas about the best areas in your home where you should start organizing: your closets, the pantry, or your garage are some of the examples. They will explain why organizing these areas first will change your life. When I work with clients, I take a different route, and the reasons why for the first area may literally save your life.

When I walk into someone's home, I say out loud, “I need to see floor.” Covering the floor with excesses of paper piles, toys, boxes or anything else is a sure way to cause a fall. If you had an emergency and the paramedics needed to come in with a gurney, would they be able to safely access you or your family member? Would you be able to reach a phone to call for help? I had a senior client who was immobilized on his floor for two days, because every time

he tried to stand, he would slip and fall due to the many piles of paper everywhere in his living room.

Safety should be your number one reason to get organized. Tripping hazards are one reason, but I also see piles of unknown items in garages and elsewhere that could have rodent nests underneath. If those piles haven't been unearthed in a long time, you will need to use protective gear to unpack them, just in case.

Secondly, I suggest clearing the areas you see first when you walk into a room. Start with the front entryway. Is it a welcoming sight, or are you greeted by donation boxes, shoes scattered everywhere, or a jumble of coats and toys? Do you feel a sense of peace and calm?

Your home and every room within should greet you with a sense of joy, instead of dread. It should express the very best parts of you. We declutter and organize for ourselves and our family first. It's self-care and shows how much we cherish those we live with.

Conquering Clutter

If macro-organizing works best in your home, open bins and baskets in a closet takes the stress out of clearing the floors and surfaces. A quick 10-minute tidy in the morning and at night is a stress-free way to work toward a safer home, if it's too overwhelming to start a bigger project. Enlist help if it's too much for you. There is nothing embarrassing in saying, “I need a friend to at least sit with me while I accomplish these tasks.”

It's more common than we realize that most of us struggle to finish tasks. Procrastination affects approximately 20-42% of us (depending on the poll) on a daily basis and up to 95% of us procrastinate some of the time. Baby steps are still steps.

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

Business & Real Estate

'Tis the season for giving: Charity donations help you and others

By Artie Green

For some, the end-of-year holidays engender thoughts of helping those less fortunate. For others, it's a time to develop strategies to save on taxes. Charitable giving allows you to achieve both goals. However, what if you would like to help but don't yet know to which charities you would like to contribute? One of the most flexible ways to address this is by utilizing a donor-advised fund (DAF).

A DAF is a fund similar to a 401(k) sponsored and administered by a public charity for the purpose of managing charitable donations to other organizations on your behalf. It offers you the opportunity to donate money and get an immediate tax deduction before deciding on which charities you would like to fund. Rather than making donations directly to your favorite charities, you

can donate the money to a DAF and then in the future direct grants to those charities from the DAF. For high net wealth individuals and families a DAF provides simpler accounting, higher tax deduction limits, and less strict payout requirements as compared to creating your own private foundation. However, not all DAFs are the same, so selecting the most appropriate one can be challenging. Here are some questions to ask the sponsoring organizations to help find the right DAF for you.

- What types of grants will the DAF sponsoring organization approve? Generally DAFs are able to support most 501(c)(3) organizations, but there are sometimes restrictions (such as religious or international). If you cannot support your favorite charities through the fund, it's probably not for you.

- Will the DAF accept assets other than cash for

Nest Egg Briefs

funding? Many DAFs accept publicly traded stock, privately-held company stock, real estate, life insurance and even art and collectables.

- What are the investment options? Is there a minimum account size? Some DAF sponsors allow donors or their financial advisors to manage the funds within the DAF themselves. This may be of value to you if you plan on making distributions over a long period of time.

- What is the process for making grants from the fund? Is there a minimum amount? Can it be done by phone or online? Is there an approval process? What are the costs?

- What resources are provided to help clients identify causes or charities and plan

their giving? If you know exactly what charities you want to support, you won't need such help. But some sponsoring organizations additionally help educate their DAF account holders on local needs as well as how to be more effective donors. Working with such organizations could help you develop a greater sense of pride and satisfaction through your charitable giving.

- Can the assets in a DAF account be transferred to another DAF sponsor? You may want to change in the future for any number of reasons, or may simply prefer not being locked in.

- What happens when the DAF account creator is no longer alive? Can successor trustees be named? Can the DAF holder designate charitable beneficiaries to receive the final amount in the fund?

When it comes to selecting a DAF, there is no shortage of

choices. The largest national DAFs are run by brokerage houses Fidelity, Schwab and Vanguard. If you are more inclined to support your local community, there is the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation right in our own backyard. The LAMVCF not only supports national charities through their DAF but local nonprofits as well. Regardless of your preference, DAFs remain an excellent vehicle through which you can accomplish good in the community while at the same time saving on your taxes.

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



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Public Notices

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QUIXOTEFILMS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN711265	The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: QUIXOTE-FILMS, 2308 Park Ave, Santa Clara, CA, 95050, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Arturo Cervantes-Gomez, 2308 Park Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/31/2019. /S/ Arturo Cervantes Gomez / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/18/2024. (12-25-24,01-01,08,15-25)	315-T
SUMMONS Civil Action No. 4:24-cv-02422-HSG Norman Intertrade, Ltd v. Bon-Woong Koo and the Estate of Cha-Hong Koo		
BON-WOONG KOO 243 Angela Drive Los Altos, CA 94022, USA		
AND		
THE ESTATE OF CHA-HONG KOO 243 Angela Drive Los Altos, CA 94022, USA		
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If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court		
Date: 4/29/24 CLERK OF COURT Mark B. Busby /s/ Signature of Clerk of Deputy Clerk (12-25-24,01-01,08,15,22,29-25)		317-T
CALIFORNIA CLOSETS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN711944	The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CALIFORNIA CLOSETS, 1865 South 10th Street, San Jose, CA, 95112, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): THE EMPEROR'S CLOSET, INC, 1865 South 10th Street, San Jose, CA 95112. Registrant began transact-	312-T
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF KIRK HAGGSTROM CASE NO. 24PR198665	To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and	

persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: KIRK HAGGSTROM A Petition for Probate has been filed by DARREN WALLACE in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. The Petition for Probate requests that DARREN WALLACE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court on 01/27/2025 at 9:01AM in Dept. 2 located at 191 NORTH FIRST STREET, SAN JOSE, CA 95113. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: MARINA MODLIN, 800 W. EL CAMINO REAL, STE. 180, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040, Telephone: (800) 991-3070 12/18, 12/25/24, 1/1/25 C N S - 3 8 7 8 2 4 7 # LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER (12-18,25-24,01-01-25)

311-T

SNAP FITNESS LOS ALTOS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. FBN711580

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) SNAP FITNESS LOS ALTOS, (2) SNAP FITNESS, 955 Fremont Ave, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): DXK FITNESS LLC, 1828 Bel Air Ave, San Jose, CA 95126. Registrant began transact-

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: THE REMAINING, 2184 Fairmont Court, San Jose, CA, 95148, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a general partnership. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Chico Stokes, 2184 Fairmont Court, San Jose, CA 95148, Michael A Renteria, 259 N Capitol Ave, San Jose, CA 95127. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/12/2018. /S/ Chico Stokes / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 10/28/2024. (12-11,18,25-24,01-01-25)	308-T
FINA INTERNATIONAL RELOCATION FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN711547	
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: FINA INTERNATIONAL RELOCATION, 260 Yerba Santa Avenue, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Annemarie Wylie Fina, 260 Yerba Santa Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 04/24/2014. /S/ Annemarie W. Fina / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/27/2024. (12-11,18,25-24,01-01-25)	306-T
REBOUND PHYSICAL THERAPY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN711375	
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: REBOUND PHYSICAL THERAPY, 621 E. Campbell Ave, Ste. 10A, Campbell, CA, 95008, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Rupa Benoy Chakravarty, 1618 Peacock Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/01/2024. /S/ Rupa B Chakravarty / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/21/2024. (12-11,18,25-24,01-01-25)	305-T

MILLENNIUM PACIFIC TRADING CO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN711305	The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: MILLENNIUM PACIFIC TRADING CO, 844 Earle Ave, San Jose, CA, 95126, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): MILLENNIUM PACIFIC TRADING CO, 844 Earle Ave, San Jose, CA 95126. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/20/2019. /S/ Jin Lee / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/19/2024. (12-11,18,25-24,01-01-25)	304-T
ENGAGE IQ FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN711105	The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ENGAGE IQ, 2445 Augustine Dr, Suites 201, Santa Clara, CA, 95054, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): ENGAGE LOGIC INC., 2445 Augustine Dr, Suites 201, Santa Clara, CA 95054. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/14/2005. /S/ Daljinder Grewal / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/13/2024. (12-04,11,18,25-24)	303-T
KIND WITHIN COUNSELING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN711407	The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: KIND WITHIN COUNSELING, 851 Fremont Ave., Suite 105, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Susan Louise Driscoll, PO Box 390254, Mountain View, CA 94039. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/2024. /S/ Susan Louise Driscoll / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/22/2024. (12-04,11,18,25-24)	301-T
\$40 is usually all it costs to publish your Fictitious Business Name in the Los Altos Town Crier Email legals@latc.com by 2pm on Thursday		

Datebook

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

EVENTS

Los Altos Main Library. All events held in the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, unless otherwise indicated. **Monday Meditation & Mindfulness**, 10:30 a.m. Mondays, 10:30 a.m. Los Altos Main Library, 7 p.m., Woodland Library, 1975 Grant Road. **Poetry Community Hour Open Mic**, 7 p.m., first Wednesday of every month; **Bay Area Games Day**, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., third Saturday of every month. Other events: **Yan Can Cook Live** with Chef Martin Yan, 7 p.m. Jan. 14. Yan prepares Asian dishes from his two new cookbooks, “The Best of Yan Can Cook” and “MY Asian Kitchen.” Following the culinary demonstration, Yan will be available for a book signing and meet-and-greet with fans; **Roses - Winter Care and Pruning**, 7 p.m., **Jan. 15.** Learn about how winter care and pruning can make a big difference to healthy summer blooms. UC Master Gardener Martha Carpenter will offer tips on what to do right now to have healthy, vibrant flowers next summer and will do a pruning demonstration; **Valentine's Day Cards With Dei**, 7 p.m., Jan. 29. Join instructor Dei to design your own Valentine's Day card. No registration necessary, and all supplies will be provided. all programs are free and open to the public. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. 650-948-7683. Information: scclld.org/events/losaltos.

CLUBS/GROUPS

Assistance League of Los Altos. Social and volunteer group sustaining “The League Shop” nonprofit vintage and collectible store in downtown Los Altos. Programs benefiting underserved infants, children and adults within Santa Clara County. (650) 941-2410, assistanceleague.org/losaltos.

Los Altos Hills Club. Historic Los Altos Hills Club was founded in 1958 as a social club for the women of Los Altos Hills. Fremont Hills Country Club, 12889 Viscaino Place, Los Altos Hills. Information: LAHClub.com.

InSpirit Healing Rooms. Healing service for those battling an illness or injury, or feeling discouraged. 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Union Church campus, 858 University Ave., Los Altos. Interdenominational ministry, member of the International Association of Healing Rooms. InSpiritPrayer@yahoo.com.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Los Altos Chapter. Nonpolitical women's service organization preserving the memory and spirit of those who contributed to securing American independence. The chapter typically meets the third Friday of the month. LosAltosDAR@gmail.com; losaltos.californiadar.org.

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

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

HP Retired Employees Club. Open to HP/Agilent retirees. Activities include luncheons, trips (local, regional and foreign), volunteer work and more. (408) 867-5086; hp.com/retiree.

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

Los Altos Las Madres Playgroups. Playgroups for moms and their babies 5 and under. Meet other new moms for weekly walks, park days and/or indoor play dates in and around Los Altos. Expectant moms, new dads and other caregivers welcome. (650) 917-9914; lasmadres.org.

Quota International of Mountain View/Los Altos. Supports scholarships for hearing-impaired students, El Camino Hospital Infant Hearing Screening Clinic, Community Services Agency. Noon first and third Thursdays of each month. Michael's at Shoreline, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd. Mountain View. (650) 967-5404; quotamvla.org.

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

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

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

Baha'I Faith of Los Altos. Fireside talks. 8-9:30 p.m. Thursdays. 158 Coronado Ave., Los Altos. (650) 948-0143.

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

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

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Midpeninsula Widows and Widowers Association. Nonprofit volunteer group organizes activities for those who have experienced the loss of a spouse. Meets 1:30 to 3 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month and 7:30 to 9 p.m. the remaining Tuesdays at the Los Altos Lutheran Church, 460 S. El Monte Road, Los Altos. More information at mpwwa1.org.

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

WOMENSV. Nonprofit weekly support group for victims of affluent abusers. (650) 996-2200; Dear-Ruth2200@gmail.com (from safe computer/smartphone).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Huntington's Disease Support Group. 7-8:30 p.m. second Tuesday of each month. First Baptist Church, 305 N. California St., Palo Alto. (650) 967-0679.

Sexual Assault Survivors Counseling. Confidential group and individual counseling sessions for survivors of sexual assault. Women meet 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays; men 6:30 p.m. Drop-in counseling: 2-5 p.m., Tuesdays. Mid-Peninsula YWCA, 4161 Alma St., Palo Alto. \$5. (650) 494-0993, ext. 316.

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

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

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

Breast Cancer Support Group. 7:30-9 p.m., second and fourth Tuesdays. Mid-Peninsula YWCA, 4161 Alma St., Palo Alto. (650) 988-6612.

OBITUARY NOTICE

VALDA CARDOZA TORMEY



February 21, 1925 – November 27, 2024

Valda Theodora Cardoza Tormey was born at home in Half Moon Bay, CA. on February 21, 1925 to Manuel E. “Pat” Cardoza and Valda Malvina Cardoza. She was the youngest of five children. By her account she spent an idyllic childhood with lots of picnics and Sunday drives. Both sets of her grandparents lived nearby.

After graduating from Half Moon Bay High School in 1942, she attended the College of San Mateo, then San Jose State University from which she received a teaching credential. Valda taught for 35 years in Palo Alto Unified School District and after retiring gave twenty more years to substituting in that same district. She lived for nearly 30 years in Los Altos before settling in Mountain View where she resided for 45 years.

This active senior gave her time and belonged to many groups including Neighbors Abroad, AAUW, Nat’l Education Assoc., California Teachers Assoc., ADK, Alpha Chi Omega, San Jose State University Alumni Assoc., California Retired Teachers Assoc., and United Methodist Women of LAUMC, among others.

Valda passed away on November 27, 2024 at the age of 99 ¾ years old. She is survived by her 5 children; Vallen Queen, Betsey Sowder, Brian Tormey (Millie), Kris Miravalle (Butch), and Kathleen Keehn (the late Scott), 10 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren all of whom adored her. A woman who was kind and sweet beyond belief, she will be greatly missed.



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