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Los Altos Town Crier

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

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WEDNESDAY • November 5, 2025

Mountain View honors the dead



S.M. LIEU/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

The city of Mountain View hosted its Dia de Muertos celebration Saturday. A day prevalent for many in the Mexican culture, Dia de Muertos is a time to celebrate the dead and remember them. Dia de Muertos is a joyous occasion rather than a sad one and includes bright colors, food, altars – or ofrendas – dance and other celebrations.

Downtown Los Altos gas leak Monday causes evacuations



HOWARD BISCHOFF/TOWN CRIER

Sanra Clara County Fire responds to a gas leak Monday.

By Christina Casillas
Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

A gas leak prompted evacuations from areas of downtown Los Altos Monday morning.

The gas leak was first reported at 8:48 a.m. and required evacuations in the affected area, which included the parts of First Street between Main Street and West Edith Avenue down Third Street. The leak originated from Parking Plaza North near First Street.

Santa Clara County Fire and

Los Altos Police officers were first on the scene. According to City Manager Gabe Engeland, the leak was most likely caused by construction crews in the affected area piercing a gas line, he stated in an email.

The leak, described as significant and audible, was secured at 10:44 a.m.

The last area to be cleared was 199 First Street as it required more extensive ventilation of the area, according to a story post to the Los Altos Police department's Instagram page.

Check online for election updates

Due to the Town Crier's Monday print deadline, no election-related numbers or updates are in this issue. We will provide updates on our website as votes for Measure A and the Santa Clara County Assessor's seat roll in. Visit losaltosonline.com for updated information.

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Around Town

Trick or treat!



GABRIELA DE CARVALHO TELES/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Young ones got the chance to go trick-or-treating for the first time in downtown Los Altos this year. Forrest Lavalley, left, went as a dinosaur, while Chloe Wilson, right, was a cat. The Los Altos Village Association put on the event Friday featuring crafts, games, balloons and pumpkin decorating at the Veterans Community Plaza.



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One First Street, Los Altos | +/- 1,331 to +/- 3,090 SF; Various suites available with private offices, open area, kitchenettes, and natural light; dedicated HVAC to each suite.
949 Sherwood Ave., Los Altos | +/- 1,280 SF; 2nd floor office space; 2 private offices/meeting rooms; open work area with natural light; operable windows; walk to all amenities on El Camino Real.
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News

Mixed-use project proposed for Castro

By Giuseppe Ricapito

Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

An eight-story mixed-use housing development with 140 new units has been proposed for Castro Street – just adjacent to a mixed-use housing development intended to replace the Chase Bank on West El Camino Real.

The mixed-use building at 881 Castro Street – to be called “Castro Commons” – is set to include condominium units, 9,744 square feet of ground-floor commercial space and two levels of below-grade parking.

The city held an administrative zoning public hearing on the development on Oct. 22, and a recommendation was made to the city council to approve the development plans.

Edgar Maravilla, a senior planner with the city, said the development plan had met the conditional requirements for approval. City council will consider the proposal Dec. 9.

The developers are planning for 22 units dedicated to low-income households. The site will have an outdoor paseo, approximately 200 parking spaces and 164 bicycle parking spaces.

The property is being developed by GPR Ventures, a San Jose-based real estate development firm. The group first applied for permits in April 2023. The development plan is to remove five existing commercial buildings, two surface parking lots and one residential building at the site.

GPR Ventures filed its application under SB 330, which sets a ministerial review process for certain housing developments if the developments meet certain requirements.

The 1.43-acre site will require the merging of six parcels between Castro Street and Hope Street, including a portion of Fairmount Avenue.

Peter Given, a spokesperson for GPR Ventures, said there were still some aspects of the conditional approval which were being finalized with the city before the Dec. 9 meeting.

“It’s been a long time coming for this project and we are very excited,” Given said.

See CASTRO, Page 6

Los Altos ends contract with chamber of commerce



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

A contract between the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce and the city of Los Altos was terminated last week following a presentation from Kim Mosley, chamber president, above. The presentation frustrated some council members, including Larry Lang, left.

By Christina Casillas

Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

A contract between the city of Los Altos and the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce is moot after the chamber put out its latest magazine. Any future events or magazines put on by the chamber with city support will be taken on a case-by-case basis.

The decision came after an Oct. 28 presentation given by Kim Mosley, Los Altos Chamber of Commerce president, related to the use of funds the

chamber receives as part of a contract it has with the city.

Approved in 2023, the five-year contract provided the chamber \$67,500 annually in exchange for:

- Printing 20,000 copies of a Los Altos Magazine on a topic council approves with the inclusion of a Recreation Department full-page ad

- The creation of a digital edition of the magazine and the dissemination of 16,000 Los Altos Magazines to households in Los Altos and other local com-

munities, and 4,000 Los Altos Magazines for local pickup at local coffee shops and hotels

- Operation of the Visitors Center office located at 321 University Ave. and maintenance of a community calendar

The chamber will still operate the visitor’s center despite the contract’s termination.

The presentation was a continuation of discussions related to the chamber magazine Mosley and the council had at the Oct. 14 city council meeting.

The chamber was late in pro-

viding the 2024/2025 magazine edition, Mosley told council, because of unexpected hurdles. She said the chamber was on track to publish the missed edition by the end of November and the 2025/2026 magazine would be on track to publish six months after.

Members of council, including Councilmember Sally Meadows, did not support the short interval between the magazine publications, and

See CONTRACT, Page 7

Green advocates commend Los Altos reach code adoptions

By Christina Casillas

Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

Local community members voiced support of building energy code amendments Los Altos City Council members unanimously approved last week.

The changes, which included 14 codes in addition to the amendments, were part of the city’s overall adoption of the 2025 California building standards. While the city cannot require all new buildings to be built with electric-only appliances, changes will allow the future implementation of electric appliances by requiring the installation of electrical components when changes require an electrical permit.

“This is a small and important step for constructing building, but also for our health,” Los Altos resident Cheryl Weiden said during the Oct. 28 city council meeting.

Contentious Los Altos Hills leader Peter Pirnejad to retire next month

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

Los Altos Hills City Manager Peter Pirnejad has resigned from his position and is retiring Jan. 23, the town announced Wednesday.

Pirnejad is on leave through his retirement date, while Deputy City Manager Cody Einfalt will be acting city manager and take over daily responsibilities, City Attorney Steve Mattas said.

The city council will hold a special meeting in the near future to talk about the recruiting process for a new city manager. A decision has not been made on whether a search firm will be used in the search, although the council has used a search firm in previous hiring decisions.

Pirnejad will be compensated by the

town through his retirement date, and as part of his retirement, he has waived his severance rights, Mattas said.

Pirnejad has served as city manager since 2021. Mayor Kavita Tankha said in a press release, “The city council appreciates the service Peter has provided to the town, and we wish him the best.”

Pirnejad’s tenure has not been without contention. Pirnejad has taken some heat from residents who blame heavy town staff turnover on his management style and a reliance on consultants, with some residents calling for his resignation in 2023. However, Pirnejad received unanimous backing from the city council at the time. The current city council held an Oct. 16 special meeting for an employee performance evaluation for Pirnejad, during which there was no reportable action to the public.

Mountain View awarded for climate action

By Giuseppe Ricapito

Staff Writer/giuseppe@latc.com

Mountain View has received an award from the civic nonprofit organization Institute for Local Government for its leadership in clean energy innovation.

The city acknowledged the 2025 Beacon Leadership and Innovation Award in Innovation in Energy during the Oct. 28 city council meeting. The city received the accolade for its zero-emission landscaping training and tool-lending library program at the Day Worker Center of Mountain View, a nonprofit which directly connects workers in construction, landscaping, housework, promotions and events with employers.

“Through our partnership with the Day Worker Center, we launched a landscaping training and tool lending program that expands skills, promotes clean energy and creates a healthier environment for workers and the community,” Mayor Ellen Kamei stated in a city press release. “The innovative program helps day workers expand their skills, increase economic opportunity and advance electric landscaping adoption.”

The city provided \$20,000 to fund the purchase of electric leaf blowers, hedge trimmers, lawn mowers, chainsaws and pole head trimmers



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

Battery-powered leaf blowers, like the one this gentleman is using in Los Altos, are part of what led the city of Mountain View to receive the 2025 Beacon Leadership and Innovation Award in Innovation and Energy.

available at the center. The center organized hands-on training in English and Spanish and gave electric tool certifications to the students. Residents could then rent the electric tools through the tool lending library if they worked with a certified professional from the Day Worker Center.

The tool library went live on Feb. 5, 2024. Workers have completed 488 hours of work with the electric tools for 129 employers, according to the press release. An estimated 232 pounds of toxic emissions were reduced using the battery-powered tools.

Mountain View is one of five local government agencies to receive the 2025 Leadership in Innovation Beacon Award. City officials accepted the

award on Oct. 8 at the League of California Cities Annual Conference.

There are 180 cities, counties and special districts statewide that participate in the Beacon Program. The awards recognize voluntary efforts by cities, counties and special districts that are reducing greenhouse gas emissions, saving energy and adopting policies that promote sustainability.

“This award is just one way we thank and celebrate our local government partners for their proactive efforts in developing innovative solutions to make California more sustainable and resilient,” stated Erica L. Manuel, Institute for Local Government CEO and executive director, in a press release.

Expanded benefits expected under refurbished Mountain View tenant relocation ordinance

By Giuseppe Ricapito

Staff Writer/giuseppe@latc.com

The Mountain View City Council will make changes to their tenant relocation ordinance in order to increase benefits to low-income residents.

The council made a unanimous vote during the Oct. 28 city council meeting to direct staff to make additional changes to the tenant relocation assistance rules (TRAO) and return for a first reading and vote. The council is tentatively set to review the items for a first reading of the ordinance amendment during its Dec. 9 meeting.

“I think we’ve undertaken an effort as council to try and reduce housing costs to the extent that we can,” said Councilmember Chris Clark. “We also need to think about the other costs we are passing on.”

The TRA0 is a local ordinance that requires relocation benefits to households of a certain income that are displaced from rental units, such as those covered by the city’s rent control. The ordinance specifies the amount of benefits renters can receive and requirements for landlords if they displace tenants, among other requirements.

The new amendments will prospectively increase benefits for tenants under the ordinance. The city plans to use a new metric to classify tenants according to their income and the area median income, with low-income individuals being provided new and expanded funding from the city. Moving costs, covered by a landlord, would have a 50-mile limit.

The changes also include right of first refusal for tenants, new noticing requirements and a new section on temporary displacement.

The item is a program

See ORDINANCE, Page 7

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Ordering Deadline November 28th

CASTRO From Page 4

Ken Rodrigues, the project architect, said that the design was intended to be community oriented, with outdoor dining and seating, lighting and other amenities.

“People will be able to walk through this paseo to the park at the corner of El Camino and Castro and we hope it will be very active,” Rodrigues said.

The development will be across the street from a proposed 299-unit housing development which would replace the Chase Bank at the corner of West El Camino Real and Castro Street.

The proposal was made by Charleston-based multinational developer Greystar Real Estate Partners and calls for a mixed-use structure with 299 residential apartment units and 22,337 square feet of retail, restaurant, bank space and parking at 749 West El Camino Real. The plan designates 33 of the units for low-income households.

The project plans include the demolition of the still-operating Chase Bank building at the site, which includes a historic mosaic created by architect Millard Sheets in the 1970s. The vacant Clarke’s Restaurant next to the Chase parking lot will also be demolished.

Rep. Sam Liccardo hosts LAH town hall on federal shutdown



CURTIS DRISCOLL/TOWN CRIER

Sam Liccardo speaks to constituents during a town hall meeting about the government shutdown last week at Foothill College.

By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

While distributing meals at St. Athanasius Church in Mountain View Oct. 25, Rep. Sam Liccardo, D-San Jose, saw a line longer than had been seen in many months by staffers.

The disconcerting sight could become more prevalent as the federal government shutdown stretches to over a month, prompting Liccardo to host a town hall at Foothill College Smithwick Theater on Thursday to discuss the issues in Washington, D.C., people not receiving SNAP benefits and all the implications of a continued shutdown.

“There was a line around the block that was reminiscent of what they saw during the pandemic,” Liccardo said of his church visit. “So, people are struggling. Combined with federal employees in the area who aren’t getting paychecks, we’ve got a lot of folks in need.”

While Liccardo declined to prognosticate on the likelihood of a deal, he did note there was no pathway forward to end the shutdown until Speaker Mike Johnson was actually willing to negotiate, noting there has been only one vote on the budget and little negotiation.

“First, in every shutdown previously, Congress stayed in session,” Liccardo said. “We had leadership in the House and the Senate that had us back in Washington, D.C., negotiat-

ing. I’ve been back in Washington now three out of the last four weeks, more than 200 Democratic colleagues, with nobody to negotiate with on the other side.”

Nearly 40,000 residents in Liccardo’s district rely on SNAP benefits and are at risk of slowdowns in November that could affect access to food, while Democrats are pushing for an extension of the pandemic-era Affordable Care Act tax credits designed to help reduce the costs of health insurance, which are expected to increase significantly this month for at least 28,000 residents in the district.

“It’s already too expensive to live in the Bay Area: housing, groceries, health costs,” Liccardo said. “Now to see health increases; in some cases, premiums will double.”

Federal employees in the Bay Area are also having to deal with not getting paychecks for the past month. Paul Kvamme, an air traffic controller at San Jose International Airport, is classified as an essential worker and must work during the shutdown despite not getting paid. He and other controllers feel helpless amid the uncertainty about when the next paycheck will arrive. Kvamme attended the town hall to ask when and how the shutdown would end, urging Liccardo to call on his colleagues to end the partisan infighting and vote for any bill

See SHUTDOWN, Page 7



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ORDINANCE

From Page 5

within the 2023-2031 Housing Element, a city planning document guiding the development of new housing during the time period. The council held study sessions in November and December of 2024 on the tenant relocation assistance.

The updated TRAO will take effect 30 days after the second reading.

Mountain View must develop more than 11,000 new units over the time

period of the housing element.

Tenant relocation funding is in part provided to the city via SB 330, or the Housing Crisis Act of 2012.

Councilmember Alison Hicks noted that the city had some restrictions on how much, and to whom, tenant relocation could be provided due to the state guidelines.

"There's a number of things we want flexibility on. We're incorporating them after stakeholder input into the administrative guidelines," Hicks said.

SHUTDOWN

From Page 6

that ends the shutdown, which has disrupted people's lives.

"I have a coworker who is a new father who just had a baby, just went out on paternity leave, and I don't know what he's feeling, but I'm sure it's not great right now, trying to provide for this new human being," Kvamme said.

Liccardo said he couldn't vote for a bill just because one

was presented, especially if it would harm Americans across the country who needed food and health care relief.

"You have to understand, we can't throw tens of millions of Americans under the bus because some people believe you can use cruelty as a lever," Liccardo said. "We are seeing it now, obviously, with SNAP benefits."

As of Monday, the shutdown is on day 34 and remains in effect.

CONTRACT

From Page 4

Mayor Pete Dailey decided the best choice of action was to not adopt any amendments, but to push the conversations to a later date.

"What I would like to do is immediately bring something back that would allow the chamber to get the magazine published this time, and no more than that, and then having a second bite at the apple where we have a more comprehensive discussion about if we want to pay for the magazine going forward, and if we instead want to spend the money on some other method of promoting business in our community," he said Oct. 14.

"Legends of Los Altos," as pitched by Mosley last week, would bring in foot traffic and stimulate local business, she said. The three-day celebration would kick off with First Friday events, including a night show, shuttles and a potential drone show. The proposed 200-drone flight show would cost \$50,000 per show – while Mosley said

she aimed to receive sponsorship dollars to fund the drone show, the ultimate total for the event was \$105,000.

The presentation confused members of council, as they were expecting discussions about the future of the magazine and how else the chamber could potentially use the \$67,500 the city provides it. The goal of the current contract between the city and chamber is to increase the amount of visitors supporting the local economy.

"It sounds exciting, but why are we talking about this? We were here to talk about the contract and the magazine that didn't fulfill the terms of the contract, so I'm not clear where what you just talked about falls in with the discussion about where we were going with the contract," Meadows said after Mosley's presentation.

Mosley said she chose to present the Los Altos Super Bowl event – though not including the phrase "Super Bowl" in its marketing because it's an NFL trademark – for the "use of funds for the 2026

spring season."

"What I also took away from the last meeting was that there was not significant interest in printing another magazine in the spring, and that I should consider what we might do as an alternative," she said.

Frustration from council members stemmed from time constraints – the Super Bowl is in February – potential inclement weather and the idea that many parts of the event were "not well-thought out." They also noted that there was no support voiced by chamber members to the council for her proposed event.

"I don't think you served yourself well with this Super Bowl proposal. I don't think it's a serious proposal," Councilmember Larry Lang said during the meeting. "The Super Bowl is in 103 days, we're not in the position tonight to take action on that money. The earliest we can take action would be Nov. 19, and that's 82 days to pull off a very substantial thing for the pricetag you're saying of \$100,000."

2025 Holiday SHOPPING & DINING GUIDE

On November 12th, the Los Altos Town Crier will publish a holiday shopping and dining guide-themed box pages.

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Other Voices

Bullis Charter is willing to continue the conversation with LASD

By Maureen Israel

Bullis Charter School would like to respond to the recent actions of the LASD board. We were surprised that the LASD Board of Trustees stated that Bullis Charter School has not engaged with them regarding facilities. This is disappointing, as we have had multiple meetings over the last several years, and most recently, in spring 2025, we had a number of productive conversations with LASD board members and staff.

As a reminder, Bullis Charter School has the legal right to stay where we are, but we continue to be willing to engage with LASD. Our preference would be for the bond money to be used to upgrade all existing campus-

es, including the current BCS facilities. This would enable all nine existing sites to be brought up to modern standards, benefiting all children in this community. Building a new school with a declining school-age population does not seem necessary. However, we understand that the San Antonio Site is now part of the district's facilities master plan.

Bullis' priority is to continue delivering the high-quality program that this community has come to love. We are open to continuing the conversation for both LASD and BCS to collectively best utilize the sites within the district, including the San Antonio Site.

Israel is the Executive Director of Bullis Charter School.

It's time for LASD and BCS to work together

By Sangeeth Peruri

Kudos to LASD for taking the important step of agreeing to build Bullis Charter School a permanent home at the San Antonio campus. The district

made the right call by committing to modern, state-of-the-art facilities rather than setting BCS in temporary portables.

Locating BCS at the San Antonio campus creates a

Letters to the Editor

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

Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

"Bond Rallies," like this one in Los Altos in 1942, were held across the country to encourage citizens to buy War Bonds to help finance WWII. These soldiers may be from the Page Mill Road Army Training Camp that was located along the southern edge of Stanford University.

tremendous opportunity to show the rest of the country how public and charter schools can work together to serve students and families. If BCS's TK-5 grades are housed at San Antonio, BCS middle-school students could share the Egan campus with LASD's middle-school students, creating meaningful benefits for the entire community.

BCS Benefits:

- Long-term, permanent facilities
- Modern classrooms and learning environments for TK-5 students
- More space for middle-school students at Egan
- Two nearby campuses that make pick-up and drop-

off easier for families

LASD Benefits:

- Avoids closing an LASD neighborhood school
- Enables a 6-8 middle-school model to improve student outcomes
- Frees up space at Blach and Egan
- Creates more room at LASD's elementary schools to serve TK expansion

Community Benefits:

- New gym and field space in Mountain View
- Reduced traffic congestion around Egan and Blach
- A campus located within walking distance of the LASD's highest-density neighborhoods in Mountain View

• A chance to finally end 25 years of BCS-LASD conflict
Over time, LASD and BCS have the chance to move from coexistence to collaboration. Together, they could combine resources to attract top-tier STEM and computer-science teachers, form joint sports teams, or collaborate in band and orchestra. Perhaps BCS could even become a school within LASD.

That future may seem distant, but every journey begins with a single step. The San Antonio campus could become the start of a new chapter. One defined by partnership rather than division.

Peruri is a Los Altos resident and former LASD board president.

Letter to the Editor

Council vote on dog park turf was commendable

Reviewing the Town Crier's front page article in the Oct. 22, 2025 edition, "Los Altos City Council returns Hillview Dog Park to the outreach stage," I wanted to lend a voice of support for the 4-1 vote.

The council members clearly listened to the environmental and health concerns of the community, did their own research and factored new information to come to the conclusion that the installation of artificial turf needed to be reevaluated considering the environmental and health hazards. Further, I want to

commend the council for requesting the Environmental Commission look into a turf policy for the city. This action very directly aligns with the city's 2022 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan goals and the direction of many other Bay Area cities.

Laura Fay
Los Altos



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Community

From Pearl Harbor to Shoup Park, local man leaves a legacy

By Robin Chapman

There are plenty of reasons you might want to know more about the “Cradle of Liberty” memorial in Shoup Park. It is a beautiful and surprising work of art to find tucked away in the corner of this much-loved oasis, with its bronze shading so in tune with the nature that surrounds it.

It is also a meaningful work dedicated to all who have served America in uniform.

But behind it lies another story, of a man who survived World War II to find peace in Los Altos, and was grateful.

William C. Henderson, of Oil City, Pennsylvania, enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1940 on his 18th birthday. On Dec. 7, 1941, he was serving aboard the light cruiser, USS Helena, docked at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when he was knocked out of his bunk by a huge blast. A Japanese

military plane had aimed a torpedo at the Helena and it had hit its mark. The cruiser stayed afloat, her sailors rushed to their battle stations, and the ship’s guns brought down six of the 29 enemy aircraft downed that day. Of the 2,403 Americans killed in that battle, 31 were sailors from the Helena. America entered World War II and machinist first class Bill Henderson was in for the duration.

Santa Clara Valley Lives

Within days, engineers had the Helena patched up and she sailed for Mare Island, Vallejo, for full repairs. Then, she headed back to war. With Henderson on board, she saw action in 12 more Pacific battles. But it is the last one that is the most

important.

In the early hours of July 6, 1943, the Helena was part of a task force that engaged the Japanese in the Battle of Kula Gulf. Henderson recalled checking the escape hatches near his battle station, to make sure he had a clear exit. He was wise to do so. Shortly after 2 a.m., an enemy torpedo took off the bow of the Helena and minutes later two more torpedoes hit the ship and left her sinking. When the captain ordered the crew to abandon ship, the sailors headed topside and into the Pacific in the middle of the night.

Before the battle, Henderson had told a friend he feared a lot of ships and sailors might not see the dawn. “As it turned out,” he wrote later, “the Helena was one of the ships and I was almost one of those sailors.” But the word “almost” is key, and in one of the biggest



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBIN CHAPMAN

William C. Henderson in a photograph from World War II.

rescue operations of the war, nearby American ships came

See HENDERSON, Page 11

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SAINT SIMON SCHOOL PRESCHOOL TO 8TH GRADE



Foothills Church to host screening of 'Paper Lanterns'

By Kaelyn Tan
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Foothills Congregational Church will screen the award-winning documentary "Paper Lanterns" at 3 p.m. Saturday, with producer Nobuko Saito Cleary of Los Altos Hills slated to be among the attendees and available to answer questions afterward.

"Paper Lanterns" follows Shigeaki Mori, a Japanese atomic bomb survivor from Hiroshima, on his quest to identify 12 American prisoners of war killed in the bombings and to provide closure to their families.

Saito Cleary was among the producers of the film, released in 2016. Along with being a longtime community volunteer, she has also fostered U.S.-Japan relations for decades since immigrating from Japan. Saito Cleary runs the international firm Cross-Cultural Communications, which develops business relationships between the U.S. and Japan.

While studying English at Northeastern University in 1970s, Saito Cleary said she was asked to support the production of "Paper Lanterns."

"The first version was very different," Saito Cleary said. "I gave the director notes and he changed

(the film). That experience made me realize how film can teach people humanity."

She added that the opportunity to support the making of "Paper Lanterns" was a transformative experience. Saito Cleary said she believed in the film's message and was on a mission to share it with people from diverse backgrounds.

Saito Cleary has traveled across continents to screenings at institutions and venues, answering people's questions about the film along the way. Through her interactions, Saito Cleary said she noticed a difference between American and Japanese students' responses to seeing the film.

"After this movie, some high school students told me their grandmother was a hibakusha," Saito Cleary said, referring to the Japanese term for the atomic bomb survivors. "They really wanted to learn more."

On the other hand, many American students were unfamiliar with the topic because she said they did not learn about it in school.

However, Saito Cleary noticed one common thread wherever she shared the film.

"But one common feeling was always: no more war," Saito Cleary

See NOBUKO, Page 13



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Nobuko Saito Cleary.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NOBUKO SAITO CLEARY

Community

HENDERSON

From Page 9

to the aid of the Helena. Of her 1,200 men, 168 were lost. But more than a thousand were saved. And among them was Bill Henderson.

On leave in California, the young sailor fell in love. At a dance, he met Frances Hartman. They would marry after the war, move to Los Altos, and spend the rest of their lives together. "It was love at first sight," he said.

All of this may explain why, in 1996, Henderson and his neighbor Col. Jay Brandon (USAF) got the idea that Los Altos should have a veterans memorial. It would be set in a quiet place, they decided, and would not glorify war. With no experience in public art or fundraising the two friends worked to make it happen. They held a competition and selected Rebecca Joy

Truman – a distant cousin of the president – to design the work. They found hundreds of donors and raised \$122,000 to make it possible. After just two years, they had the work completed in time for a Shoup Park ceremony on July 4, 1998. Two thousand people turned out to celebrate.

"I feel very fortunate to have survived the war without a scratch," Henderson wrote in a book he published about his ship. In 1998, he and Brandon were named Los Altos Volunteers of the Year. Today, long after their deaths, the "Cradle of Liberty" in Shoup Park stands as a tribute to their service, and to the service of so many others.

What a fitting place to visit on Veterans Day. Or any other day, as well.

Robin Chapman is a longtime journalist, a Los Altos native, and the author of three books about California.

Peninsula Career Collective coming to State Street Market

Town Crier Report

Those seeking help navigating the current job market and a community working together to collaborate and connect are invited to the Peninsula Career Collective event Nov. 18.

Taking place at Murdoch's inside State Street Market in Los Altos from 5-6 p.m., the event will help people pursue their career goals and provide a group that can talk about their experi-

ences and ideas. Those interested in exploring next career steps, growing in a role or looking to meet interesting people are invited to come and form a supportive and relaxed community. Trivia Night at State Street Market after at 6:30 p.m. will also provide an opportunity to mingle and get to know others. Kevin Punzalan, an early Googler and now leadership coach will be attending to speak to the community. Punzalan spent 22 years at Google helping people and teams achieve their goals.



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New mural from Arts Los Altos now at GK Pastry

By Arts Los Altos

Arts Los Altos recently completed a new mural on the storefront of GK Pastry in downtown Los Altos, painted by artist Morgan Bricca.

Titled “Pie in the Sky,” it is inspired by Wayne Thiebaud’s magical paintings of cakes and pastries and now resides at 251 Main St.

Bricca is a self-taught, international muralist who has been painting murals for 25 years. Her favorite mural subject is nature, which she finds calming in urban areas. She describes her style as “large format, fine art, with

painterly exuberance.” Bricca has a strong preference for murals, which transform a place at scale and are commissioned for a particular purpose. She believes murals engage the community in conversation, and she finds the collaborative aspect interesting based on the site and location. Bricca enjoyed the collaboration with Arts Los Altos and the business owners at GK Pastry. She was able to interpret Wayne Thiebaud’s work with her happy, colorful brushwork and painterly style. Bricca feels that understanding other artists’ styles expands her own creative repertoire and loves feedback when

she designs her murals, creating a collaborative art form. When working with clients, Bricca aspires to meet their expectations and then add her painterly style to enhance the artwork. Arts Los Altos will host a meet-the-artist/art opening on First Friday, Nov. 7 at 6 p.m. There will be live music, food provided by GK Pastry, and beverages. Everyone is invited to meet the artist and celebrate Arts Los Altos’ latest public art installation.

Arts Los Altos will also be giving its free walking tour on First Friday at 5 p.m. The tour features a kid-friendly scavenger hunt with prizes, led by Ginny



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTS LOS ALTOS

The new Pie in the Sky mural at GK Pastry in Los Altos.

Strock. Bring the whole family to explore downtown’s murals. Meet at 5 p.m. at the Mandahlia sculpture, 169 State St. The walk-

ing tour will end at GK pastry for the meet-the-artist/art opening. To sign up for the walking tour, visit artslosaltos.org.



Assess Your Flood Risk and Flood Insurance Availability

In the City of Los Altos, stormwater runoff is conveyed naturally or through the City’s stormwater system to the Adobe, Permanente, Stevens or Hale Creek. While the occurrence of flooding is infrequent, knowing your flood risk, being prepared, and protecting your property well ahead of large storm events can reduce your exposure to flood damage.

About 400 properties in Los Altos are located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Areas within the SFHA are likely to flood during a 100-year storm event or have a 1% annual chance of flooding. Even if not within the SFHA, your property could still flood. You can review flood maps available at the Planning Division counter at City Hall, the Reference Desk of the Los Altos Main Public Library or on the internet at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>.

To obtain federally secured financing to buy, build, or improve structures within a SFHA, you are required to have flood insurance as required by federal law. Additionally, flood insurance is available to all property owners, businesses, and renters regardless of whether the property is within a SFHA and whether the property is backed by a federally secured loan. Flood insurance may be purchased through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The City of Los Altos participates in the Community Rating System and because of the City’s accredited activities, property owners receive reductions on flood insurance premiums.

Information about flood insurance can be obtained from private insurance agents, or by contacting the National Flood Insurance Program customer service line at 1-800-427-4661 or www.floodsmart.gov.

Be aware that development within a SFHA requires compliance with certain building performance standards of the NFIP. Specific standards are included in Chapter 12.60 Floodplain Management of the Municipal Code and relevant building codes. Additional guidance in the implementation of the standards is provided by the City’s Planning and Building Divisions. Property owners can obtain copies of Elevation Certificates of recently constructed buildings in the SFHA from the City. Elevation certificates can provide elevation information necessary to ensure compliance with community floodplain management ordinances and to inform the proper insurance premium. Property owners can also work with a Licensed Land Surveyor or Civil Engineer to obtain a new Elevation Certificate.

General information about flood preparedness and protection resources, signing up for emergency alerts and specific storm events can be done through the Valley Water website at <https://www.valleywater.org/floodready>

Los Altos floodplain management and storm drain maintenance contact information:

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- Storm drain maintenance & flooding, Street Maintenance 650-947-2785 or 650-947-2770 (after hours)
- Flood emergencies, Police and Fire Departments, during emergencies, dial 911

Call for Applications El Camino Health Governance Committee Member

EL CAMINO HOSPITAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS is seeking individual(s) interested in serving as a member of its **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**. El Camino Health is an Integrated Health Delivery System which serves the residents / workers of Silicon Valley and Santa Clara County. El Camino Health has received a number of awards for top-level quality and patient experience.

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This is a volunteer, unpaid Committee member role. Candidates from the local community in and around Santa Clara County would be appropriate.

Interested candidates, please fill out candidate questionnaire and submit your resume.

Submissions due by **November 21, 2025**

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submit online:



Community

NOBUKO

From Page 10
said.

That's a feeling Saito Cleary hopes "Paper Lanterns" conveys to audiences.

"I made the movie to (show) how important it is to have peace in this world," she said. "Humanity is much more above those weapons. Humans could be, even though the situation is so ugly or painful, above those things."

"Paper Lanterns" was screened at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland, last year and locally was shown at Stanford University this past summer.

Admission to Saturday's screening is free. Foothills Congressional Church is located at 461 Orange Ave., Los Altos.

For more information, visit Foothills-church.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOBUKO SAITO CLEARY
Nobuko Saito Cleary with former Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

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Spiritual Life

'Be Holy, because I Am Holy'

By Laurie Kurgas

The Lord God gives a command to his people, "Be Holy, because I Am Holy," as written in the Bible (Leviticus and 1 Peter). What does it mean to be holy? How do we define holiness in our lifestyle today?

The Bible is the story of God's love for us through Jesus, and it's filled with God's instructions on how to live. As Christians, we follow Jesus, and we learn from His teachings and through His example. When asked what is the greatest commandment, Jesus replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37). Then, He added that the second greatest commandment is similar, which is to love your neighbor as yourself. These two commandments sum up how we are to live, in peace with God and in peace with one another, with Godly love being at the core.

In chapters 14 and 15 of the Gospel of John, Jesus says that if we love Him then we are to obey His commandments. He describes how, out of our love for Him, we are to follow what He commands. And thus, we will see peace and blessings in our lives. When we disobey Him, then we suffer consequences. We see evil take over and try to drown out the light of Christ. But, light shines in the darkness, and darkness cannot overcome it (John 1:5).

All throughout the Bible, we see the battle between good and evil. And, when we ourselves follow Jesus, we have His light in us, and we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, to guide us, and give us revelation and power to overcome evil. Good should have no part in evil, we should not partake of evil deeds and actions. Years ago, the Lord told me not to participate in Halloween at all, because it celebrates evil and makes it seem like evil is cool or fun. God has called us to be holy and we are set apart for His holy purpose. We should ask ourselves, if Jesus were alive today, would He decorate His home with evil symbols, or would He dress up like an evil character? Would He hand out tons of sugary candy to children and teach them to scare their neighbors?

Well, it's not easy to avoid Hal-

loween – in fact, it's estimated that people in the U.S. will spend around \$13 billion on this event in 2025. In recent years, even churches have created their own version of Halloween, calling it a harvest festival. I, too, gave in to this idea. But, God really convinced me several years ago that we are not to be conformed to the world, we are not to take an evil ritual and try to make it seem holy or okay. We should just skip it altogether. As Christians, we are to live as light, and not participate in the darkness of evil. We reap what we sow. If we are sowing into, or spending our time or money on something that highlights darkness and evil, then we will reap more darkness and evil in our lives, and in our society.

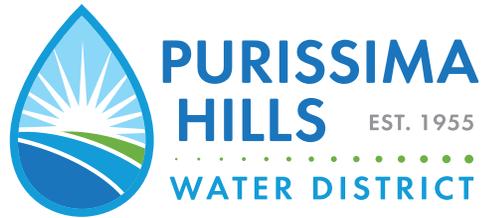
Spiritual Perspective

As we've prayed for healing for many people over the years, we've seen how what we watch, what we listen to, what we participate in actually affects our wellbeing, it affects our soul and spirit, as well as our body. Many who we have prayed for that are battling depression or anxiety have described how they have participated in some evil practice or tradition, or how they have taken part in something that is not of God, that is not holy. It's amazing how we have seen people set free as we pray and break off the evil things from their past, and God replaces them with the light of Christ and peace of the Holy Spirit, as well as with God's truth that they are loved and their life has a special purpose, a holy purpose.

I close with this admonition from the Scriptures, in 1 Thesalonians 5:22-23: "Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." May we all have a blessed and holy life, filled with the love and joy of the Lord.

If you would like to receive prayer, please reach out via email to InSpiritPrayer@yahoo.com.

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Los Altos Town Crier

Stepping Out

Foothill's production of 'R.U.R.' swaps robots for AI

By **Ethan Xue**
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Foothill Theatre Arts will stage the West Coast premiere of the play "R.U.R.," which stands for "Rossum's Universal Robots," Nov. 7-23 in Los Altos Hills.

The production is largely based on the 1921 play by Karel Čapek about the creation, evolution and eventual rebellion of robots. The original version follows the journey of the titular Harry Rossum, heir to a factory producing robot laborers, who falls in love with Helena, the president's daughter who advocates for robot ethics.

Foothill's production, however, is an adaptation of Bo List's version. Director Bruce McLeod said it retains the same plot points as the original play while providing a contemporary twist: AI takes the place of robots.

"I have a history of digging up different adaptations of plays," McLeod said. "I'm very drawn to parallels in society between

the 1920s and '30s and 2020s, so I think a lot of what we're going through now is what the world was going through in that era."

Supporting actor Christopher Arnold, who works as a developer in the tech industry, said the new version offers a satirical perspective while commenting on the emergence of generative AI.

"The whole play is a revisiting of the fear of robots taking over the way of life in the industrial age," Arnold said. "McLeod is producing this because the sentiment in Silicon Valley is once again rising up about people being afraid AI is going to take over a major position in society and our daily work lives."

Within the dialogue, McLeod said the modern comedic references juxtapose the serious topic and provide greater engagement for this rendition.

"Even though it's still set in the 1920s and we will have period-style costumes, the language is much more modern," McLeod

said. "There are all sorts of references the audience is going to appreciate and connect to, and that makes the main issue, what it means to be a human, more relevant."

Lead actor Dan Cardenas, who plays Rossum, said he is accustomed to playing supporting roles and that taking on the spotlight demands more consistent attention and energy from him throughout the play.

"Supporting or side characters usually have little spurts and moments here and there, and it's very easy to hone down on those small moments," Cardenas said. "As a lead, you've got to be present in the entirety of the show."

While preparing for the role, Cardenas said he has found himself connecting with and learning from Rossum's personality.

"I'm also a little awkward, so seeing this awkwardness in him is a sort of out-of-body experience, being like, 'Oh, that's how you're going to go about it. Maybe



COURTESY OF IRIS ZIMMERMAN

From left, Bruce McLeod directs actors Daniel Cardenas, Ray Renati, Kenny Silberberg and Trinity White at the Foothill College rehearsal of "Rossum's Universal Robots." The play opens Nov. 7.

I can learn from this in my own life, maybe a goal about conversations or (seeing) new friendships in a different manner," Cardenas said.

Cardenas added that the unique characters, relevant plot and engaging style of "R.U.R." should resonate with audiences.

"There's a bit of everything in the show for everyone," Candenas said. "Whether you're awkward or you're in the tech world, you

would enjoy this (as) a human being."

"R.U.R." will premiere at 8 p.m. Nov. 7, with subsequent showtimes set for 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and 2 p.m. Sundays in the Lohman Theatre at Foothill College, 12345 S. El Monte Ave. Tickets are \$15-\$28.

For tickets and more information, visit tinyurl.com/yzf3b-cx4.

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Schools

Ethnic studies at MVLA cut to a single semester from full year

By Giuseppe Ricapito
Staff Writer/giuseppe@latc.com

The Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District will abbreviate its ethnic studies requirement from a yearlong course to a single semester in the 2026-2027 school year.

The board of trustees voted 3-2 at a meeting on Oct. 27 to cut the required social studies course, despite a torrent of support of its continued form from students, parents, staff and alumni. Support for shortening the requirement came from trustees Vadim Katz, Catherine Vonnegeut and Alex Levich. Trustees Esmerelda Ortiz and Thida Cornes cast the dissenting votes.

“Looking across California, many high performing districts are successfully offering ethnic studies as a one-semester course, ex-

actly as the state defined it,” Levich said.

Ethnic studies is currently a yearlong course at the district that teaches students about the study of race, contributions of people of color in the United States and contemporary social movements.

MVLA instituted ethnic studies as a yearlong required course for freshmen in 2023 in anticipation of AB 101, a state bill that would require the course for graduation. The legislature did not fund the ethnic studies mandate, and the district sought to evaluate how the course could be continued as a local mandate.

Superintendent Eric Volta said the new course would still be a requirement for incoming freshman students, who would also have to enroll in another single-semester course, such as health. Course reg-



SCREENSHOT OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW LOS ALTOS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT OCT. 27 MEETING

The Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District voted 3-2 at last week’s board meeting to switch the ethnic studies from a yearlong program to a semester.

istrations in the coming year would likely modify staffing needs, he added.

“If more students take

health, we will have to hire more health teachers,” Volta said.

The board had held vari-

ous study sessions and called on the community

See HISTORY, Page 17

EmpowerUp! aims to make Model UN more accessible

By Maya Dutt
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Model UN (MUN) is a niche extracurricular activity for many high school students, even more so for those from disadvantaged backgrounds who may not be able to afford the high cost to participate.

Castilleja School senior Amelia Yuan aims to fix this problem through her organization, EmpowerUp!.

Yuan founded EmpowerUp! in the summer of 2023 as a way to expose disadvantaged students to MUN. Yuan, a Town Crier intern, held workshops every subsequent summer at local libraries in the Bay Area.

“I gained a lot of life skills from MUN that I wanted to be able to share with other students in the community who might not always have access to programs at their own schools,” Yuan said.

Though she started the organization on her own, Yuan collaborated with peers to develop the curriculum, which consists of slides and hands-on activities. The lesson plans are designed to span across five days, but Yuan said she edits them depending on time constraints.

She held her latest EmpowerUp! workshop Sept. 20 at the Mountain View Library, in collaboration with the Amplify: Teen Voices program. Amplify is part of the city’s library program.

In order to hold the workshop, Yuan said she had to fill out a short application form and attend a trial session, walking library staff through the lesson.

Amplify founder, librarian Renee Ting, said this process was not to disqualify candidates, but rather to prepare teens for pitching ideas and holding events in the



COURTESY OF AMELIA YUAN

Amelia Yuan, left, speaking at the Model UN workshop EmpowerUP! in September at the Mountain View public library.

real world.

“Whatever (they) create is shared with anyone who wants to come and partici-

pate,” Ting said. “They’ll think that this is a great library program and then be more impressed when they

discover that it is a teenager that’s running the program.”

See WORKSHOP, Page 17

Schools

HISTORY

From Page 16

to provide guidance on how the class could continue to fit the district's mandated curriculum. The vote comes as the issue was taken up at a Sept. 29 board meeting and refined during an Oct. 13 study session. Dozens of community members came out in support of maintaining the program in its yearlong form.

"Attending a high-resources district like MVLA is such a privilege for any student, and it's also a hard place to navigate as a student of color," said Trustee Esmerelda Ortiz. "I can't

belittle that benefit that a yearlong course provides."

With nearly two hours of public comment, opinions were mixed.

Kiyoshi Taylor, a graduate of Los Altos High School, urged the district to maintain the course to educate students on the Black and Brown experience.

"I would have done anything to have taken a course like ethnic studies, and that's the reason why so many kids wanted it, because they didn't feel seen, they didn't feel represented in their own communities," he said.

Ilan Frank, a parent of a Los Altos High School stu-

dent, said the focus of the class should be incorporated into the entire student experience.

"Let's get real academic curriculum. Let's teach antiracism, but let's do it across the entire curriculum, not in one semester or two semesters," he said.

Trustee Catherine Vonnegut ultimately broke the deadlock, indicating the significance of the requirement to continue, but saying it could be balanced with other requirements during a student's high school tenure.

"I can see both sides really easily," said Vonnegut. "I really could almost flip a coin."

WORKSHOP

From Page 16

In the workshop, Yuan said she introduced the 10 students to what MUN was about. They were assigned a topic, sustainability energy sources for schools, and given 30 minutes to research their countries' stances on the issue and brainstorm solutions.

At the end, the students presented their policies to address the problem, Yuan said.

"The kids were super engaged and they were all willing to give a speech in front of the room," Yuan said. "I think they also had a lot of fun with each other. They really enjoyed being able to debate with each other and they all had different takes on issues."

Attendee Abir Soman said he appreciated Yuan's hands-on approach and thought she designed the activities very fairly.

"She gave really good countries (to us) and she helped us," the fifth-grader at

Landels Elementary School said. "She made sure everyone had a fair job."

EmpowerUp! holds workshops throughout the school year and camps during the summer, according to Yuan, who has published the curriculum on the organization's website for anyone interested in MUN to access. She is also in the early stages of passing the organization to younger students to continue its impact after she graduates high school.

"Our goal is just to make these life skills more accessible to students in an engaging way," Yuan said. "By learning about issues from a global perspective, I hope that students are able to build their empathy and ability to make connections beyond their own life experience."

For more information on EmpowerUp!, visit bit.ly/3WXdi9D. For more information on MUN, visit un.org/en/mun. For more information on Amplify: Teen Voices, visit tinyurl.com/Ampteen.

To pitch an idea for the Schools section or to comment on its content, please email editorial@latc.com.



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Sports

St. Francis girls volleyball beats Los Altos in CCS Open

By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

The 2025 season for St. Francis has been one of players stepping up and taking on new responsibilities, and its CCS Open playoff start was no different.

A 3-1 win over No. 6 seed Los Altos (21-7) saw No. 3 seed St. Francis (18-10) lose the first set but keep its composure and regroup, getting key contributions from underclassmen and new starters this year to advance onto the CCS Open semifinals.

“I think we were able to adjust to what the game was giving us and find what was working and stick to a game plan throughout the match,” St. Francis head coach Lake Merchen said. “We have a pretty young team, so we’ve got to feed them a lot of information. Sometimes the moment can be big for them, but tonight they did a really good job doing their job and walking in and following the game plan.”

Freshman outside hitter Josie Daniel, middle blocker Kalala Malani and right side hitter Abby Cardenas have received lots of playing time this season and played key roles in the win. Cardenas, a sophomore, led the team in kills in the third set, while Daniel and Cardenas were offensive difference makers in the fourth. St. Francis went on a 7-0 run up 18-17 in the third set to take momentum, while an 8-0 run down 17-12 in the fourth set helped win the match. Merchen praised the underclassmen for opening up the offense and being willing to take the ball at the end of the game to decide it. He also noted defensive specialist Jianna Llana hit great serves to set up several big runs in the third and fourth sets.

“For all of them, it’s not just been learning how to get better or execute your skills, but they’re getting more comfortable being the ones who can take over a match,” Merchen

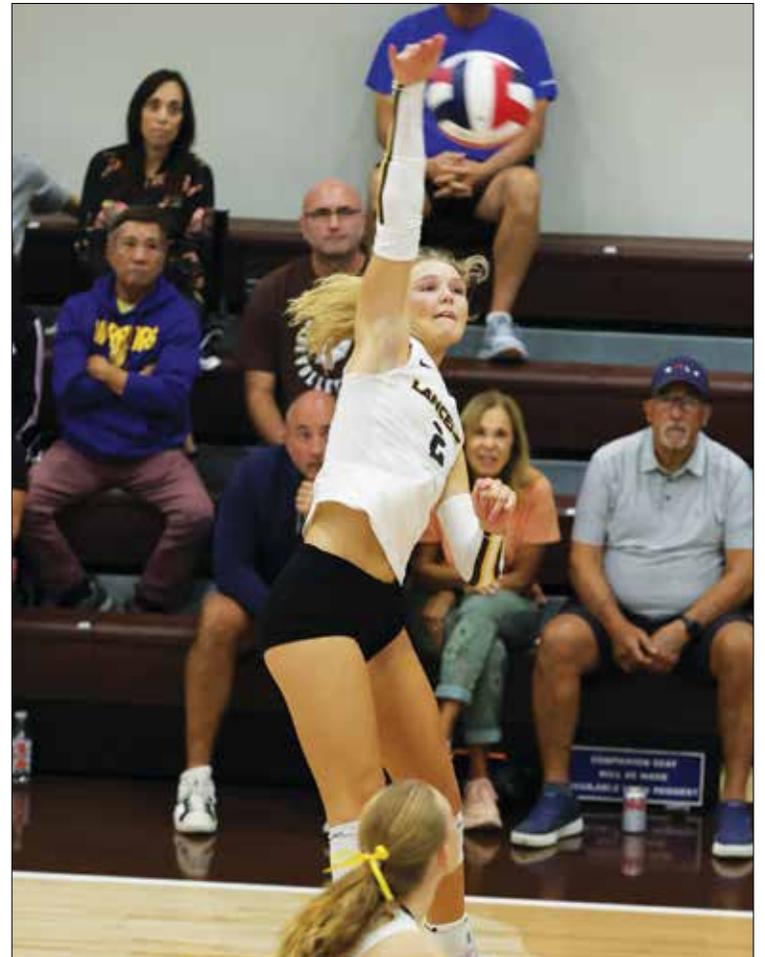
said.

Even some of the most experienced players have adjusted to what’s asked of them. Senior captain Ella Fulton has been a middle blocker during her time at St. Francis, but has taken on a new role on the outside. She noted that the Lancers focused on being more balanced in attack and on increasing the involvement of the middle and right sides after losing the first set.

“I think for these games it’s always a good reminder that any game could be our last,” Fulton said of the playoffs. “Specifically for the underclassmen, we just wanted to fight together and just enjoy how fun it is to be on the court together and I think that drove us to the win.”

Los Altos brought energy and clean execution in its first set win, going on a 5-0 run tied at 19 to give hope to the visiting Eagles that an upset might be

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 19



ALAN HWANG/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER
St. Francis' Ella Fulton goes for a kill during the game Saturday.

Palo Alto emerges as SCVAL De Anza water polo champions



JEFFERY STONE/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

After splitting the regular season series and finishing tied for first in league play, the Palo Alto girls water polo team won the SCVAL De Anza Division playoff championship Saturday over Los Altos. Palo Alto took a commanding 5-1 lead in the first quarter and never looked back, leading 9-1 at halftime and winning 13-4. Los Altos had chances during the game to close the gap, missing two penalties and hitting the bar multiple times throughout the game. The loss snaps the Eagles' 12-game winning streak and played out differently than the previous two matchups between the teams this season, an 11-8 win for Palo Alto in September and an 8-7 comeback win for Los Altos in the closing seconds of the Oct. 21 game. Los Altos (20-6) will now get ready for the CCS playoffs, with a seeding meeting Monday evening (after the Town Crier print deadline). Los Altos is expected to either be a lower seed in the CCS Open Division or a high seed in Division I.

Sports

VOLLEYBALL

From Page 18

possible. However, St. Francis found a way in the following three sets (25-23, 25-17 and 25-21) to slow any Los Altos momentum and make runs to put the sets out of reach of a comeback. The Eagles pulled to within 22-20 in the second set and were deadlocked 16-16 and 17-17 in the third and fourth sets, respectively. Los Altos head coach Peter Kim said the team's passing broke down in later sets and made more errors than St. Francis, which made the difference.

"We put a lot of pressure on them, and they didn't fold," Kim said.

St. Francis will go on the road to play No. 2 seed St. Ignatius today at 7 p.m. in the CCS Open Division semifinals. Los Altos' season is not done, with all CCS Open Division teams automatically qualifying for the CIF NorCal regional championships that start Nov. 11.



ALAN HWANG/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Los Altos' Aviya Russo playing Saturday against St. Francis.

Prep Sports Summary

Football

The Los Altos football team lost to South San Francisco 42-21 Oct. 31 to fall to 3-6 on the year. Los Altos hosts Mountain View Friday in its annual rivalry game.

Mountain View lost to Burlingame 44-35 Friday, falling to 2-7 on the season. Mountain View trailed 24-20 at halftime and was unable to complete a comeback.

Girls volleyball

The Mountain View girls

volleyball team lost to Hollister in the Central Coast Section Division I playoffs Saturday 3-1. Mountain View (7-16) won the third set 25-23 to make it 2-1 but lost the fourth set 25-19. Hollister (20-11) won the first two sets 26-24 and 25-23.

Girls water polo

The Homestead girls water polo team won the SCVAL El Camino Division regular season title, finishing the league campaign with a 13-1 record and 20-6 overall. Homestead lost to Lynbrook 7-5 Oct. 28 in the SCVAL El Camino Division playoff tournament but beat Cupertino 5-3 Thursday.

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

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On the Road

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INSIDE

Food and Wine

Puzzles

Business & Real Estate

Nissan Murano struggles to meet expectations of new decade

By Mike Hagerty

The Nissan Murano is all-new for 2025. That's a very good thing, because, with only a handful of running updates, the 2024 Murano was the same as the 2015 Murano.

Ten years is a long time in absolute terms. In the automotive world, it's an eternity. The world the '25 Murano enters bears little resemblance to the one Gen 3 arrived in a decade ago. And Nissan, while sticking to the two-row, five-passenger crossover SUV formula, started fresh for the new Murano.

The beyond-venerable 3.5-liter V6 that powered so many Nissans and Infinitis in the first quarter of this century is now gone, replaced by a 2.0-liter dual overhead cam 16-valve turbocharged four-cylinder engine. Horsepower is lower in this engine (241 to the old six's 260), and torque is only mildly improved, from

240 lb-ft to 260.

The old continuously variable transmission is gone, making the Murano feel like it has a bit more oomph, but it really doesn't. Zero to 60 is still about seven and a half seconds, and fuel economy hasn't changed much either. What was 20 mpg city/28 highway is now 21 mpg city/27 highway for AWD models like our tester.

Auto Review

The four is noisier and less refined than the old V6, and selecting sport mode just elevates the shift points, prolonging the noise. The ride is comfortable, and the handling is capable, but the steering is numb.

There's 32.9 cubic feet of cargo space behind the rear seats and 63.5 with those seats folded down. That works out to an incremental improvement with the second-row seats in place (0.8 cubic feet), but a loss



MIKE HAGERTY/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

The new 2025 Nissan Murano bears little resemblance to the one Gen 3 that arrived a decade ago, according to OTR columnist Mike Hagerty.

of 3.5 cubic feet from last year with the second row folded. And somehow, rear seat legroom has shrunk from the

last generation – it's now 36.3 inches, as opposed to the previous generation's 38.7 inches.

And these losses in cargo

and passenger space metrics are despite the car having

See MURANO, Page 23

Investigating a misfire in a malfunctioning battery

By Matt Pataky

One of our longtime customers brought in his 2007 Audi S6 Quattro 5.2-liter V10, saying that the check engine light was on and that the battery was discharging after two weeks. Besides the customer's statement that he had to jump-start the car, he did not notice any other problems. He dropped the car off and we got to work.

The first thing we did was test drive the car to confirm customer complaints. The test drive did not last long because the car was misfiring badly. After getting the car back to the shop, we connected it to the scanner. The first code we pulled was a P0306 misfire in cylinder No. 6. We swapped the No. 6 coil with the No. 7 coil. After starting the engine, the misfire stayed in cylinder No. 6. We then replaced the No. 6 spark plug. The misfire stayed in cylinder No. 6. We checked the compression in cylinder No. 6. Compression in Cylinder No. 6 is 205 pounds per square inch (PSI). We knew the

problem was not with the coils or spark plugs (secondary ignition). We knew that we had good compression, so the mechanical side of the engine was OK. The problem had to be with the fuel system. The next thing we had to do was check the No. 6 injector. The problem was that the injectors are under the intake, and replacing them is extremely expensive.

Matt the Mechanic

We still had to solve the battery discharge problem. It did not make sense to repair the misfire problem before solving the parasitic draw issues. We ran multiple tests to see if there were any codes pertaining to a parasitic draw. The only issue we found was that the battery was at the end of its life. Before testing the battery, we made sure it was fully charged. After charging the battery, we performed a carbon pile test. The battery tested at 9.2 volts at 300 mps. Minimum voltage is 9.4v to

9.6v, so we had to replace the battery.

After battery replacement, we performed a parasitic draw test. We found that the car had an intermittent 300 milliamp draw. Acceptable draw is just 80 mil amps. We then began consulting the wiring diagrams and started disconnecting power supplies from three different fuse blocks. Since the three different fuse blocks converge at multiple power grids (bus), we could not see a drop in power.

We then started disconnecting modules one by one to try to isolate the problem. One thing we found was that if the car was locked, it had a draw all the time, but if it was unlocked, the draw was intermittent. Eventually, we got to the power seat module under the driver's seat. Once we disconnected it, the draw was gone. We made sure that the power, ground and signal to the seat module were OK. We then replaced the seat module and the draw was gone.

The interesting thing was that after replacing the battery, seat module, pro-

gram module, the clear codes, and test driving the car, the misfire was gone. We then drove the car over 100 miles to confirm it. We think the engine control module was resetting every time the battery was going dead and causing a problem with the injectors. The other interesting correlation was the door locks and the seat module. On a car with keyless entry, multiple components activate as soon as the car sees the key getting close to the car (seat position, steering wheel position, fuel pump activation, etc.). Either way, the customer understands that the misfire could return, but hopefully it won't.

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



On the Road

VOLVO EX40 Twin Motor Ultra: An EV quicker than your muscle car

By Mike Hagerty

Looks harmless, doesn't it? A little square sand dune-colored (that's the actual paint color name – "Sand Dune") box labeled "Volvo," powered by electrons instead of dead dinosaurs.

This is the Volvo EX40 Twin Motor Ultra. Twin Motor means there are two electric motors, one for the front axle and another for the rear axle. Between them, they make 402 horsepower and 494 pound-feet of torque and put it straight to all four wheels at once.

In the real world, that translates to 60 miles per hour from a standing stop in 4.1 seconds. That's quicker than the Ford Mustang GT ("On the Road," June 2024) and quicker than the Audi S3 ("On The Road," March 2023).

If you're of a certain age and your point of reference is 1960s muscle cars, it's quicker than all of them. Even the 1965 Shelby Cobra 427, which needed 4.3 seconds.

It does all that without drinking a drop of gasoline or putting a particle of tailpipe pollutants into the Peninsula air.

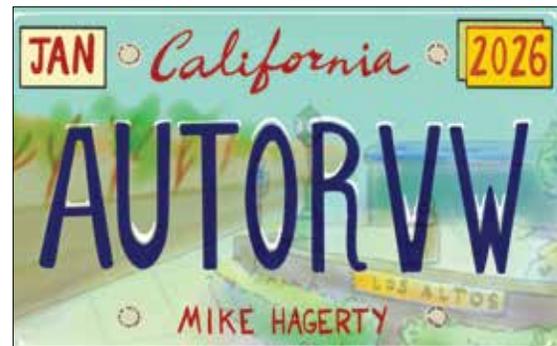
And, apart from a futuristic combination of whine and whoosh, it does it silently.

I don't need a big car to go vroom. I like a little car that goes fast without attracting undue attention.

Range per charge is 260 miles, and it can recharge from 10% to 80% in 28 minutes on a DC fast charger.

The EX40 is classified by the EPA as a Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV), and it sports compact exterior dimensions – roughly similar to the MINI Countryman ("On the Road," March 2025). It's a size class smaller than the popular Toyota RAV4 and Honda CR-V ("On The Road," August 2023).

There's 16 cubic feet of cargo space behind the rear seats and 57.5 cubic feet with the second row folded flat. Rear seat passengers get 36.1 inches of legroom. And the interior is stylish and done in high-quality materials with the attention to fit, finish and detail the phrase "Swedish automobile" would suggest.



RACHEL ARONSON/TOWN CRIER

Columnist Mike Hagerty reviews the Volvo EX40 in this month's edition of OTR.

The EX40 Twin Motor Ultra is a premium vehicle. And, unsurprisingly, it carries a premium price, \$60,750. That brings with it a lot of standard equipment, though: a comprehensive suite of active safety features, a laminated panoramic sunroof with power sunshade, power front seat with driver seat memory, four-way lumbar support for the front seats, heated front and rear seats, a heated steering wheel, dual-zone climate control with air purifier, keyless entry, power tailgate, power-folding rear headrests, auto-dimming interior and exterior mirrors, a surround-view camera, LED headlights, a 12.3-inch digital driver display, four USB ports and a Harman/Kardon premium audio system with Google built-in, Google Assistant, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

The 2025 Volvo EX40 Twin Motor Ultra is a one-price deal. The destination charge is \$1,295, so the as-tested price is \$62,045.

Easy to drive, easy to park and a whole lot of fun – all in a package that's practical and stands out from the crowd.

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



MIKE HAGERTY/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Above is the Volvo EX40 Twin Motor Ultra.



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On the Road

MURANO

From Page 21

grown a 10th of an inch in overall length and 2.6 inches in width.

The cockpit is where improvements can't be denied. It's a decade's worth of advancements in one fell swoop, with a cleaner design and better visibility.

There are three trim levels of the Murano: SV (base price \$40,470), SL (\$46,560) and Platinum (\$49,600). All-wheel drive is optional on SV, standard on SL and Platinum.

Our tester was the Platinum, and with destination, the starting price is \$50,990. That brings a long list of standard equipment including selectable drive modes, a comprehensive suite of active safety features, dual-zone automatic climate control, semi-aniline leather-appointed heated and ventilated front seats with massage function, heated leatherette-wrapped steering wheel with power tilt and telescope, wireless device charging, customizable 64-color

ambient lighting, a hands-free power liftgate, second-row door sunshades, heated rear seats, a connected garage door opener, head-up display, rain-sensing wipers, power-folding outside mirrors, a 12.3-inch touchscreen with a Bose premium audio system, wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, Google built-in, Alexa built-in, a wi-fi hotspot, 21-inch alloy wheels, automatic headlights, LED headlights, daytime running lights and tail lamps and a panoramic moonroof.

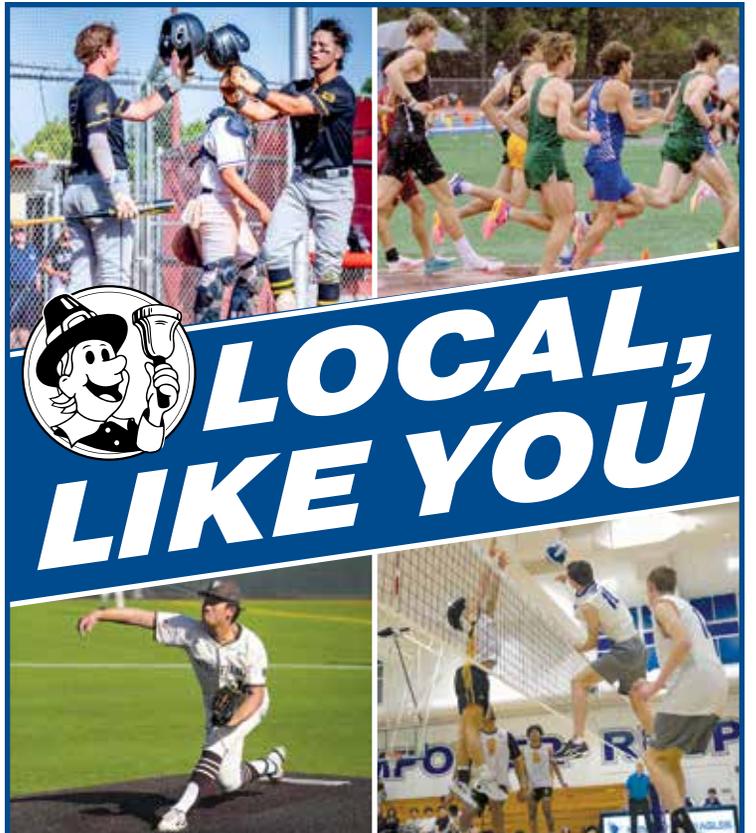
Our tester had a few extra-cost options. The Scarlet Ember Tintcoat paint was \$425, carpeted floor mats and cargo mat with seatback protector and cargo blocks were \$510, an illuminated cargo scuff plate added \$505, exterior ground lighting was \$675, panoramic headliner illumination was priced at \$430 and illuminated kickplates put another \$415 on the tab. Bottom line on the window sticker: \$53,950.

The Murano was absolutely overdue for a new generation. Apart from style, it's hard to identify any area where the new one moves the



MIKE HAGERTY/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

The base price for the 2025 Nissan Murano SV is \$40,470.



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Master fall hosting: A color medley

Family Features

Make fall entertaining a breeze this year, regardless of the occasion, with warm, satisfying sides that serve a crowd. Whether you're enjoying roasted chicken, tender turkey or grilled fish for the main course, sheet pan-roasted grapes and sweet potatoes provide a medley of color and taste that call to mind the flavors of the season.

As an effortless solution to please guests, this one-pan recipe lets the oven do the work while you enjoy the gathering and mingle with loved ones. Fresh California grapes are the star ingredient, versatile enough to headline fall recipes with their juicy burst of flavor and pop of color. Plus, roasting them intensifies their flavor as the natural sugars caramelize.

They can elevate get-togethers throughout autumn, and when paired with sweet potatoes, red onion and tangy balsamic glaze, you can create a roasted treat that complements main courses all season long.



COURTESY OF FAMILY FEATURES

Although seemingly simple, roasted grapes and sweet potatoes bring the feel of the fall season to those who enjoy it.

Visit GrapesFromCalifornia.com to find healthy snacks, filling main dishes and more sides featuring the flavors and colors of fall.

Sheet pan roasted grapes and sweet potatoes

Servings: 6

- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 3/4 teaspoon sea salt
- 3 cups red grapes from California
- 1 pound orange sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/4-inch slices

- 3/4 cup thinly sliced onion
 - Freshly ground pepper, to taste
 - Snipped fresh basil
- Heat oven to 425 F. In a large bowl, combine oil, vinegar, salt, grapes, sweet potatoes and onion, tossing well to coat. Place on a large baking sheet and spread a single

layer. Bake 30 minutes, or until potatoes are tender, stirring halfway through cooking. Sprinkle with freshly ground pepper, to taste and fresh basil.

This feature was provided to Family Features by the California Table Grape Commission.

This year, fall into some crisp and fresh ideas for autumn entertaining

Family Features

Crafting cozy crowd-pleasers is a must for hosting – especially during the cooler fall months. Give your crowd something to celebrate, regardless of the occasion, with comforting sides and appetizers that warm loved ones from the inside-out.

Always a healthy snack, fresh California grapes can also be the versatile ingredient you need for elevating dishes for get-togethers and parties. In addition to providing a juicy burst of flavor and pop of color, roasting grapes in recipes like these intensifies their flavor as the natural sugars caramelize.

No matter your main course, you can enjoy it alongside an easy yet refined

side dish in roasted cauliflower with grape gremolata. Tender, caramelized cauliflower is topped with a vibrant grape gremolata with fresh herbs, garlic and a hint of lemon zest adding a bright and flavorful finishing touch.

Colorful, tasty grapes bring balance to this savory side that pairs well with roasted chicken, grilled fish or hearty grain bowls.

Sesame-roasted grapes in crispy won ton cups offer perfect party bites that blend sweet and savory in each mouthful. Juicy, fresh California grapes are tossed with sesame oil, honey and a touch of soy then roasted until caramelized. Nestled in golden brown won ton cups, they make for a simple yet so-

phisticated way to start any gathering.

To discover more recipes that elevate fall entertaining without the hassle, visit GrapesFromCalifornia.com.

Roasted cauliflower with grape gremolata

Servings: 6

Grape gremolata:

- 1 cup finely chopped green Grapes from California
- 2 tablespoons minced Italian parsley
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 large lemon, zest only
- 1 pinch sea salt

To make grape gremolata: In medium mixing bowl, stir grapes, parsley, garlic, lemon zest and salt. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve, up to 1 day ahead.



COURTESY OF FAMILY FEATURES

Above is delectable roasted cauliflower with grape gremolata.

- Roasted cauliflower:
- 1 large head cauliflower
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil
 - 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
 - Freshly ground pepper, to

taste
To make roasted cauliflower: Heat oven to 450 F and line

See RECIPES, Page 25

RECIPES

From Page 24

baking sheet with foil. Discard leaves and stems from cauliflower and cut into 1-1 1/2-inch florets. Place in large bowl and drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, to taste, and toss well to coat. Transfer to prepared baking sheet and spread in single layer. Roast 15 minutes. Stir well and roast 15 minutes, or until golden brown on edges. Serve warm with grape gremolata.

Roasted grapes in crispy won ton cups

Servings: 24 (1 cup each)

- 24 square won ton wrappers, at room temperature
- Olive oil cooking spray
- 2 tablespoons sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon rice vinegar (unseasoned)
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 3 cups red grapes from Cali-

- fornia
- Sesame seeds
- Snipped fresh cilantro, for garnish

Heat oven to 350 F. Spray won ton wrappers on both sides with olive oil spray. Press into 24 mini muffin cups, gently pressing into bottom to form flat base. Bake 10-12 minutes, or until lightly browned; let cool.

Increase oven temperature to 425 F and line small baking sheet with foil. In medium bowl, stir sesame oil, honey, soy sauce, vinegar and ginger. Add grapes and toss well to coat.

Spread mixture in single layer on baking sheet and roast 30 minutes, or until grapes are cooked but still holding shape, stirring occasionally. Let cool then spoon a few grapes into each won ton cup, adding any leftover juices. Garnish with sesame seeds and cilantro.

This feature was provided to Family Features by the California Table Grape Commission.

Mango moments: How to enjoy the "it" fruit year-round

Statepoint

Does it seem like mangos are everywhere you look? You're not imagining it! From carts to menus, consumers can't get enough mango, fueling a viral craze with new creations hitting shelves and restaurants daily. In fact, Circana's Dole Panel of total U.S. outlets (General Food and Frozen Departments) shows that 54% of U.S. consumers who shop the frozen or general food departments buy mango items and 86% of those buyers make a repeat purchase.

"More and more people are looking for bold fruit flavors that excite and mango hits at the heart of that," says Mike Secor, vice president, Marketing at Dole Packaged Foods. "By picking and packing them at peak ripeness, their vibrant, tropical goodness can be enjoyed well beyond mango season throughout the year."

According to chefs, the appeal of mangos is all about versatility. "They are sweet and delicious as-is, but the juicy tropical flavor notes combined with its creamy texture transforms any recipe, whether they be snacks, main courses or beverages," said James Bickmore-Hutt, executive chef at Dole. "Mangos are one of my favorite fruits to use when creating unforgettable dishes."

When the next mango craving hits or the mood strikes to create something unique, there are convenient ways to enjoy the must-have fruit that are ready-to-eat with no prep needed for busy days – from on-the-go snacking with Dole Diced Mango Fruit Bowls snacks in 100% Juice to Canned Mango Chunks in 100% Juice to the velvety smooth Dole Whip Mango Fruit First Treat.

Mangos continue to surge in popularity, and luckily, it's easier than ever to enjoy this "it" fruit any time.

Read TC, both print and online

Did you know that some features on losaltosonline.com do not appear in the print edition and that some items in print do not appear online? That's why you need to read both. Don't miss out on all the news about your community.



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November 17th

ITALIAN NIGHTS

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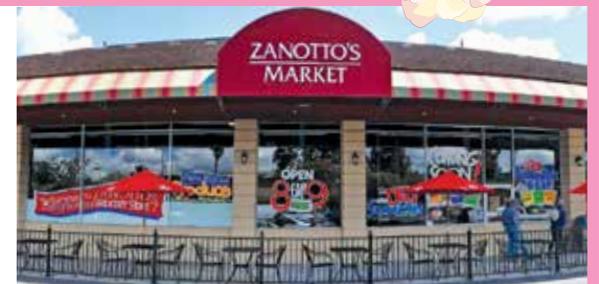
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Puzzles Page

Town Crier Crossword

By Myles Mellor

Across

- 1. Ref's decision
- 4. Sun Devils' sch., abbr.
- 7. Pantywaist
- 12. "H's"
- 14. Franklin's bill, slangily, 2 words
- 15. Los Altos Heritage**
- 16. Looking like the original, 2 words
- 17. Recede like a tide
- 18. Gallop
- 19. 'In your dreams!'- 2 words
- 22. Stray cat's locale
- 24. Firms, abbr.
- 25. Cars featured in Los Altos event**
- 29. Mongrel
- 30. "What ___!" (how funny) , 2 words
- 31. French for water
- 32. Impermanent
- 34. Feminine suffix
- 35. Handle, 2 words
- 36. Fido's treats
- 37. 56 in Roman letters
- 38. "In excelsis ___"

- 40. Frock wearer
- 42. Multi-plug connector
- 46. Top
- 47. Troubles
- 48. "That is to say...", 2 words
- 49. Reply to a captain
- 50. Vintage computer monitor, for short

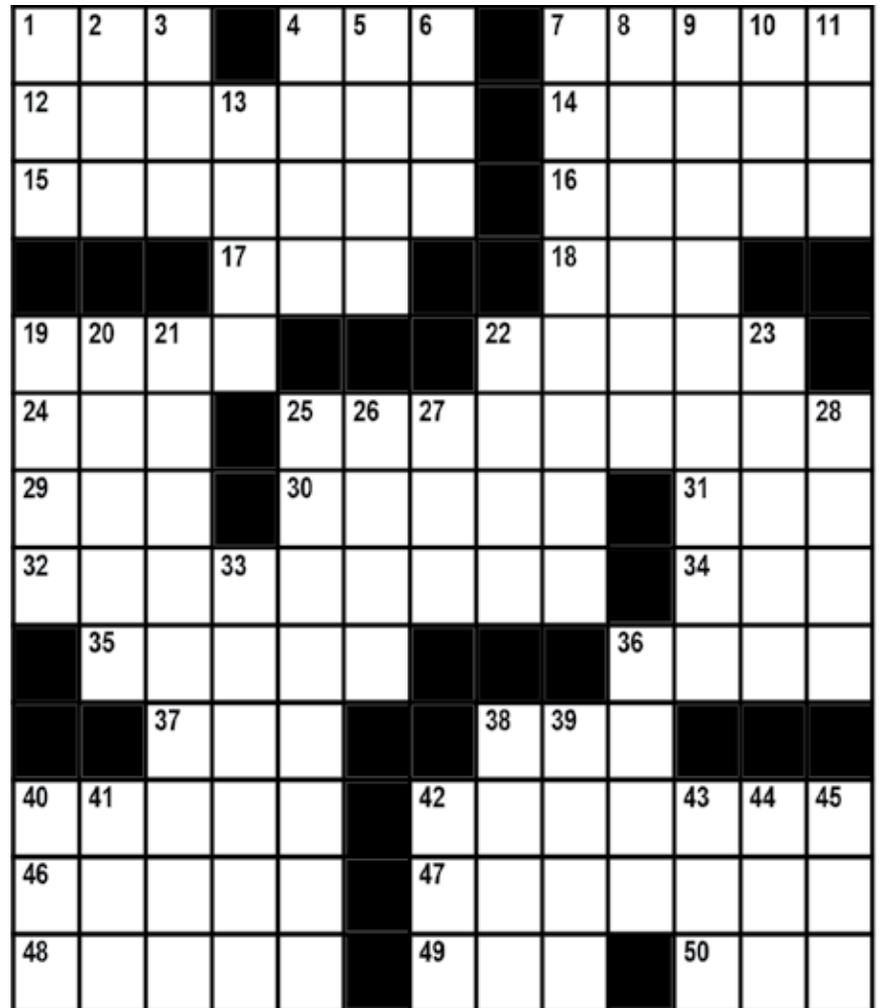
Down

- 1. Philosophy of human conduct
- 2. Dry wine drink
- 3. Stock page hdg., abbr.
- 4. Pequod skipper
- 5. Djokovic's nationality
- 6. Currency exchange board abbr.
- 7. "Black Dahlia" star, Johansson
- 8. Dig
- 9. Composer
- 10. Jeanne d'Arc, e.g. , abbr.
- 11. Bow making wood
- 13. White hat wearer
- 19. Depositor's holding, abbr.

- 20. Whiskey drinks
- 21. Descendant of Jacob
- 22. English river
- 23. Bakery supply
- 25. Frying pan material, 2 words
- 26. Buckeye's home
- 27. Beluga yield
- 28. Figure (out)
- 33. Silver State
- 36. Surprise at blunder
- 38. World War II important event
- 39. Effortlessness
- 40. Data Act, abbr.
- 41. Most talked about drink in "Pirates..."
- 42. That's it!
- 43. Gentle care often needed by horses, abbr.
- 44. Ever, poetically
- 45. Alphabet segment

- Los Altos clues bolded

**Answers
on Page 35**

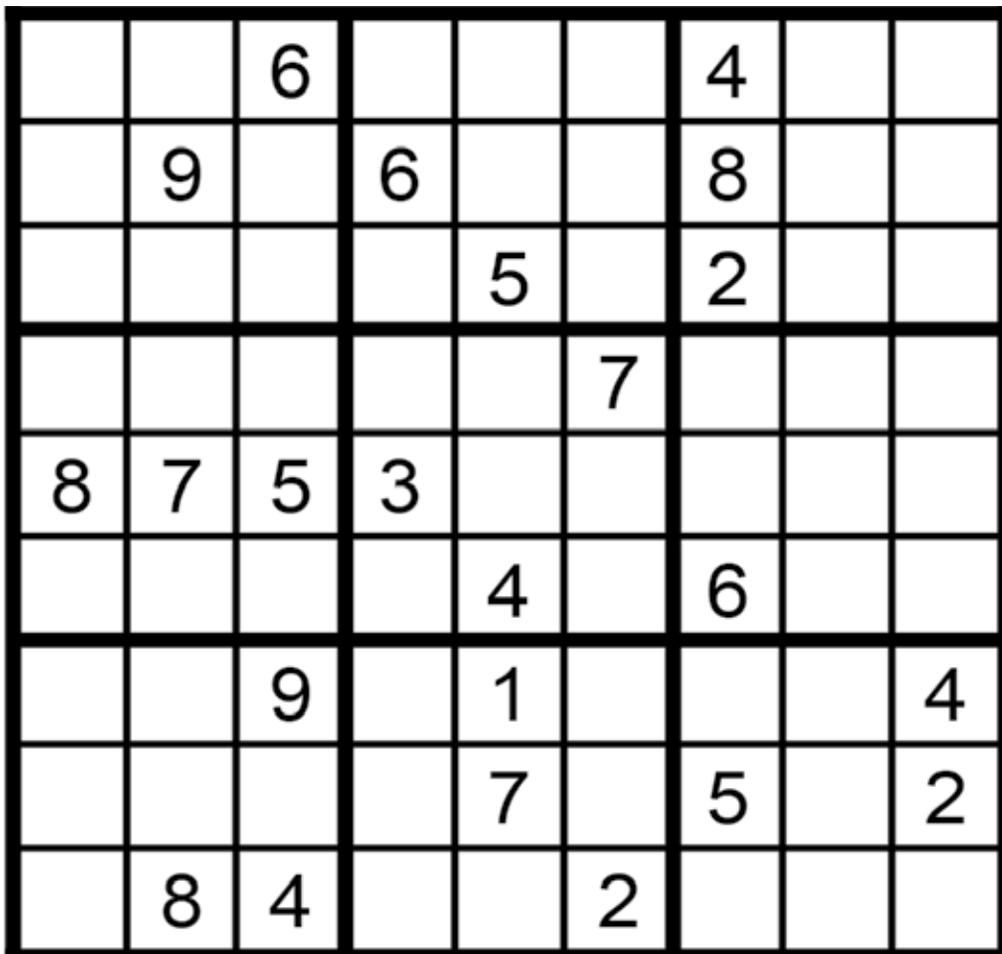


Sudoku

By Myles Mellor and Susan Flanagan

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9X9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3X3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium



Find A Word



15 things you might see in a home are listed below. They may go across, up and down or diagonally in the puzzle. Circle each one as you find it.

- Bannister
- Carpet
- Lamps
- Bath
- Chair
- Outlets
- Beds
- Desks
- Shower
- Bookcase
- Etagere
- Sofa
- Cabinet
- Floor
- Storage

Business & Real Estate

Los Altos family launches service to send a final message

By **Meghna Dixit**
Town Crier Editorial Intern

A Los Altos family recently started a business that aims to provide a more secure and efficient way for people to say goodbye to their loved ones.

Cooper Han and his parents Ed Han and Polly Liu are behind A Final Message, launched online over the summer. The business offers users a platform to share important information and sentimental messages with their loved ones upon their death.

Ed said he came up with the idea after a conversation with his financial advisor and attorney. Ed wanted to make sure that his vital information would be passed on to the correct people after his demise and wondered how those storing such data would confirm something had happened to him

before releasing it.

“I tend to be a bit of a worrier,” Ed said. “This is a problem that I’ve thought about for many years, actually, so after doing some research and finding out there isn’t an efficient transfer of information, sort of a communication protocol, I talked to my family about this idea and everyone seemed to think it was worth working on.”

Cooper noted that A Final Message is designed to efficiently transfer such information after confirming the user’s death. Users are first asked to enter the contacts of their loved ones and write final messages to each of them. They can also store important information about their finances, such as who their accountant is, but are advised not to enter any sensitive information like passwords.

To ensure that these messages are only sent upon their deaths, Cooper said users receive peri-

odic notices from A Final Message asking them to confirm that they are alive and well. If users fail to respond three times in a row, A Final Message will reach out to the user’s contacts to confirm the passing before sending out the information.

Cooper added that while A Final Message stores sensitive information, the business takes the appropriate security measures to keep it safe. Those working for the company personally send the messages – the action is not done automatically by a computer.

“We take security really seriously,” Cooper said. “If this message gets sent out to someone, that’s directly from us. We will make sure to fully confirm the passing before releasing the message.”

As the business grows, Ed said it will still take the appropriate precautions before sending the messages. He emphasized



PHOTO COURTESY OF ED HAN

Final Message founders include Polly Liu, from left, Ed Han and their son Cooper Han. Cooper is a freshman at Northwestern.

that the information inputted into the site should not be things like passwords, but rather the contact information of accoun-

tants and financial advisors. As of now, the business is run

See MESSAGE, Page 28

A call from someone offering tax relief could really be a scam

BBB Scam Alert

Better Business Bureau

Remember Jessica from the loan processing company? She switched careers! This time, she’s claiming to be from “US Tax Consultants” and is leaving urgent voicemails about back taxes and missed filings. While her new job may sound impressive, it’s still a scam designed to steal your personal information.

How the scam works

You may receive a call or voicemail from someone claiming to be from a tax relief company, saying they’re following up on back taxes or missed filings and that this may be their only attempt to reach you. They provide a callback number and sometimes reference an account or partial phone number to make the message seem legitimate. The voicemail emphasizes immediate action, pressuring you to call before a supposed deadline to resolve tax issues, request penalty waivers or enroll in relief programs.

Even though Jessica seems determined to help, returning the call could put your personal and financial in-

formation at risk. Scammers use urgency and official-sounding details to make the message convincing, often seeking Social Security numbers, bank account info or other sensitive data.

Tips to avoid tax relief scams

- Verify the company’s legitimacy. Contact the IRS if in the U.S. or the CRA if in Canada, or your tax professional directly if you receive a call about taxes you don’t recognize.

- Watch for “too good to be true” relief offers. Scammers may promise to eliminate penalties or dramatically reduce what you owe – these claims are usually false.

- Never pay up front for tax relief services. Legitimate programs or certified tax professionals do not demand payment before providing assistance.

- Be cautious with urgent deadlines. Scammers create a sense of urgency to pressure you into acting without verifying the claim.

- Protect your personal information. Never provide Social Security numbers, bank account details, or other sensitive data to unsolicited callers.

- Report suspicious tax solicitations to the IRS at IRS.gov/TaxScams or to the Canada Revenue Agency.

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\$4,298,000 | 3 BEDS | 2 BATHS
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MESSAGE

From Page 27

entirely by the three family members. Cooper has been working remotely from Northwestern University, where he is a freshman. As a tennis player and student, Cooper said he finds time to work on the business on Sundays – the only day of the week he doesn't have practice.

“After I came back (from early summer tennis practice), I had a couple months free, so I decided to try something new,” Cooper said of A Final Message. “And I just thought it'd be cool to take on a new project.”

His parents are no strangers to building businesses. Ed and Polly founded Tiny Prints and 8-Figure E-Commerce, among other companies.

“We started all of these businesses the same way that we started A Final Message,” Ed said. “We poured our own sweat and tears to get it off the ground. I think just having done it a few times before has given us the confidence and some of the playbook on how to get things done, or at least get

it started.”

The family started with refining the idea that Ed originated, honing it into something simple that can be built quickly, he said. Despite the time crunch of finishing before Cooper left for college, they defined the product and used AI-prompted coding to build it.

Ed added that this is the first time he and Cooper have worked on a business together. Since Cooper is mainly into athletics, Ed said it's been fun to bond over something different. He found Cooper's insight especially valuable, offering a fresh perspective.

“We've never done anything like this before,” Ed said. “This isn't something we might have done a few years ago; it's a very different conversation. We learn from each other and he's given a lot of great feedback. To have someone who's thinking from a completely different perspective is helpful.”

A Final Message costs \$19.95 per year and offers a 30-day free trial.

To subscribe and for more information, visit afinalmessage.com.

Transactions

Los Altos

1585 Holt Avenue, Left Coast Buyers LLC to Kellogg and Kay LLC for \$2,850,000

450 1st Street #306, Dd 1St Street Group LLC to Mazzara Trust for \$2,899,000

1025 Border Road, Miller Living Trust to S. and M. Hsu for \$3,412,500

1061 Saint Joseph Avenue, Carter Trust to Belani Trust for \$3,745,000

14449 Liddicoat Circle, Mcdowell Living Trust to B. and X. Hu for \$4,000,000

384 Cuesta Drive, Argo Trust to S. Xiong for \$4,250,000

1231 Gronwall Lane, Liu Trust to W. and J. Xiong for \$4,389,000

659 Kingswood Way, Ribas Living Trust to E. and S. Shah for \$5,800,000

1074 Riverside Drive, Hilltop Investment Fund LLC to D. and S. Srinivasan for \$6,898,000

Los Altos Hills

12540 Robleda Road, Savin Holdings Lp to L. and W. Guo for \$3,600,000

12950 Alta Tierra Road, Lee Family Trust to X. and R. Wang for \$5,600,000

Mountain View

1031 Crestview Drive #101, H. and C. Desai to George Trust for \$560,000

505 Cypress Point Drive #223, Peterson Trust to K. and M. Ortutay for \$620,000

280 Easy Street #120, Agile Home Solutions LLC to H. Cheng for \$760,000

2111 Latham Street #321, Y. and R. Pang to P. and L. Mederos for \$870,000

153 Irene Court, Sheldon Living Trust to S. and C. Sy for \$1,450,000

2133 University Avenue, Fletcher Living Trust to S. Qu for \$1,500,000

80 Centre Street, Barozzi Living Trust to Seshadri Family Trust for \$1,675,000

355 Snyder Lane, Gild Family Trust to H. and J. Mei for \$1,710,000

1139 Cuesta Drive, Narewski Living Trust to D. and F. Wu for \$2,880,000

1513 Meadow Lane, W. Orner to Huang Family Trust for \$4,266,000

Total sales

Los Altos

Total sales: 9
Lowest sale: \$2,850,000
Highest sale: \$6,898,000
Average sale: \$4,249,300

Los Altos Hills

Total sales: 2
Lowest sale: \$3,600,000
Highest sale: \$5,600,000
Average sale: \$4,600,000

Mountain View

Total sales: 11
Lowest sale: \$560,000
Highest sale: \$4,266,000
Average sale: \$1,821,900

– CalREsource



Luxury Estate Living on the Golf Course

Rare brand-new 2019 custom build in Los Altos

5 BEDS • 6 BATHS • 4,967 SQ FT • 0.57-ACRE LOT

Step into refined modern elegance at 1669 Whitham Ave, a masterfully designed estate nestled on a half acre with sweeping golf course views. Built in 2019, this home features five private bedroom suites (one ideal as a grand executive office), soaring ceilings, skylights and walls of La Cantina glass doors that bring the outdoors in.

The gourmet chef's kitchen is equipped with a sprawling island, quartz countertops, and premium appliances. Smart home features include multi zone climate control, automated blinds and a SONOS sound system that spans indoor and outdoor spaces. Wide plank hardwood floors, two fireplaces, and a fully furnished state of the art home theatre with high end projector, 120 inch screen and 7.1 surround sound elevate the living experience.

Outside, enjoy a resort style backyard with a full outdoor kitchen (including pizza oven and BBQ), a Jacuzzi spa, fire pit seating for twelve, a putting green and lush landscaping perfect for entertaining or peaceful relaxation. The three car garage includes EV hookup. Ideally located minutes from downtown Los Altos, the Country Club and top rated schools.

For private showings or for more information, contact:



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Kathy Bridgman's

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OF THE WEEK



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BROKER ASSOCIATE

FOR SALE



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13456 Mandoli Dr, Los Altos Hills 6 beds | 6.5 baths | Price upon request | 13456MandoliDr.com

FOR SALE

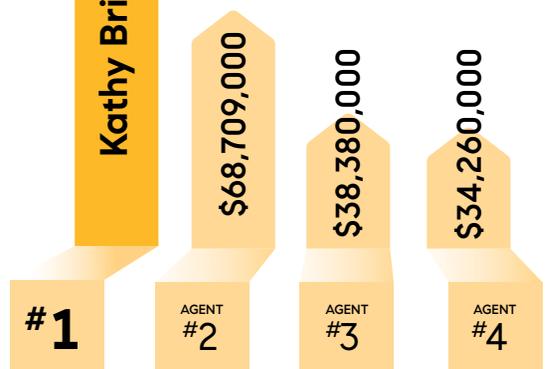


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Kathy Bridgman: \$189,415,000

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LOS ALTOS HILLS | 27500LaVida.com



12008 EMERALD HILL LANE | \$6,950,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS HILLS | 12008EmeraldHillLn.com



11722 PUTTER WAY | \$3,200,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS | 11722Putter.com



579 GLENBROOK DRIVE | \$5,750,000 | 6 Bd | 4 Bth
PALO ALTO | 579Glenbrook.com



28500 MATADERO CREEK LN | \$9,398,000 | 6 Bd | 9 Bth
LOS ALTOS HILLS | 28500MataderoCreek.com



40 TAGUS COURT | \$6,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
PORTOLA VALLEY | 40Tagus.com



160 PHILLIP ROAD | \$12,988,000 | 5 Bd | 5.5 Bth
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1837Brewster.com



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PALO ALTO

\$4,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
765University.com



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PALO ALTO

\$2,788,000 | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
3428AlmaVillage.com



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653Wildwood.com



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3502Arbutus.com



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12008 EMERALD HILL LANE
LOS ALTOS HILLS



SUPERB ESTATE WITH PANORAMIC VIEWS

Set behind gates on a peaceful cul-de-sac near the charming Village of Los Altos, this spectacular estate blends privacy, natural beauty, and exceptional craftsmanship on well over an acre. An extended driveway leads to an elevated lot where panoramic views of the western hills and San Francisco Bay unfold in every direction. Thoughtfully designed by architect Robert Peterson and built by Drew Maran Construction, the home balances its emphasis on sustainability with livable luxury and sophistication. Soaring ceilings and bold walls of glass fill over 5,000 square feet with light while framing the views at every turn.

Glide through a harmonious floorplan featuring high-end finishes, expansive gathering spaces, a chef's kitchen with top-brand appliances, and a walk-out family room, while a temperature-controlled wine cellar, an office, and multiple fireplaces add comfort and functionality. The primary suite encompasses the entire upper level, while three additional bedrooms provide comfort and privacy for family and guests. Outside, an expansive spa deck offers the perfect setting to take in the surroundings, complemented by a new lawn and a screened-in porch for outdoor entertainment and relaxation. Additional features include radiant heated floors and a three-car garage, with access to top-rated schools (buyer to verify).

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Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team

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Public Notices

GLOBAL SOURCE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720775

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: GLOBAL SOURCE, 481 N Santa Cruz Ave, Los Gatos, CA, 95030, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): BELCLARE CORPORATION, 481 N Santa Cruz Ave, Los Gatos, CA 95030. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/01/2000. /S/ Peter O'Malley / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 10/27/2025. (11-05,12,19,26-25)

264-T

NOTICE OF AMENDED PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MAN-WAH WANG YING CASE NO. 25PR200745

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of MAN-WAH WANG YING. AN AMENDED PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by YEJAY W. YING in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE AMENDED PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that YEJAY W. YING be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE AMENDED PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE AMENDED PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 11/21/25 at 9:03AM in Dept. 1 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 JANET L. BREWER - SBN 74181 LAW OFFICE OF JANET L. BREWER 4 MAIN STREET, SUITE 20 LOS ALTOS CA 94022 Telephone (650) 325-8276 11/5, 11/12, 11/19/25 CNS-3981519# LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER (11-05,12,19-25)

263-T

PRIMERA INSURANCE SOLUTIONS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720631

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: PRIMERA INSURANCE SOLUTIONS, 3725 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA, 95051, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): INSURANCE PLUS SOLUTIONS LLC, 3725 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95051. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/01/2023. /S/ Susana DeLoza / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 10/21/2025. (11-05,12,19,26-25)

262-T

GOLDEN FLOOF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720684

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: GOLDEN FLOOF, 190 Ryland Street Apt 3109, San Jose, CA, 95110, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a general partnership. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Keith Joseph Krause, 190 Ryland St Apt 3109, San Jose, CA 95110, Yuanyuan Gao, 190 Ryland St Apt 3109, San Jose, CA 95110. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/16/2025. /S/ Keith Joseph Krause / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 10/22/2025. (11-05,12,19,26-25)

261-T

TESS LABS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720694

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: TESS LABS, 1243 Green Oak Lane, 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):

John Affaki, 1243 Green Oak Lane, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ John Affaki / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 10/23/2025. (11-05,12,19,26-25)

260-T

THE FRONT DOOR EDIT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720639

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) THE FRONT DOOR EDIT, (2) FRONT DOOR EDIT, (3) THE SIDELINE EDITS, (4) SIDELINE EDITS, 6759 Velvet Meadow Ct, San Jose, CA, 95120, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a general partnership. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Maryann Cristofi, 6759 Velvet Meadow Ct, San Jose, CA 95120, Maryam J Youri, 1090 Foxhurst Way, San Jose, CA 95120. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/13/2025. /S/ Maryann Cristofi / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 10/21/2025. (10-29-25,11-05,12,19-25)

259-T

SOCIAL THINKING CENTER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720167

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SOCIAL THINKING CENTER, 1901 S Bascom Ave Ste 340, Campbell, CA, 95008, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): SOCIAL THINKING COMMUNICOLOGY, INC., 1901 S Bascom Ave Ste 340, Campbell, CA 95008. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/27/2010. /S/ Michelle Winner / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 10/01/2025. (10-29-25,11-05,12,19-25)

258-T

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PETITION OF ROBIN LYNN STEIN ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME 25CV477288

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

a. Robin Lynn Stein

Proposed Name:
a. Robyn Lynn Stein

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 01/13/2026 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: 10/14/2025 /s/ LE Jacqueline Duong Judge of the Superior Court (10-29-25,11-05,12,19-25)

257-T

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

SANITARY SEWER VIDEO INSPECTION PROJECT WW-01011

CITY OF LOS ALTOS
SANTA CLARA COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

1. Description of Work: The City of Los Altos, Santa Clara County, California, invites sealed bids for furnishing labor, material and equipment required to complete the project in the particular locations, of the forms, sizes and dimensions and of the materials and to the lines and grades and at the elevations as shown and delineated upon the plans and specifications made therefor. The following information is presented to indicate the size of the project and no warranty is made or intended to final quantities:

The project includes, but is not limited to, performing cleaning and television inspection of various sanitary sewer lines located throughout the southeastern part of Los Altos. The base bid for the project includes approximately 108,242 linear feet of sewer lines and the add alternative bid includes approximately 8,722 linear feet of sewer lines. The various sanitary sewer lines range in size from 6 inches to 24 inches in diameter.

2. Location of Work: All of said work is to be done at the places indicated in the specifications for the project as shown in Exhibits A and B included herewith.

3. Contract Documents: Bids must be submitted on the City's bid forms. A copy of the plans (half-size) and specifications shall be obtained from the office of the City Engineer, City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California, 94022 for a non-refundable fee of \$60 or visit the City's bids and vendor management portal hosted by PlanetBids to download the PDF file(s) (<https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/71685/portal-home>). Copies may also be inspected at the office of the City Engineer. To the extent required by Public Contract Code section 20103.7, the City will also make the Contract Documents available for review at one or more plan rooms.

4. Labor Compliance. Pursuant to paragraph 7-1.01A, Labor Code Requirements, of the General Provi-

sions in these specifications, Contractor is required to comply with California Labor Code Section 1770, et seq. This Code requires the Contractor to pay their workers based on prevailing wage rates established and issued by the Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor and Statistics and Research.

Pursuant to Labor Code sections 1725.5 and 1771.1, all contractors or subcontractors bidding on public works projects must be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). No contractor or subcontractor may be listed on a bid proposal for a public works project unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations [with limited exceptions from this requirement for bid purposes only under Labor Code section 1771.1(a)].

No contractor or subcontractor may be awarded a contract for public work on a public works project unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the contractor registration requirements mandated by Labor Code Sections 1725.5 and 1771.1 shall not apply to work performed on a public works project that is exempt pursuant to the small project exemption specified in Labor Code Sections 1725.5 and 1771.1. This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

5. Pre-bid Site Review: A pre-bid conference is not scheduled for this project. Prospective bidders are directed to Section 2-1.03 of the Standard Specifications regarding examination of the site of work.

6. Contractor's License: The Contractor is required to have a Class A General Engineering, Class C-34 Pipeline, Class C-36 Plumbing, or Class C-42 Sanitation Systems license for this work. All bidders shall be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9, Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California to do the type of work contemplated in the project.

7. Bid Bond: A bid bond that can be verified as authentic pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 995.311 is required.

a. Amount of Bid Bond. The bid bond shall be ten percent (10%) of the submitted Total Bid Price.

b. Delivery date. The Bid bond shall be submitted to the City before the latest date and time for Bid submittal.

c. Form of Bid Bond. Bid Bonds shall be submitted to the City in cash, a certified or cashier's check, an ORIGINAL paper bid bond, or an Electronic Bid Bond (e-Bond) executed and verified by an admitted surety in favor of the City.

d. E-bond platforms requirements. In the event the Bidder elects to submit an Electronic Bid Bond (e-Bond), a bid will be considered complete only if the applicant:

i. Obtains an E-Bonds issued by Surety2000 <http://www.surety2000.com> or Tinubu <https://www.tinubu.com/ebonding> platforms; and,

ii. Uploads the E-Bond in pdf form to the PlanetBids portal as a General Attachment. E-Bonds from other e-Bond platforms will not be accepted. Bidders are solely responsible for completing Surety2000 or Tinubu registration, and payment of associated fees and

charges. The City is not responsible to Bidders for (i) Surety2000 or Tinubu acts or omissions; (ii) the completeness or timely verification of the authenticity of the issued e-Bond; or (iii) any other errors by third parties in the issuance of the e-Bond.

e. Purpose of Bid Bond. In the event that the successful Bidder fails or refuses to enter into the Contract awarded to it, the bid bond shall be retained by the City and applied to any damages sustained by the City.

8. Location of Bid Submittal and Date and Time of Opening: The City accepts electronic submittal of bids only. Bids shall be submitted electronically to the City's bids and vendor management portal hosted by PlanetBids at <https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/71685/portal-home> on or before

Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 2PM

The PlanetBids contract ID for this project is WW01011. The Bidder's PlanetBids vendor identification number may also be necessary for the Bidder's Security. Each Bid received before the Bid submittal due date will be automatically opened and unsealed by PlanetBids at the time of the Bid deadline. Bids received after the Bid submittal due date will be rejected. Bids shall be valid for sixty (60) calendar days after the Bid opening date. Bid results (not verified) will be published.

9. Payment & Performance Bonds: The successful Bidder will be required to furnish the City with a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each equal to 100% of the successful Bid, prior to execution of the Contract.

All bonds are to be secured from a surety that meets all of the State of California bonding requirements, as defined in Code of Civil Procedure Section 995.120, and is admitted by the State of California. The cost of said bonds shall be included in the Bid amount.

10. Award of Contract: Said bids will be presented to and considered by the City Council at a regularly scheduled meeting. The City shall award the Contract for the Project to the lowest responsive, responsible Bidder on the basis of the Total Bid. In the event of any discrepancy between extended and unit prices as set forth in the bidder's bid schedule (i.e., the bidder's extended price does not equal the unit price multiplied by the applicable quantity), the City shall use the unit price to recompute the extended price and bid totals accordingly, and the recomputed amounts shall be used as the basis of determining the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. In the event of a significant discrepancy between unit and extended prices, the City reserves the right in its sole and absolute discretion to reject the bid as nonresponsive.

11. Time of Completion of Work: The work shall be completed and ready for full use within **one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days**, the first day of which shall be the date specified in the City Engineer's "Notice to Proceed".

12. Substitution of Securities: Pursuant to Public Contract Code section 22300, the successful Bidder may substitute certain securities

for funds withheld by City to ensure performance under the Contract.

13. Rights of the City: The City reserves the right to cancel the project, and to reject any or all bids if not satisfied as to the price for the work or the responsibility of the bidder. The City also reserves the right to waive any informalities according to law.

14. Project Administration: All questions relative to this project prior to the opening of bids shall be in writing submitted through the PlanetBids portal no later than five (5) business days from the bid due date and time.

Special direction is directed to Section 2 of the General Provisions for full directions as to bidding.

Dated: October 16, 2025

/s/ Harun Musaeefendic, P.E.
Senior Civil Engineer
(10-29-25,11-05-25)

256-T

KARBREEZE INC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719677

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: KARBREEZE INC, 830 Steward Dr Ste 276, Sunnyvale, CA, 94085, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): KARBREEZE INC, 725 North Quince St, Escondido, CA 92025. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 09/04/2025. /S/ Hailu Hailu / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/11/2025. (10-22,29-25,11-05,12-25)

254-T

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: WUN SEN LIN, aka WALLY LIN, WUNSEN LIN, WUN S. LIN, WUN LIN CASE NO. 25PR200975

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of WUN SEN LIN, aka WALLY LIN, WUNSEN LIN, WUN S. LIN, WUN LIN. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by MIAO CHUAN LIN in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MIAO CHUAN LIN 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

Public Notices

court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 11/19/2025 at 9:01AM in Dept. 1 located at 191 NORTH FIRST ST., SAN JOSE, CA 95113 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner QUYNH T. TRAN, ESQ. & MARY H. LIN, ESQ. Bay Wealth Legal Group, LLP 909 Laurel Street San Carlos, CA 94070 (650) 779-5525; (650) 779-5524 (10-22,29-25,11-05-25)

253-T

**POLARIS ASSOCIATES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN720332**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: POLARIS ASSOCIATES, 836 Nash Road, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: married couple. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Charlotte Xiaoshuang Fu, 836 Nash Road, Los Altos, CA 94024, Suwen Wang, 836 Nash Road, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/23/2015. /S/ Charlotte Xiaoshuang Fu / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 10/07/2025. (10-15,22,29-25,11-05-25)

252-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

Crossword Answers

1	T	2	K	3	O	4	A	5	S	6	U	7	S	8	I	9	S	10	S	11	Y
12	A	I	T	13	C	H	E	S	14	C	N	O	T	E							
15	O	R	C	H	A	R	D	16	A	S	N	E	W								
				17	E	B	B					18	R	U	N						
19	A	20	S	21	I	F					22	A	L	L	E	23	Y				
24	C	O	S			25	C	O	R	V	E	T	T	E	28	S					
29	C	U	R			30	A	H	O	O	T			31	E	A	U				
32	T	R	A	33	N	S	I	E	N	T				34	E	S	S				
			35	S	E	E	T	O						36	O	R	T	S			
			37	L	V	I						38	D	E	O						
40	F	41	R	I	A	R			42	A	D	A	P	43	T	44	E	45	R		
46	O	U	T	D	O				47	H	A	S	S	L	E	S					
48	I	M	E	A	N				49	A	Y	E			50	C	R	T			

Sudoku Answers

1	5	6	2	9	8	4	3	7
2	9	7	6	3	4	8	5	1
3	4	8	7	5	1	2	9	6
4	6	1	9	8	7	3	2	5
8	7	5	3	2	6	1	4	9
9	3	2	1	4	5	6	7	8
5	2	9	8	1	3	7	6	4
6	1	3	4	7	9	5	8	2
7	8	4	5	6	2	9	1	3

Find A Word Answers

Y	E	J	L	Z	F	R	T	E	N	I	B	A	C	T
H	C	V	S	S	C	Y	Z	R	A	T	E	J	Q	Y
Q	L	Z	O	H	S	T	E	L	T	U	O	U	X	N
O	I	L	A	M	B	H	I	R	P	T	K	K	N	E
T	P	I	S	R	E	O	T	I	H	C	K	U	R	X
R	R	N	D	J	L	G	O	A	S	H	O	W	E	R
L	E	J	R	O	G	N	A	K	B	K	J	K	X	U
S	K	T	O	M	W	Q	N	R	C	M	F	H	J	J
B	P	E	S	D	E	S	K	S	O	A	G	C	Y	O
S	S	M	R	I	D	U	Q	K	F	T	S	I	S	T
Q	S	O	A	E	N	F	V	L	R	C	S	E	E	H
N	A	D	F	L	G	N	L	Q	R	P	H	P	O	K
X	T	P	E	A	Q	A	A	O	K	V	R	K	Q	X
P	V	Y	Q	B	Z	Q	T	B	O	A	P	D	Y	H
A	X	Z	Z	V	X	W	M	E	C	R	V	Q	Q	T

Datebook

CLUBS/GROUPS

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

EVENTS

Los Altos Main Library. All events held in the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, unless otherwise indicated. **Monday Meditation & Mindfulness,** 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Los Altos Main Library, 7 p.m., Woodland Library, 1975 Grant Road. **Poetry Community Hour Open Mic,** 7 p.m., first Monday of every month. **Discover Ilocano Traditional Weaving.** 1 p.m. Nov. 5. Introduces the socio-cultural and historical significance of Ilocano traditional weaving within the Filipino American community. Participants explore iconic design patterns, their symbolism and try weaving on small looms. Seating limited to 25 attendees. **Native American Song and Dance Celebration,** 7 p.m. Nov. 18. Part of the Santa Clara County Library District's celebration of Native American Heritage Month, featuring Future Generations, a collaboration of Native American singers, dancers and artists from the greater San Francisco Bay Area. **Ten Years, Billions of Galaxies, One Sky: The Rubin Observatory Story,** 7 p.m. Nov. 20. Stanford University's Bernadita Ried Guachalla will explore how Rubin's images will help us tackle some of the biggest questions in cosmology: What is dark matter made of? What is driving the accelerated expansion of the Universe? And how did cosmic structures evolve over billions of years?

Mountain View Dia de Muertos Celebration. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 1; Enjoy the festivities and altars, ofrendas, decorated with Cempasúchil flowers, or marigolds, papel picado, sugar skulls and a myriad of colors created and inspired by community members. Information: tinyurl.com/MVdiademertos.

CLUBS/GROUPS

Los Altos History Museum. Love history and working with kids? Become a Los Altos History Museum school tour program education docent. Share local history with 3rd and 4th graders on weekday mornings this spring. Training begins in November. Must be 18 years old to apply. Information: losaltoshistory.org/education/student-tours.

American Association of University Women - Silicon Valley Branch. Open to women (and men) with a college degree who are interested in equity for women and girls. Information: (650) 464-2830, siliconvalley-ca.aauw.net.

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

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

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

Kiwanis Club of Los Altos. An international Service organization. Meets at noon every Tuesday at the Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave. Information: (650) 735-1552, losaltoskiwanis.org.

Peninsula Harmony Chorus. A cappella chorus centered in Los Altos. Performs some "doo-wop" numbers from the 50s and 60s, plus show tunes, ballads, pop, folk, world music and holiday music at year end. Rehearsals Monday evenings at 7:15 p.m. at Los Altos Lutheran Church. Information: peninsulaharmony.org.

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

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

HP Retired Employees Club. Open to HP/Agilent retirees. Members can participate in activities.

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

Los Altos Las Madres Playgroups. Playgroups for moms and their babies five and under. Play dates in and around Los Altos. Expectant moms, new dads and other caregivers welcome. Information: (650) 917-9914, lasmadres.org.

Quota International of Mountain View/Los Altos. Supports scholarships for

See ORDINANCE, Page 7

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

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

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

Sons in Retirement, Branch 5. Small group of men who keep socially and mentally active, have lunch and hear speakers on a variety of subjects. 11 a.m. fourth Wednesday of each month. Michael's restaurant at Shoreline Golf Course, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Information: (408) 391-1078.

Morning Forum of Los Altos. Nov. 4, Pulitzer Prize-winner Timothy Egan will speak on his years documenting the stories of Indigenous groups. Nov. 18, author, speaker and wilderness guide Jim Wilkens will talk about his adventures. Dec. 2, author Alka Joshi will talk about her new murder mystery novel. Jan. 20, Bertrand Patenaude, Stanford University History and International Relations lecturer, will discuss the history and status of the Baltic States.

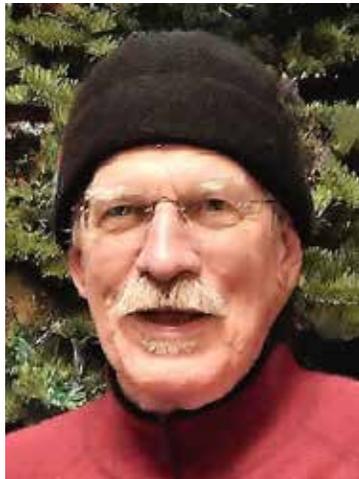
SUPPORT GROUPS

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

Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing (GRASP). Support group helping 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. Information: eshow818@gmail.com

Vasa Order of America, Lindbergh Lodge. Organization for 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.

DR. (ROBERT) CLARKE BROOKS



May 14, 1943 –
October 18, 2025

Dr. (Robert) Clarke Brooks of Los Altos, CA passed away on 10/18/2025 at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, CA at 1:30 AM.

Clarke was a graduate of Drew University (BS), the University of Chicago (PhD), and Palmer College of Chiropractic West (DC).

His first career was in biochemical research. He did a postdoc at the Smithsonian Institution Radiation Biology Lab, and worked in R&D at several medical technology companies, including Syntex and Becton Dickinson. He also had a startup with a colleague (Mark Nokes) called FOxS Labs that developed a fiber optic sensor to measure O2, CO2 and pH in critically ill patients, and was subsequently bought by Puritan Bennett.

His second career was in chiropractic health care. He was an advocate of complementary and alternative medicine, and an intuitive, gifted and caring healer. He was beloved by his patients and devoted to helping them heal in the most natural way possible.

Clarke was a voracious reader and lover of nature, especially plants and birds. He was an avid cyclist in his youth. He had devout yoga and meditation practices, and was a loving husband and father.

Born in New Brunswick, NJ, and from Milltown, NJ, Clarke was the son of the late Robert Maurice Brooks of Newton NJ and the late Martha Regina Fehrer Brooks of Sayreville NJ, and also the stepson of the late Yvonne Cecile Marie Reuse Brooks of Newton, NJ.

Dr. Brooks is survived by his wife of 51 years, (Mary) Adeline Shrewsbury of Los Altos, CA, daughter Regina Adeline Shrewsbury Brooks (Mark) of Sunnyvale, CA, the family cat Bear of Los Altos, CA, brother Rene Brooks (Benedicte) of Morristown NJ and Sister Elizabeth Brooks Sisson (James) of Richmond, CA. He is predeceased by his sister, Janice Brooks of Redwood City, CA.

There will not be a memorial service. Remembrances can be posted on <https://www.legacy.com/> and <https://www.spanglermortuary.com/obits>

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to the Second Harvest of Silicon Valley (<https://impact.shfb.org/fundraiser/6797277>) and Camphill Village Minnesota (<https://www.camphillmn.org>).



JOHN A. KEYES



September 30, 1925 –
October 21, 2025

John A. Keyes, a pioneer in the development of communication satellites, died in his home on October 21, three weeks after celebrating his 100th birthday.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1925, John and his four siblings grew up during the depression, always grateful for strong and nurturing parents. He proudly attended Brooklyn Technical high school and, upon graduation in 1943, enlisted in the US Navy. There he qualified for an officer training program which permitted him to complete his college education at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. While at R.P.I. he was selected for membership in the Honorary Society of Sigma Xi, received a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree, and met Mary Connell, his future wife.

After an honorable discharge from active duty as an Ensign in the Navy and at the end of WWII, he joined General Electric and was selected for their competitive Creative Engineering Program. This program had a profound impact on his future and the success of his technical and business career.

In 1961 John joined Philco Ford in Philadelphia and soon after transferred to the Western Development Laboratories in Palo Alto CA. His work contributed directly to the eventual funding of what became Ford Aerospace, and later Space Systems/Loral.

He traveled around the globe throughout his career, and told endless stories about his experiences, one favorite included a flight on the Concord/ SST.

In 1973, his career brought him to Washington DC as Director of Commercial Development at Comsat Labs in Maryland. Here he was instrumental in the continued growth of communication by satellite. He took much pride in his part and responsibility to install a satellite antenna on the Queen Elizabeth II, enabling the first ever maritime satellite to and from ship communications for passengers. He was most fortunate to receive the first telephone call via satellite from this ship, at sea, through the domestic telephone network.

John was recognized and instrumental in sending, through satellite transmission, a way to print in distant locations, making the distribution of newspapers across the country quicker and more efficient. He received the first printed page of the Wall Street Journal via satellite, the page, framed and displayed, was one of John's most prized possessions.

John had a passion for aviation of all kinds; his favorite hobby was flying as a private pilot. He loved to ski for decades, taking his last downhill run at the age of 87, and playing golf into his late 80s.

John was predeceased, by his loving and cherished wife of 69 years, Mary Connell Keyes, (2017), and by his son, Lt Col. John W. Keyes USAF, lost in service to his country, (1996), as well as all four of his siblings, and numerous nieces and nephews

He is survived by his daughter, Barbara (Barry Thompson), and son William (Natalie). In addition to four grandsons; Kyle and Lucas Thompson, Nicholas and Jonathan Keyes. He will be greatly missed by many friends and nieces and nephews, together with his caregiver of 11 years, Fabiola.

A mass of Christian burial will be held on Friday November 7 at 10.30am. St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Los Altos, CA



LAURY JO SHATTOCK



February 17, 1960 –
October 11, 2025

Laury Jo Shattock passed away suddenly on October 11, 2025, at the age of 65. A kind and compassionate woman, Laury's loving spirit touched the lives of countless friends and family members.

Born on February 17, 1960, and raised in Buena Park, California, Laury was one of six siblings who shared a close and loving bond. From an early age, she displayed a deep passion for sports, especially softball, a love she carried proudly through her college years.

In October 1983, Laury met the love of her life, Jim, at a wedding, and within six months she moved to Sunnyvale to begin their beautiful journey together. This past June, they joyfully celebrated 40 wonderful years of marriage.

Laury was blessed with two beloved daughters, Megan and Courtney, and in March 2024, she embraced her most cherished role as "Grandma" to Jackson, who quickly became the light of her life. She was also a devoted aunt to eight nieces and nephews, whom she loved dearly.

For the past 21 years, Laury devoted her heart and talents to teaching Pre-K at the Los Altos United Methodist Church Children's Center, where she shaped young minds with her patience, creativity, and boundless warmth. Teaching was never just a job, it was her calling and her joy.

Laury's laughter, love, and legacy will forever live on in the countless lives she touched and the hearts she filled along the way.



My clients say it best.

“My wife and I lived on Ernestine Lane in Mountain View for 38 years. Records showed that Elizabeth Thompson had been the realtor on more Ernestine Lane transactions than any other realtor, so she seemed a natural pick for us.

Elizabeth gave us a schedule that showed the period of renovations and getting ready for sale, inspections, MLS listing of our house for sale, open houses, when we could expect to receive offers, the date upon which we would go into contract, and closing. I was amazed when the schedule was totally fulfilled for every day. **100% schedule adherence is amazing.**

Elizabeth transformed our well lived in house into a showpiece. She created a cloakroom out of a small section of the hallway, put together a mud/laundry room area, transformed the back shed into a great space for work or play, and installed an accordion door that can fully open to transform the dining room and outside patio into a larger party area. Elizabeth recruited and paid for the construction crew and all materials. We reimbursed her materials and labor costs with our sale proceeds at the time of closing, with no interest or overhead added.”

MARC & BARB
Sellers



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