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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 • Feb. 11, 2026

Dick Henning, community icon, dies

By Howard Bischoff

Associate Publisher/howardb@latc.com

Richard (Dick) Henning, former professor, dean and administrator at Foothill College, died Feb. 4 at the age of 90.

Before starting his 31-year career at Foothill College, Henning was an instructor, counselor and vice principal at Sunnyvale High School.

In 1967 he became director of student activities at Foothill College. A year later Henning founded the Foothill College Celebrity Forum, which would last for 51 years.

Henning, through Celebrity Forum, brought authors, entertainers, politicians, and other famous people to the local area. Sam Harding, a close friend and fellow Rotarian of Henning's said "Dick's Celebrity Forum was an important educational and community builder."

In 1996, Henning was named Los Altan of the Year, and editor Bruce Barton wrote for the feature article that Henning had been stuck in traffic with Mikhail Gorbachev, fishing for trout with Jimmy Carter and patted on the tush by Shirley MacLaine.

A number of Celebrity Forum speakers made multiple appearances over the years, such as Dave Barry, Ken Burns, Rick Steves and Robert Reich. Henning said nearly all of his contacts were pleasant and agreeable.

Former Foothill De Anza Community College District Chancellor Judy Miner said Henning "was as much a beloved celebrity as the internationally renowned speakers he was able to attract." Miner added that during one of the district's opening days in the 1990's, Henning was leading a talk on some of the Celebrity Forum speakers, and the classroom was overflowing and the crowd spilled over into the hallway.

"I was in awe of his charisma and eloquence and look back with gratitude for our friendship that developed over the following years," she added.

Henning joined the Los Altos Rotary Club



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

Former Los Altan of the year Dick Henning died after years of community service.

in 1968 and was a founding member of the Rotary AIDS Project, which raises money for AIDS research.

Stan Scardino, a past Rotary president, said "Dick Henning was a man of great character." He lived his life with a fierce intention in everything he did, be it family, Rotary projects, acquiring Celebrity Forum speakers, friendships, travel or his own time to leave. He achieved his bucket list before it was a popular concept."

One of his great joys was going on safaris to Africa.

Dennis Young, another former Rotary president and current publisher of the Town Crier, knew Henning for more than 40 years.

See HENNING, Page 4

Los Altos Police Dept. doesn't plan to stray from Flock

By Christina Casillas

Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

After an investigation by the Mountain View Voice revealed Mountain View's Flock Safety camera system had inadvertently allowed hundreds of law enforcement agencies to access sensitive data, officials at the Los Altos Police Department said the same settings that allowed Mountain View's data to be accessed were also turned on for the city.

While Mountain View may have turned off their Flock cameras in response to the breach, Los Altos will keep its cameras operating.

The first Flock Safety cameras were installed and turned on in Los Altos at the beginning of June 2024; nine months later, that's when the city no-

ticed a nationwide search option was turned on, Los Altos Police Chief Saskia Lagergren said.

"Because we audit so frequently and check our network audit, which shows which agencies searched the entire Flock network, we discovered that the same settings that were turned on for the Mountain View Police Department were also turned on for the Los Altos Police Department without our knowledge or approval," she stated in an email. "... It seems that nationwide search was turned on without our knowledge or approval when the cameras were installed."

The Los Altos Police Department turned off the search feature in March 2025, "... and Flock made changes to their

See FLOCK, Page 4

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Around Town

St. Francis girls soccer undefeated



GABRIELA DE CARVALHO TELES/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

The St. Francis girls soccer team stayed undefeated this season (14-0-1) with a 2-0 win over Archbishop Mitty Wednesday and a 5-0 win over Archbishop Riordan Saturday. St. Francis has had one draw this season, a 0-0 tie against St. Ignatius, which it plays today at 5:30 p.m. St. Ignatius is in second place in the West Catholic Athletic League at 8-1-1, while St. Francis is 8-0-1.



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News

MVPD turns off ALPRs following data access concerns

By Giuseppe Ricapito

Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

Automated license plate reader cameras in Mountain View have been turned off by Mountain View Police Chief Mike Canfield following concerns about unauthorized data access. The cameras will remain inactive until the City Council discusses the future of the program at its Feb. 24 meeting.

“I made this decision after careful consideration and deliberation. While the Flock Safety pilot program demonstrated clear value in enhancing our ability to protect our community and help us solve crimes, I personally no longer have confidence in this particular vendor,” Canfield said in a statement released on Monday. “Like many of you, I was deeply disappointed to learn that Flock Safety did not meet the city’s requirements regarding our data access control and transparency.”

The department released a statement on Jan. 30 indicating

that several federal agencies accessed data from the first Mountain View ALPR camera in 2024. The agencies and sites included the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives offices in Kentucky and Nashville, TN; the Langley Air Force Base in Virginia; the U.S. GSA Office of Inspector General; Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada; and an Ohio Air Force Base. This was enabled through a “nationwide” search setting enabled by Flock Safety.

“This setting was enabled without MVPD’s permission or knowledge,” the statement said.

A city statement said officials became aware of the data access through a department-initiated audit. The city disclosed the breach following a public records request from the Mountain View Voice. It is unknown whether license plate information was shared. Flock Safety did not retain records for that time period, according to the city.



HOWARD BISCHOFF/TOWN CRIER

A Flock Safety ALPR sits at the corner of Whisman Road and East Dana Street in Mountain View.

The audit also revealed a “statewide” setting that allowed California law enforcement agencies to access data from 29 of the city’s 30 cameras. The setting was disabled on Monday, Jan. 5. The city’s first ALPR camera went live

on Aug. 14, 2024, and the final camera was installed earlier this month. Flock Safety was unable to determine whether license plate information was shared because records from part of that period were not retained.

“This is a system failure on Flock Safety’s part. ... MVPD worked closely with Flock Safety during the outset of the program to design a model that strictly prohibited out-of-state

See BREACH, Page 6

HENNING

From Page 1

“He had a way of listening that made you feel you were his best friend,” Young said. Young added that Dick was a “behind the scenes doer, and a true leader.”

A celebration of life for Dick Henning is being planned.



SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Dick Henning, above, was very active in the Los Altos Rotary Club.

FLOCK

From Page 1

search features in order to align with the California Values Act and other laws, since California agencies are restricted from sharing ALPR data with federal or out-of-state agencies,” she said.

“But “several” months ago, the department discovered multiple California agencies that were not on the city’s shared list had also been accessing data, Lagergren said. After reaching out to Flock regarding the discrepancy, Lagergren said that the statewide look-up setting was turned on, which allowed any agency in the state to search the entire Flock camera network.

“We had not approved this feature being turned on, so we asked Flock to disable it, which they did. We went a step further and restricted our sharing access to only those agencies in the four counties surrounding Los Altos: Santa Clara County, Santa Cruz County, San Mateo County and Alameda County,” she said. “We have conducted network audits since then and now the only agencies that appear in our network audit are those on our approved share list.”

Flock said it’s interested in collab-

orating and working with communities in California, including Los Altos and Mountain View, to “ensure they feel confident in their Flock program,” Holly Beilin, Flock Safety senior director of communications said.

“To help every agency stay in compliance, Flock disabled the National Lookup feature for all California agencies (in March 2025) and blocked out-of-state agencies from creating data sharing relationships with California agencies (in June 2025). We are confident that every California agency can use Flock technology in alignment with state law, policy and community values,” she said.

Lagergren said that the police department doesn’t have a list of agencies with which they used to share data during the time those settings were turned on because they no longer appear in the department’s Flock portal, but the approved agencies that do make requests must be approved manually by LAPD personnel.

“Our Flock administrator, who is one of our sergeants, reviews share requests as they come in and they either approve or deny them,” she said. “If the agency is located within one of the four counties mentioned above, their request is approved. If they are

not located within one of those counties, their share request is denied. The number of requests varies each month, but is typically one to five agencies.”

While Lagergren said that she was frustrated with Flock and its lack of communication and transparency – especially because trust and transparency with the community are some of her “top priorities” – she said the cameras were too important of a resource to turn off.

“With this being said, this is an invaluable tool for our police department and our neighboring jurisdictions,” Lagergren said. “We have solved cases, we have found leads in cases that we are currently investigating, we have located stolen vehicles and we have located missing people with this technology. We have also seen residential burglaries significantly decrease since the ALPR cameras have been installed.”

While she would consider other vendors if they existed with a comparable network size, she said Flock’s effectiveness is connected to the size of the network.

To view what agencies have access to Los Altos Flock data, visit transparency.flocksafety.com/los-altos-ca-pd.

MV refines draft outdoors & park plans

By Giuseppe Ricapito

Staff Writer/giusepperr@latc.com

Mountain View is finalizing multiple strategic plans for its parks and recreation management.

The City Council reviewed the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan during a study session at its Jan. 27 meeting, setting forth a series of refinements to the document which has been under development since 2022. Among the updates, the council asked to elevate biodiversity among the goals, greater details on trails and increasing volunteerism.

“Mountain View is an inclusive, resilient community where a rich network of parks, natural open spaces and recreation opportunities builds community, enhances physical and emotional well being, and inspires care for our natural environment,” said Councilmember Pat Showalter.

The Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan is a guide for how Mountain View will expand, enhance and sustain its parks, open spaces and recreation system over the next 10 to 15 years.

And it will guide a wide-ranging amount of programs and city-sponsored endeavors.

The parks and recreation system includes 46 city parks and school fields, two trail corridors, and community centers which include a senior center, teen center, aquatics complexes, historical sites and a performing arts center. The city also offers 1,800 recreation classes, camps and activities year-round. It reached a record high 13,000 enrollments in 2025. There are also more than 80 special events each year hosted through the department.

City officials recently shared an updated draft Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan for public review which incorporated comments from a Nov. 17, 2025 commission meeting. City staff plans to incorporate the update into the current draft. An updated draft plan is anticipated to return to the Parks and Recreation Commission for review in March 2026 and to the City Council for consideration of adoption in May 2026.

Among the focuses for the council is how the plans will be funded over the planning period.

“This is where council has to step up,” Councilmember John McAlister said.

Biodiversity was among the must-discuss topics.

“I would be interested in that especially if we could combine it with what so many residents said about elevating natural parks,” Councilmember Alison Hicks said.

The city first adopted a recreation plan in 2008 as a companion to its Parks and Open Space Plan, which was adopted in 1992. The current Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan has been in development

since 2022.

City officials have catalogued 3,200 engagements over the course of its public outreach process, according to a staff report. Mountain View residents overwhelmingly attested to the quality of the parks and recreation programs, the report said.

Biodiversity & Urban Forest Plan

The Mountain View Parks and Recreation Commission has also advanced guiding documents related to biodiversity and parks maintenance for additional phases of review.

The members of the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the Biodiversity and Urban Forest Plan during a meeting on Jan. 21 and voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the document by the City Council. In a communal note written during the meeting, the commission members recommended the council designate a project coordinator in order to address concerns about the allocation of resources and implementation of the plan.

The document is intended to guide a science-based approach to the city’s biodiversity and operating systems in an urban and modern environment. The plan is focused on protecting native trees and vegetation, and enhancing the role they play in the environment, public health and social services.

“The city will benefit from this work,” Commissioner Jonathan Davis said.

The commission first reviewed the draft plan in October 2025. The plan is intended to expand on the 2015 community tree master plan and establish a comprehensive, science-based framework for advancing biodiversity, strengthening the urban forest and enhancing climate resiliency across Mountain View.

The changes affirmed by the commission include stronger language throughout the document to reflect accountability. Conditional terms such as “could” were replaced with “should” or “will,” and language that focused on plan implementation, according to a staff report.

The plan additionally set out an implementation framework with time frames and priorities in order to set out the development of city biodiversity maintenance work.

“With these revisions, the plan more explicitly functions as a city policy document and implementation framework, not a consultant recommendation, and better communicates the city’s long-term commitment to biodiversity and the urban forest,” the staff report said.

The document is set to be reviewed by the City Council in April. A tentative approval date is set for June.

Locals predict economic impact from Super Bowl

By Giuseppe Ricapito

Staff Writer/giusepperr@latc.com

The Bay Area saw massive economic impact generated by the Super Bowl in Santa Clara over the past weekend, with officials in Los Altos and Mountain View attesting to the positive influx.

“Certainly for Friday and Saturday it was busy all around,” said Scott Hunter, Executive Director

of Los Altos Village Association. “A lot of it was done whether the Super Bowl was here or not, but anecdotally it looked like a busy weekend.”

Prospects were high for the economic benefit of the Super Bowl in the Bay Area this year, where the Seattle Seahawks bested the England Patriots 29-13 at Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara on Sunday for Super Bowl LX.

According to a report out of Levi’s Stadium for Super Bowl 50, where the big game was hosted 10 years ago, there was \$240 million in economic impact to the Bay Area. More than 57% of revenues benefitted San Francisco; 12.3% went to San Jose; 7.2% went to Santa Clara; 7.1% went to areas near San Francisco International

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Mountain View’s CSA readies itself for possible turbulent times

By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

Local nonprofit Community Services Agency (CSA) is facing unprecedented times as it enters 2026, with concerns about a decrease in federal funding and federal immigration policy affecting a large number of its clients.

CSA’s Board of Directors recently announced its plans to not accept federal funding due to several strings

attached. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development required CSA pledge not to engage in “gender ideology,” not provide any information or referrals to health services which may include “abortion services,” and not to provide services to some people based on their immigration status, CSA Executive Director Tom Myers said.

“We are dealing with a situation where we’ve got people who are scared, we’ve got

funding that is potentially going to be cut,” Myers said at an update meeting Feb. 5. “CSA is healthy, but that doesn’t mean we are not going to deal with turbulence.”

Approximately 12% of CSA’s budget comes from federal funding, with 12% from the county and 5% from the city. The organization does not receive federal funds directly but instead through other sources that give it to CSA. Myers noted federal funding cuts will impact Santa Clara

County and the city of Mountain View, which provide funding to CSA. The county provides over \$1 million to CSA, including approximately \$504,000 for homeless prevention, \$383,000 for senior nutrition and \$150,000 for advocacy and outreach. The city of Mountain View provides roughly \$230,000 total, with \$170,000 for homeless prevention, \$42,000 for homeless services and \$18,000 for senior nutrition.

Myers said he is most worried about the health of the senior nutrition program and other senior programs due to a decrease in federal funding. The nutrition program offers a dine-in meal Monday through Friday at the Mountain View Senior Center, with a \$5 suggested donation. Myers said CSA is not in danger of closing but needs to be cautious about the health of its programs. CSA has seen an increase in donations and

community solidarity in the short term to help, although it is not sustainable in the long run.

“CSA has been here for almost 70 years and is going to continue to be here for a long time, but a lot of that is because we have invested in our reserves,” Myers said.

Myers noted there is a climate of fear around immigration raids and economic uncertainty, given recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids around the country. Myers stressed that CSA does not ask its clients about their immigration status. He noted CSA has plans in place in case of ICE raids, though he would not discuss specifics outside the organization.

“We have thought this through,” Myers said of potential ICE raids. “It’s very important to us to make sure that those plans are thorough.”

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www.stsimon.church

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Los Altos Town Crier

BREACH

From Page 4

data sharing and ensured that any agency receiving access to Mountain View’s data was approved by the police chief or his designee,” the statement said.

The controversy follows concerns from municipalities nationwide about Flock Safety’s data sharing.

The Los Altos Hills City Council voted at a Jan. 15 meeting to direct city staff to begin the process of ending its contract with Flock Safety for its 31 cameras around town. The city’s contract with Flock began in 2021, and the current contract runs through June 30. The cities of Santa Cruz, Austin, Eugene and Denver are among the cities to reevaluate their business with the company.

Holly Beilin, senior director of communications with the Atlanta-based Flock Safety, said the company was working with the city to ensure confidence in the program.

“Every community has differing historical and current sharing settings, and one city’s situation cannot be applied to any other,” Beilin said. “We are confident that every California agency can use Flock technol-

ogy in alignment with state law, policy and community values.”

Beilin said Flock disabled the national lookup feature for all California agencies in March 2025 and blocked out-of-state agencies from creating data sharing relationships with California agencies in June 2025.

The chief of police laid the blame squarely on the company, declaring that access by out-of-state agencies was a violation of the protective measures Flock claimed were in place.

Canfield said the company’s conduct was “unacceptable.”

“I share your anger and frustration regarding how Flock Safety’s system enabled out-of-state agencies to search our license plate data, and I am sorry that such searches occurred. I know how essential transparency is for maintaining trust and for community policing. This is why MVPD has been so open about what we learned and why we are pausing this program until our City Council can weigh in,” he said.

Officials noted the public safety benefit of the cameras – assisting in the investigations of burglaries, home break-ins and a reported kidnapping.

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News

Controversial development appeal fails

Los Altos City Council denies housing development appeal but legal litigations continue

By Christina Casillas

Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

While Los Altos City Council unanimously denied an appeal related to a housing development at 4898 El Camino Real during a hearing at the Jan. 27 City Council meeting, litigation against the city filed by concerned Los Altos residents is ongoing.

The 85-unit, eight-story development is set to be built on a .42 acre-lot at the corner of El Camino Real and Jordan Avenue. Ten of the units are restricted as affordable.

Those who presented the appeal at the Jan. 27 City Council meeting on behalf of the appellant – Guiting Ye, who did not speak – included Anatol Shmelev and Yanhua Mao. They noted that the housing development, which Shmelev referred to throughout the night as “cancer tower,” included a flawed traffic analysis, waiver misuse, ADA noncompliance and inadequate public notice as reasons why their appeal should be accepted. Shmelev and Mao suggested the City Council should accept their appeal and either disapprove or significantly amend the project because of improper zoning, misuse of waivers and unusual traffic circumstances.

Shmelev is also the petitioner in the lawsuit the city is currently facing as related to the 4898 El Camino Real development.

He said the development would bring housing “at the expense of (their) neighborhood,” during the City Council meeting. “The most significant impact of this building, cancer tower, will be the traffic situation on Jordan Avenue,” he said. He noted that traffic along Jordan Avenue often backs up to Marich Way, especially during peak times.

“If other buildings in the vicinity go to eight or nine stories, Jordan and El Camino will be unmanageable,” he said. A number of other residents in support of the appeal voiced the same

concern during the meeting.

Vice Mayor Larry Lang noted before voting against the appeal, a process which he described as quasi-judicial, required council to look at the facts, look at the law, and then see how the “two together end up in a decision.”

“In this case it’s a very specific question – the very specific question is, ‘objectively, does the project fit in with the rules of the housing accountability act with the density bonus rules, and also with the traffic ... particularly related to miles traveled,’” he said during the meeting. “... There was nothing in the appellant’s case about that, a lot of talk about traffic, but the thing that the state instructs us to use to determine that was not covered at all.”

The hearing also allowed developer Aron Developers, represented by Brian O’Neill of Patterson and O’Neill, to defend the development.

O’Neill noted in his letter to council that, “The stated bases for the appeal are without merit, and demonstrate fundamental misunderstandings of both state housing law and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).” During the meeting, O’Neill said that height or density alone is not considered unusual under CEQA.

Ultimately, despite numerous pleas from residents of the neighborhood that would be affected by the development, City Council denied the appeal. Councilmember Jonathan Weinberg noted that he had wished the appellant’s legal representation had been at the meeting for their argument to have been a bit stronger, especially since Weinberg – himself an attorney of law – said he wanted there to be a stronger legal argument against the development.

A case management conference hearing – when a judge meets with the petitioner and respondents before a suit is presented in court – is set for April 22. The hearing, happening before the case is heard, will result in set deadlines and identification of a timeline for the litigation. It will also allow the parties to explore resolution of the dispute, including settlement, mediation or arbitration, according to US Legal Forms Resources.

IMPACT

From Page 5

Airport; 3.7% went to Oakland; and 12.6% benefited various other parts of the Bay Area, the report said.

Daniel Lurie, then the chair of the Super Bowl 50 Host Committee, said at the time that the investment in the Bay Area would pay. This year, estimates looked perhaps even more promising.

Jed York, owner of the 49ers, said at a concluding press conference on Monday that there was an estimated \$500 million in economic impact across the Bay Area. The total included about 100,000 hotel room nights and \$10 million in philanthropic donations, he said.

Simone Harms, general manager at the Ameswell Hotel in Mountain View, said occupancy was very high for the entire weekend.

“It was definitely an absolute, very successful event for the weekend. Usually when you think of a weekend, Mountain View might not come first in your mind. But for us it was really great,” she said.

The city of Mountain View hosted a fan fest event



RYAN CANDELARIA/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Locals speculate the Super Bowl stimulated the local economy as visitors traveled the Bay Area.

in the downtown area on Saturday, which brought in visitors seeking food, drink, lodging and recreation.

A bartender at the Sports Page in Mountain View, speaking through a crowd of voices, said Monday that the Sunday event was “busy, but we were busy all weekend.”



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Comment

Letters to the Editor

Think electrification

About this time of the year, especially this year, you may be hearing the low hum of your neighbor's air conditioner when you're taking out the trash. Wow, you think, "It's been unseasonably warm but not this warm." Some Los Altans are prone to attribute this to changes in our local climate, but running air conditioners in February? Come on. Someone ought to write a letter to the Los Altos Town Crier about this!

Wait a minute – maybe it's one of those heat pump HVAC things. Yes, that's it. A furnace and air conditioner all-in-one – you may have heard about. They've been around a few years now and are technically mature and widely available – ideal for the Los Altos climate. Many neighbors are gradually renovating their homes to make them 100% electric. The process is what we in the Electrification Collaboration call an "electrification journey." Heat pump HVACs are just one of the bigger steps along the way.

There are these reasons: 1) Electrified homes sell at a premium and you can justify the extra cost in terms of increased home value. 2) Heat pumps deliver exceptional comfort be-

cause in summer or winter you get that gentle, always right temperature. 3) You'd be taking a big step towards fuel independence because heat pumps pull free energy right out of the air, 300% more efficient, inflation proof. 4) Well, there really is this climate consideration, even in our local paradise. Has your neighbor perhaps done the right thing?

David Cain
Los Altos

A small act of Los Altos kindness

One late afternoon while walking my dog Harvey, a woman who owns (or works) at the beauty store Blue Mercury on Main Street (in downtown Los Altos) came out the door and enthusiastically asked if she could pet our dog. Her name is Jody, and she is a huge dog lover. She went back into the store and brought Harvey a dog treat as she showered him with affection. Now each time we are within a block or so of the Blue Mercury, Harvey begins to pull me to Jody's store, where she and her coworkers always have hugs, pets and treats for him. On many days there are other dog walkers either in front of

Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

The Father's Frolics production "Cleopatra" was presented by the Los Altos PTA Council to raise funds for equipment to support the community swimming pool at Covington School in 1956. The all-male volunteer theatrical company led by LeRoy Stransky raised funds to support the youth center, Covington pool and other local youth activities for 12 years.

the store or patiently waiting outside for their turn. It is quite a special scene. When I leave the Blue Mercury I am smiling and simply feel better about the day. Jody's kindness reminds me of the small things that can help make a community great!

Jerry Brodkey
Los Altos

Move the money around

I received a notice today from the City Manager's Office, asking me to prioritize

such things as fire protection versus such things as repairing potholes. Apparently we don't have enough money for both.

It occurs to me that if things are indeed this dire – that we can't afford both fire protection and street maintenance simultaneously – then the first thing the city should do is stop spending money we don't have on things people don't want. The city has already approved the expenditure of \$2.3 million for design and "community engagement" (i.e. how best

to force this on people who don't want it ...) regarding a park project that will cost \$20 million, reduce downtown parking and disrupt downtown businesses.

Let's forget about the park, cancel the "community engagement" project, bank the money, and use the interest to build a safe emergency dispatch center and fix some potholes.

William Brown
Los Altos

Seeing eye to eye

By Andy Dolich

Eye contact is a powerful nonverbal cue showing interest, confidence, respect, friendliness and common human decency. Effective eye contact involves looking at the eyes or the facial triangle for a few seconds.

In a recent non-scientific fact-gathering project, I walked the sidewalks of Los Altos from First down Main street, to Third, hung a left and back again to First. During this morning stroll I showed an engaging face to count how many eye contacts, "good mornings," smiles or no reactions whatsoever might come my way.

I categorized the reactions of the people I passed as follows:

GMWAS – "Good morning with a smile!"

SFKIS – Smiles from kids in strollers

EQ – Eyeball quickie

IFAY – I'm famous, are you?

SEBAI – Sorry, ear buds are in

MFFSH – My four legged friend(s) say hi, arf!

Silicon Folly

MNIKM – My neck is killing me.
INFAH – I'm not from around here
IDKY – I don't know you
IOAC – I'm on a call
IWH – I'm walkin' here!

Findings

I did notice that anyone walking with their dogs were much more likely to engage than those without, even if I didn't offer a treat.

The practitioners of the 10 and five rule (smile/eye contact at 10 feet, verbal greeting at five feet) create a positive vibe in a world that isn't looking you in the eye, smiling or saying hello.

Eye contact with a smile and hello makes people feel included and connected, boosts goodwill and can create a sense of community.

Can we try and make it more prevalent in 2026?



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(650) 948-9000 | losaltosonline.com | SUBSCRIPTIONS: howardb@latc.com

Administration

Chief Executive Officer, Publisher:

Dennis Young (650) 397-5065, dennisy@latc.com

Chief Operating Officer, Associate Publisher:

Howard Bischoff (650) 397-5213, howardb@latc.com

Managing Editor:

Christina Casillas (650) 397-5714, christinac@latc.com

Reporters:

Christina Casillas (650) 397-5714, christinac@latc.com

Curtis Driscoll (650) 397-5717, curtisd@latc.com

Giuseppe Ricapito (650) 397-5056, giusepper@latc.com

Julia Baum (650) 397-5035, juliab@latc.com

Social Media Editor:

Loren Stump, (650) 397-5020, lorens@latc.com

Copy Editors:

Vanessa Connell, Mary Larsen

Magazines Designer:

Lucy Chen (650) 397-5726, lucyc@latc.com

Loren Stump, (650) 397-5020, lorens@latc.com

Contributing Photographers:

Shelly Bowers, S.M. Lieu

Interns: Sahana Anamika, Max Asmar, Rachel Aronson, Sachin Chandran, Skye Dean, Meghna Dixit, Maya Dutt, Zoë Friedman, Neel Gupta, Matthew Lee-Asiong, Lara Leon, Grace Lin, Keara Morrow, Olivia Levesque Ouellette, Mia Scott, Kaelyn Tan, Amalia Tormala, Amelia Yuan, Dorie Xie

Intern manager:

Pete Borello (650) 397-5495, peteb@latc.com

Print/Media Ad Sales

Real Estate Advertising:

Linda Monterrey (650) 397-5487,

lindam@latc.com

Ad Sales:

Maria Crowder (650) 397-5097,

maria@latc.com

Janice Fabella (650) 397-5066,

janicef@latc.com

Danielle Amaral (650) 397-5738,

daniellea@latc.com

Ad Services:

Production Manager:

Melissa Rodriguez (650) 397-5208,

melissar@latc.com

Graphic Designer:

Lucy Chen (650) 397-5726, lucyc@latc.com

Loren Stump, (650) 397-5020,

lorens@latc.com

Classified: classifieds@latc.com

Paid Obituaries: obits@latc.com

Legals/Public Notices: legals@latc.com

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Community

Podcaster Leah Litman sees chaotic future for reproductive rights

By Allyson Johnson

Leah Litman, co-host of the popular “Strict Scrutiny” podcast, spoke to members of the Silicon Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) on Thursday, Jan. 22, via Zoom. The talk was attended by more than 130 listeners, including those at a watch party at The Terraces of Los Altos. Litman’s talk, titled “No Rights, No Law – A Discussion about the Supreme Court & Attacks on Reproductive Rights & Justice,” held little good news for advocates of reproductive rights for women.

“Women are reported dying in Texas, where drastic abortion restrictions are in place,” Litman said. “Instead of easing restrictions, state legislators chose to disband the maternal mortality commissions that published the reports.”

While some states are threatening to prosecute doctors who assist women with abortion from other states, others are enacting protections for the same doctors. Some states have codified reproductive rights in their



COURTESY OF AAUW

Leah Litman, co-host of the popular “Strict Scrutiny” podcast, recently spoke to Silicon Valley AAUW about reproductive rights for women.

constitutions, while in other states, the legislatures have acted to prevent such constitutional protections from being offered on a statewide ballot. Nationwide, access to reproductive health care depends on where you live.

At the federal level, Veterans Administration hospitals are

forbidden to provide abortion care, even in the case of rape or incest. The “Big Beautiful Bill” defunds reimbursement for any care received for reproductive health. If a woman depends on Medicaid, she likewise has no access to reproductive health care.

In the works at the federal

level are further restrictions on medication abortions, as the FDA has been asked to review the approval of mifepristone and misoprostol, the two drugs most widely used to induce an abortion. These restrictions will be delayed until after the 2026 mid-term elections, Litman said, as they will be widely

unpopular.

With the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, the path is open for the reinstatement of the Comstock Act of 1876, which criminalized any distribution of materials related to abortion. Some states are also pursuing “fetal personhood,” which gives constitutional protections even to a non-viable fetus. In this situation, a woman who miscarries could be prosecuted on grounds of negligence. Restrictions on contraception, including “Plan B” medication to prevent a pregnancy, are also being discussed.

“We are seeing a rising level of misogyny against white women,” Litman said, citing Vice President J.D. Vance’s remarks about “childless cat ladies” as an example. “I had not realized how deeply this is embedded in our culture and society.”

In the Q&A following her talk, Litman stressed the importance of local action. It is particularly important that local district attorneys are elected who are committed to not

See AAUW, Page 10

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Nominations for DAR's Historic Preservation Medal due Feb. 20



COURTESY OF ANN HEPENSTAL

Marina Marinovich poses with her Historic Preservation Medal and Pamela Baird displays her Community Service Award

By Ann Hepenstal

The Los Altos Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), invites local residents to submit nominations for the annual DAR Historic Preservation Medal, which honors a person who has done extraordinary volunteer work over a long period of time. This work might encompass establishing a historic district, preserving a local landmark, restoring or preserving objects of historic cultural significance, or establishing or participating in oral history projects, youth leadership and education (as it pertains to historic preservation). This work could be at the re-

gional, state or national level.

The Los Altos Chapter gives preference for this award for historic preservation service in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View and Sunnyvale and for historic preservation service by residents of these cities.

Community members may submit nominations via the Google form at bit.ly/2026-medal. Nominations are due by Feb. 20 at 11 p.m.

Marina Marinovich received the 2025 Historic Preservation Medal. She worked for many years to protect the Immigrant House in Mountain View, to restore it and ensure its future as an educational resource and historical site. Marinovich's

work protected the historical integrity of the house, highlighted contributions of immigrants to the Bay Area and encouraged local historic preservation.

The Los Altos Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, founded in 1950, focuses on education, local historic preservation projects, genealogy research, a Foothill College scholarship fund, environmental conservation, service to veterans and other community projects. The chapter has planned multiple programs to celebrate America's 250th birthday in 2026. The National Society Daughters of the

See DAR, Page 11

Patio plants topic of January Garden Club meeting

Special to the Town Crier

Attendees of the Garden Club of Los Altos' latest gathering learned care and tips for house and patio plants from horticulturist Andrew Broderson of Wegman's Nursery in Redwood City during the group's Jan. 27 program.

Broderson said there are three almost equally important tasks in caring for plants. First, regularly flood them with water (in the sink or

outside) to rid them of minerals left from previous watering. Second, place them with enough natural light (or LED lights) for their needs. Third, fertilize them – Broderson uses Osmacote Plus – every six months, adding about a teaspoon of fertilizer for a six-inch pot. He doesn't care for fish emulsion-type fertilizers because of the lingering odor.

Broderson says that almost all house plants will also grow in protected outside areas locally such as porches, patios

and under roof eaves. He says the absolutely easiest houseplant to grow is the Pothos.

The Garden Club of Los Altos meets the fourth Tuesday of every month except July, November and December. Meetings are held at the Los Altos Lutheran Church, 460 S. El Monte Road. The general meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. and the program at approximately 1:30 p.m. For more information on the club, visit thegardencluboflosaltos.org.

AAUW

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prosecuting women for reproductive health decisions.

At the federal level, Litman recommends finding candidates for the legislature who will actively support reproductive rights. "When the Democrats controlled the presidency, Senate, and House, the Senate failed to act on legislation to protect reproductive rights for fear of the filibuster."

Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (forbidding discrimination on the basis of sex) will not fix the problem, she said, citing the Supreme Court's reasoning in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

The court claimed that abortion restriction did not involve discrimination on the basis of sex, since abortion is a medical procedure and pregnancy a biological condition. (Litman's audience gasped in disbelief at this reasoning.) The court also noted that the Constitution does not mention a right to abortion. The "originalist" argument has gained traction due to its simplicity, though interpreting the intent of the framers of the Constitution is a shifting target. Increasing the number of judges on the Supreme Court is also not a fix, as there is no assurance of who would nominate the new justices or of what their beliefs might be.

The Supreme Court is sen-

sitive to public opinion and its perception of cultural expectations. Public protests and demonstrations have been somewhat effective in changing individual justices. This is the action path Litman recommended.

"We need to think about how to build institutions that are capable of protecting reproductive freedom," said Litman. "There is no one-shot fix."

Leah Litman is the author of "Lawless: How the Supreme Court Runs on Conservative Grievance, Fringe Theories, and Bad Vibes."

For more information about AAUW – Silicon Valley Branch, visit siliconvalley-ca.aauw.net.

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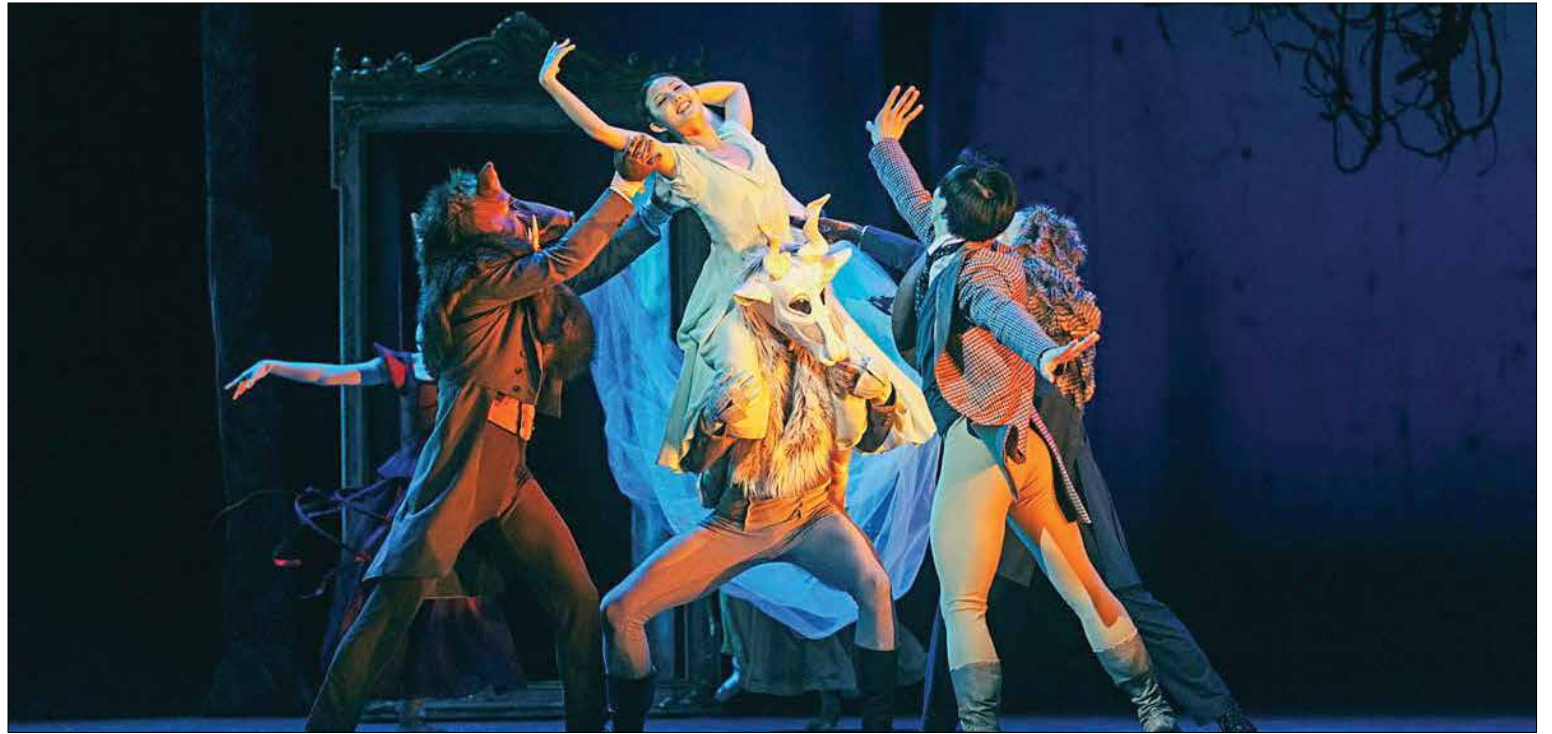
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SF Ballet season opens on high note with 'Eugene Onegin'

By Duanni Hurd

San Francisco Ballet's resident choreographer, Yuri Possokhov, is triumphant in his rendition of Pushkin's novel "Eugene Onegin." Setting the storytelling in 19th-century Russia, Eugene Onegin follows a chain of emotional misjudgments and irreversible choices resulting in a lost love that is not retrievable. Poetic, vulnerable yet powerful, the world premiere of Possokhov's creation about timing, emotional maturity and readiness was a brilliant opening to the highly anticipated 2026 repertory season.

Tatiana (Katherine Barkman), a thoughtful and idealistic young woman, falls deeply in love with the aloof and cynical aristocrat Onegin (Joseph Walsh) and pours her feelings into a heartfelt letter. Onegin, emotionally detached and wary of commitment, decisively rejects her. Time passes, and at a social gathering Onegin's reckless flirtation with Tatiana's sister Olga (Wona Park), the fiancée of his close friend Lensky (Wei Wang), escalates into an impulsive and senseless duel. Lensky is killed, and Onegin is left to live with the devastation of his indifference. Years later, Onegin encounters Tatiana again – now transformed into a poised, emotionally grounded woman and the wife of a powerful prince – this time consumed by love and regret. In a final confrontation, Tatiana acknowledges her enduring feelings but chooses



COURTESY OF LINDSEY RALLO

Yuri Possokhov's "Eugene Onegin" opened San Francisco Ballet's 2026 season.

fidelity and self-respect over passion, leaving Onegin with the consequence of his past decisions.

Possokhov's choreographic creation of Pushkin's novel is deeply felt, lyrical, introspective, exquisitely melancholic in its emotional narration, demonstrated by complex and intricate movement that expresses vulnerability, passion, hope and despair, powerful yet often with restraint. Multiple visual, musical and choreographic

motifs quietly repeat and accumulate meaning. Among the most repeated physical motifs are reaching and withholding, including hands extending then retrieving, arms folding downwards, lifting halfway, and bodies leaning forward while feet pulling back, demonstrating hope and desire met with avoidance and rejection.

One of the most powerful recurring motifs is that after moments of intensity, characters often freeze to highlight

Arts & Culture

the tension and breaking points – stillness lands heavier and speaks louder than fluidity. Additionally, asymmetry in pas de deux showcases unequal emotional stakes as rarely do the couples move in perfect balance – one partner advances while the other resists; weight shifts tell you who holds power and who struggles

with vulnerability.

A repeated appearance of seasonal spirits – paired with poetry reading – forms a quiet reflection, marking time by emotional weather, as life continues to move forward after each irrevocable choice.

Academy Award-winning costume designer Tim Yip's design is rooted in poetic minimalism, prioritizing mood and character over period details.

See BALLET, Page 12

DAR

From Page 10

American Revolution is a non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, education, and historic preservation. Any woman 18 years or older is eligible to join if she can prove lineal descent from a supporter of the American Revolution (through military service, financial donations such as donativos at the California presidios, food supply, government service or other support).

Visit losaltos.californiadar.org to learn more.



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Lighthouse for the Blind benefit set for February 22

Town Crier Report

On Sunday, Feb. 22, at 7:30 p.m., Steve and Nancy Gill of Los Altos will present the 24th annual benefit for the Lighthouse for the Blind, Enchanted Hills Camp (EHC) at Menlo School's Martin Family Hall in Atherton.

For this year's benefit, Steve and his good friends singer Mollie Hudner Thompson, guitarist Bob Feiner and drummer Steve Beitler will present "Not Dead Again Yet," a follow-up to last year's show "On the Road Again: Letters to America," with special tributes to Willie Nelson's good friends – legends like Johnny Cash, Ray Charles and Jimmy Carter – who have predeceased Nelson.

As always, there will be a special appearance by Anne Gill and a sing-along at the end.

Anne Gill was in a near-fatal car accident that left her blind and brain-injured in 1997, shortly after she graduated from Los Altos High School. When Anne returned home in the spring of 1998, her parents, Nancy and Steve, were frustrated to discover that while many programs serve those with traumatic brain injuries and others help the blind and visually impaired, very few resources are designed to help people like their daughter who have multiple disabilities.



COURTESY OF NANCY GILL

Clockwise from top left: Steve Beitler, Bob Feiner, Steve Gill Mollie Hudner Thompson.

The Gills were delighted to learn that the Lighthouse for the Blind offers a session at its Enchanted Hills Camp (EHC) for visually impaired adults with other disabilities as well. Anne and the other participants spend five days in the Napa Hills enjoying activities like horseback riding, swimming and hiking.

Their gratitude for the camp's existence, their appreciation for the incredible patience and compassion of the staff (many of whom are visually impaired themselves), and their desire to support the special needs session at EHC inspired Steve, a veteran Bay Area actor/singer and the founder of Menlo School's Fine Arts Program, to organize the first benefit concert

for the Lighthouse in 1999.

The Lighthouse has used the proceeds from these concerts to provide scholarships to attendees of Enchanted Hills Camp and to help fund rebuilding projects in the aftermath of the devastating 2017 fires.

Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, but those planning to come must contact Nancy Gill at (650) 906-5264 or email gillnancyg@gmail.com. Please indicate the numbers coming and contact information. Requested donation is \$20.

Those who are unable to attend the concert but would like to make a donation can send a check to: Lighthouse for the Blind, Re: Gill Family Benefit, 1155 Market St., 10th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103.

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BALLET

From Page 11

Costume flows with romance, grace and spirit, fluid yet restrained, highlighted by bright, pastel and regal colors to register inner states and chart inner transformation. Especially in Tatiana's scenes, she begins in pale, airy tones demonstrating innocence and openness; as she matures, her palette deepens and darkens, showcasing authority and containment, with softness giving way to control.

The quietly expressive costume is matched beautifully by Tom Pye's poetic set design, surreal, whimsical and

dramatic, highlighted by the season-changing scenes where spirits dance away and the playful and haunting animal heads in Tatiana's nightmare scene.

Equally extraordinary is composer Ilya Demutsky's brilliant brand new score for the ballet, which reminds the performing art world that he is at a comparable age to the great ballet composers Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky when they created the historical works such as "Romeo and Juliet" and "Swan Lake."

A quietly powerful production, refined in its restraint – love, death, longing, unfolding slowly, with tenderness and

regret etched into every exchange – the ballet traces how timing, more than love itself, shapes destiny. What unfolds onstage is a study in emotional readiness: of knowing too little too early, and too much too late – a timeless human story.

"Eugene Onegin," for which San Francisco Ballet partnered with Joffrey Ballet, ran through Feb. 1. at the War Memorial Opera House. For information on future shows, visit sfballet.org.

Duanni Hurd is a Los Altos Town Crier columnist covering arts, culture and lifestyle. Find her coverage of arts and performing arts on Instagram @duanniduanni.

Stepping Out

'Little' time left to watch South Bay show based on classic book

By Maya Dutt

Town Crier Editorial Intern

South Bay Musical Theatre's production of "Little Women," which includes cast members from Los Altos and Mountain View, closes this weekend in Saratoga.

Former Broadway performer Janie Scott directs the show, based on the 1868 book by Louisa May Alcott about the four March sisters.

"Families are families," Scott said. "They always come with drama – that is not brand new. They are the same things families deal with today. All of the many things that go on in the show are very timely so I don't need to contemporize it to connect with my audience."

Mountain View resident Aishy Panwar plays oldest sister Meg and Mary Melnick plays mom Marmee. In a supporting role, Mountain View's Barbara Heninger is Aunt March.

Leah Kennedy, who plays the youngest sister Amy, said being the youngest of six children helped her connect with the dynamic between Amy and her older sisters and channel the frustration Amy felt throughout the show.

"I know what it's like when

the older sisters are getting to do things that you're not able to do yet, and you're feeling jealous and spiteful about it," Kennedy, a nonprofit lawyer and Sunnyvale resident, said. "When Amy blows up at Joe, the first time I did it, I actually felt angry (after) tapping into those memories, that feeling of being overlooked, and like, 'my time is never going to come.'"

Kennedy added that Scott helped refine her portrayal of Amy, especially with the way she used her voice. Kennedy said Scott's help and the work of costume designer Sharon Pang paid off, noting that a friend overheard an audience member say Kennedy wasn't old enough to be cast in the play.

Scott also said she made sure every cast member was doing something meaningful that contributed to the story, whether it was a lead or an ensemble member.

"(The ensemble) is there to help support what's going on, and it makes everything on stage feel alive," Scott said. "It makes it all feel like it's all the same show, and it feels like everybody's very engaged in telling the story. Anywhere I look, there are things happening."

Kennedy added that she deeply appreciated Scott's attention to detail throughout the process, as well as her effort to keep cast members comfortable in their roles.

"Every choice she makes is so intentional," Kennedy said. "She's always like, 'I'm not going to embarrass you with what I asked you to do or the costumes that people put you in.' I trust her completely. I would do any show with her, she is fantastic to work with."

Scott said she was grateful to have the opportunity to direct "Little Women."

"'Little Women' was the most incredible experience," Scott said. "The cast was just so friendly and wonderful to work with. The crew and the rest of the creative staff were so collaborative and workable. I love every piece I've ever done, no matter what kind of theater it is, and I'll keep doing it until I can't do it anymore."

Remaining performances of "Little Women," which opened Jan. 24, are set for 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 2:30 p.m. Saturday at South Bay Musical Theatre, 13777 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga. Tickets are \$30-\$56.

For tickets, visit tinyurl.com/LittleSouth.

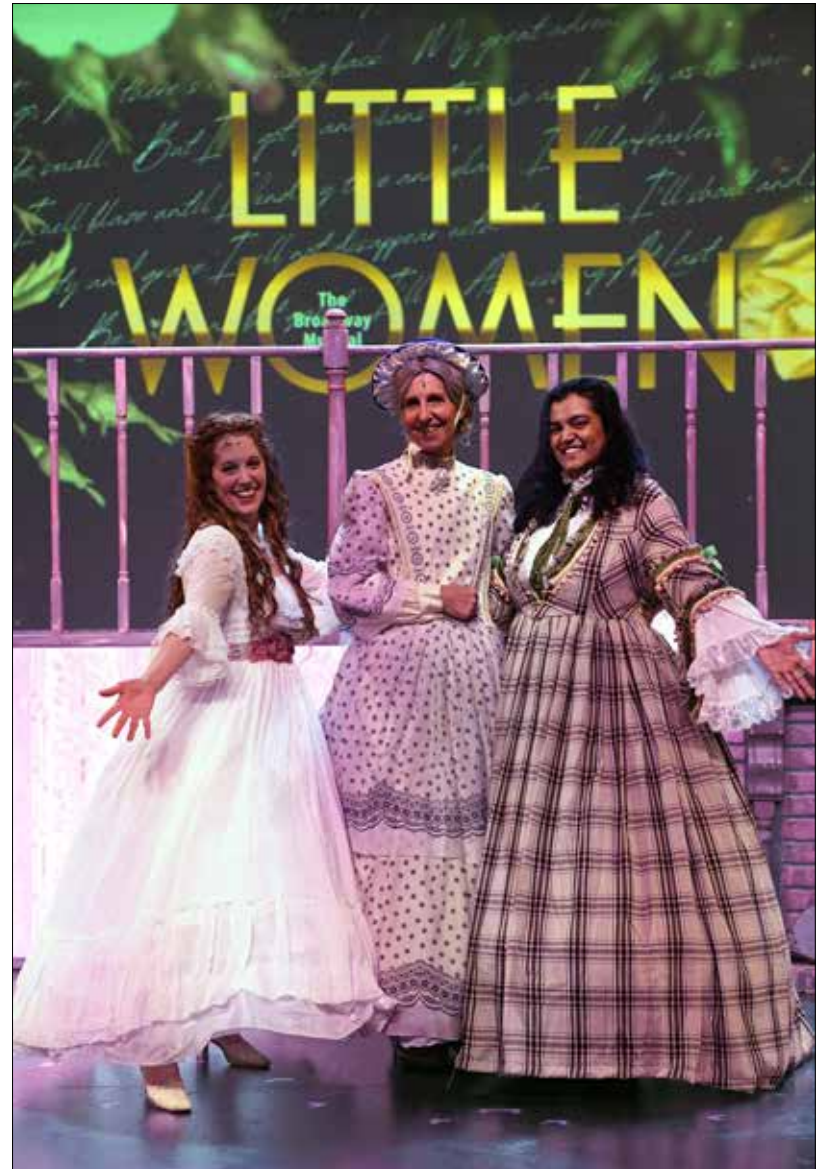


PHOTO BY DAVE LEPORTI

From left, Leah Kennedy, Barbara Heninger and Aishy Panwar star in "Little Women" at South Bay Musical Theatre in Saratoga.

Enjoy some free music this week

Town Crier Report

Two free concerts in the area this week offer listeners the choice of the romantic sounds of harp and violin or the energetic sounds of Latin jazz. What's your vibe?

- Thursday, Feb. 12, from 7:30-8:30 p.m., the Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View, hosts a free concert, "Love's Greeting: An Intimate Valentine's Evening with Harp & Violin." The evening pairs warm, romantic music with subtle multimedia visuals to create a gentle, atmospheric experience. General admission; attendees are

encouraged to reserve a spot in advance at tinyurl.com/loves-greeting.

- Sunday, Feb. 15, from 3-4 p.m., the Charged Particles Jazz Trio brings its energy to the Sunnyvale Public Library, Library Program Room, 655 W. Olive Ave.

The Charged Particles blend Latin jazz and classical music to create an acclaimed unique sound. Band members will explain how sound is generated and how musicians interact and communicate in this electrifying and educational concert. Suitable for all ages. No registration required but space is limited.

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Columnist for the
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Schools

San Antonio campus on track to open in 2028

By Julia Baum

Staff Writer/juliab@latc.com

Construction on the new San Antonio campus remains on track to open in fall 2028, Los Altos School District officials announced recently, highlighting recent design progress, financing plans and construction next steps.

The district purchased the San Antonio property in 2019, though planning paused during the pandemic. “COVID really stopped us in our tracks because our main focus was to educate students,” district officials said at a Jan. 26 board of trustees meeting.

The district selected a design-build team for the project in 2024. A California Environmental Quality Act review was completed that summer, followed by board approval of an updated facilities master plan. Conceptual and schematic designs were approved in 2025, when the

board directed that Bullis Charter School would be the first occupant.

Since then, staff said they have incorporated additional input from elementary and middle school principals, focusing on campus supervision, grade configuration and classroom use. The district has also resumed coordination with the city of Mountain View for shared use of fields and a gymnasium.

The first design phase, covering demolition and site utilities, was submitted to the Division of the State Architect in December 2025. Recent design meetings addressed interior finishes, mechanical systems, roofing, and considerations such as sun exposure, shading and building placement. Updated layouts show three classroom buildings, a multipurpose room and gymnasium, outdoor eating areas and shared

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SCREENSHOT FROM GOOGLE MAPS

The new San Antonio campus for the Los Altos School District is on track to open in fall 2028. The district has decided that Bullis Charter School will be the first occupant of the San Antonio campus.

Local teens teach seniors how to avoid online scams

By Kaelyn Tan

Town Crier Editorial Intern

As artificial intelligence (AI) advances at an unprecedented rate, many senior citizens are being left behind. Los Altos High School juniors Kai Etkin and Rohan Desai are committed to addressing tech literacy among seniors through their nonprofit, Silver Savvy.

For the two high school juniors, this cause is personal, as they have recognized how seniors struggle with AI-generated misinformation and falling for digital scams.

“At one point, they (Desai’s grandparents) were on the verge of losing their life savings from a scam,” Desai said. “That was when I realized this wasn’t just an issue in my family; it’s happening everywhere.”

Etkin and Desai noticed that seniors were at risk of scams and misinformation online, but no one seemed to be tackling these issues. So, they took the matter into their own hands and launched Silver Savvy in October 2024.

Silver Savvy’s approach is through outreach and presentations at senior

centers throughout the Bay Area.

“Our workshops start with a presentation, but it’s very interactive,” Etkin said. “We use demos, show AI tools live and walk seniors through examples of scams and AI-generated content so they can see firsthand how it works.”

The workshops are not only tutorials but also opportunities for seniors to engage with the two teenaged co-founders and ask them questions.

“A lot of the second half of the workshop is just us listening,” Desai said. “Seniors come up to us on their own and show us messages on their phones, asking what they should do.”

Silver Savvy’s workshops seem to be well-received by their audiences through their interactive methods and real-time support.

“By the end of the workshop, seniors who came in scared of AI are asking how to use it safely,” Etkin said.

Through their experiences interacting with seniors and teaching about technology, Etkin and Desai have learned more about the disparity in senior tech literacy.

“A lot of seniors see AI as a black



COURTESY OF KAELYN TAN

Rohan Desai, left, and Kai Etkin, right, have started a nonprofit called Silver Savvy to help seniors avoid AI-generated misinformation and digital scams.

box; something godlike that they can’t control or understand,” Desai said. “Because it developed so quickly, they feel like it’s this alien technology that’s

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Schools

DISTRICT

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athletic fields.

According to the district, the second design phase – covering prefabricated classroom buildings – is expected to be submitted by mid-March. Demolition could begin in late spring or early summer, with demolition, underground utilities and site work expected to start by mid-June, and foundations completed by year's end.

Staff also outlined the district's Measure EE financing plan. Although voters approved \$350 million in bond authorization, the district will sell the funds in four separate issues in 2026, 2028, 2030 and 2032 to stay within tax rate limits. The first bond sale is scheduled for spring 2026.

"We also paid off the bond anticipation notes with the final Measure EE authorization at that time because of our increased reserves and sound fiscal management," said Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Erik Walukiewicz. "We had a credit rating upgraded that saves the taxpayers a tremendous amount of money over the course of

bonds."

Public comment reflected ongoing community debate over the site's use. Some speakers said locating BCS at the San Antonio campus would help preserve neighborhood schools and resolve a decades-long facilities dispute. Parent Herb Marshall said, "Providing a charter school with their own facility while preserving our existing school communities seems like the least bad of poor options."

Others expressed concern that relocating a neighborhood school would disrupt walking routes, childcare arrangements and community ties. Melanie Anderson said, "Moving a neighborhood school changes a lifestyle for many of the families attending that school."

Trustee Stella Kam reiterated that the board voted 4-1 in October to designate BCS as the first occupant of the San Antonio campus, emphasizing the decision has already been made.

The board is expected to consider a middle school configuration study, districtwide facility standards and a finalized Measure EE project list and timeline at upcoming meetings.

SILVER

From Page 14

leaving them behind."

Looking ahead, the co-founders hope to expand their impact beyond their local communities while staying true to their original mission. Etkin and Desai are exploring opportunities to speak to policymakers and regulatory bodies to highlight the gaps in senior tech literacy.

"We want to scale in two ways: continuing local, in-person workshops while also reaching larger organizations that can influence policy and bring attention to this issue at a systemic level," Desai said.

As Etkin reflects on the nonprofit's achievements thus far, he believes that Silver Savvy focuses on topics that can apply to anyone.

"Everyone will eventually become a senior, and most people already have one in their life," Etkin said. "That's what makes this issue so universal and so important to address now."

For more information, visit silversavvy.org.



COURTESY OF KAELYN TAN

Rohan Desai and Kai Etkin talking to seniors at a presentation about digital scams.

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Sports

Pinewood comeback against Priory falls short

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisdriscoll@latc.com

A last-second shot to tie the game against Priory came a moment too late for the Pinewood girls basketball team, with a midrange jumper from guard Abigail Yew ruled no good after the buzzer in an exciting game Friday night.

“Really proud of our girls,” Pinewood coach Doc Scheppler said after the game. “That’s the main takeaway from this, how proud we are of our girls, how hard they played, it was a great high school game.”

It was a tough one to lose for Pinewood in a likely West Bay Foothill Division league title decider, with the young Panthers team clawing its way back into the game several times to give themselves a chance on the last play, down

42-40. Priory pressed Pinewood on the throw-in with 10 seconds left, with Pinewood getting the ball up the court for an open three-point shot with a few seconds left that rolled around and fell out to Yew, who caught and heaved the ball into the bucket.

We are really happy that we created that look,” Scheppler said.

Scheppler noted the team had chances to tie the game or take the lead in the fourth quarter after two Priory turnovers allowed Pinewood to cut a five-point deficit to 42-40 with a little under two minutes left. Pinewood had several chances following, with a missed layup and a three-point attempt with 19 seconds left not falling.

“We never hit the bucket to get up,” Scheppler said. “We had five or six looks, fourth

quarter down two.”

Priory beat Pinewood in January on last-second free throws and had momentum in Friday’s game early, jumping out to a 22-13 lead in the second quarter. However, Pinewood made back-to-back three-pointers from Sophia Bowles and Anushka Krishnan to keep it within striking distance at 25-19 at halftime. Priory again went on a run in the third quarter to make it 32-23 with 1:31 left, prompting Pinewood to respond and go on a 7-0 run to close out the third quarter. The teams traded buckets in the fourth quarter, with the closest Pinewood getting to Priory being 38-37 with approximately four minutes remaining.

Yew led all Pinewood scorers

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JEFFERY STONE/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Pinewood guard Alexandra Tseng shoots a three pointer during the game against Priory Friday night. Priory won 42-40 and is undefeated in the West Bay Foothill Division.

Blach eighth-grader pins down girls county wrestling championship

By Sachin Chandran

Town Crier Editorial Intern

Eighth-grader Ria Maheshwari made Blach Intermediate School history at the recent county wrestling meet by becoming the first champion of the girls 82-pound division.

Ria competed against the boys last year, qualifying for the sectional meet. The county added a girl’s competition this season, which Ria dominated. She did not lose a match at the meet and finished the season 11-0.

“I think that she inspires other girls to realize that wrestling is not just a guys’ sport and that girls are extremely good at it,” Blach coach Joe Commendatore said. “It’s inspiring the girls to be courageous and brave. She might be an 82-pound girl, but her courage and her passion for success, winning and competition is inspiring.”

Motivated by the Bolly-

wood movie “Dangal,” Ria said the protagonist’s journey as a female wrestler pushed her to take up the male-dominated sport when she was in seventh grade.

“(The movie) showed me that girls in wrestling can still work out,” Ria said. “When I heard that my school team had a wrestling team, I was like, ‘I might as well try it,’ and I actually started getting into it.”

From that point, Commendatore said Ria has grown tremendously as a wrestler, cementing herself as a leader on the Blach team and honing her greatest wrestling talents: strength and speed.

“(Ria) is growing as a person as well,” Commendatore said. “She’s much more mature, she’s much more confident and she’s much more outspoken. She’s much more communicative and I think it’s really made her be a much more confident young girl, which is a beautiful thing.”

In preparation for the

tournament, Ria said she reflected on her past losses to motivate and sharpen her skills to ensure future improvement.

“Last year, I participated in the same tournament, and got pinned at sectionals, even after I had a high lead against a guy,” Ria said. “I told myself that I was going to train over the summer, and I told myself I was going to come back and I was going to win counties. I really tried to perfect my moves and my skills and I tried really hard during the school season with a perfect record.”

Although Ria said the hard work has paid off, she had to battle fatigue and the feeling of stagnation. However, these challenges taught her to push herself mentally, Ria said.

“A lot of it is the mental mindset,” Ria said. “If you can get past the mental mindset, you can really do anything. Especially in middle school wrestling, your skill level isn’t going to be that dif-



COURTESY OF ABHIMAHESHWARI

Blach Intermediate School student Ria Maheshwari, fourth from left, after becoming a county wrestling champion.

ferent (to your opponent). I think it just really goes up to the mindset and how you position yourself.”

After achieving her goal of winning the county championship, Ria said she hopes to inspire girls around her to pursue wrestling.

“When my hand got raised on that mat signifying that

I won, that was a great accomplishment that I never thought that I could do and I feel like that set the tone,” Ria said. “My goal from all this is not only to be an inspiration to myself, but also other girl wrestlers, because I was also there once and it’s very intimidating going into the sport.”

Sports

PINEWOOD

From Page 16

with 10 points, with Caitlyn Kramer adding eight.

While a league title looks unlikely now for Pinewood with Priory (16-5) undefeated in league play at 7-0 and Pinewood at 6-2 with three games remaining, Pinewood is still likely to make the Central Coast Section Open Division playoffs. Pinewood lost to San Ramon Valley Saturday 70-37 and is now 18-4 overall on the season. Its next game is Tuesday (after the Town Crier print deadline) against Notre Dame San Jose.

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



JEFFERY STONE/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Pinewood forward Andri Wilkinson goes up for a layup during the game against Priory Friday.

Los Altos High seeks football coaches



COURTESY OF MITCHELL ENG

Los Altos High School is looking for two coaches for the football program for the upcoming fall 2026 season. If interested, call head coach Mark Adams at (650) 996-1864 or email MarkWAdams64@gmail.com.

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Food & Wine

Food & Wine is published once a month. For advertising information, email sales@latc.com.

Mountain View Azerbaijani spot offers tastes of the Caucasus

By Maria Crowder

Town Crier Food Critic/
editorial@latc.com

A new Caucasian restaurant, NAR Restaurant, opened a few months ago in Mountain View on El Camino Real, taking over the former Thai restaurant space. There is plenty of parking, which is always a plus in this area.

Caucasian cuisine originates from the regions of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan and is known for rich stews, hearty lamb and beef dishes, flavorful soups and bold spices. All of that can be found on the NAR menu, with a heavy emphasis on Azerbaijan's relationship with pomegranates – NAR is the Azerbaijani word for the fruit.

NAR offers a spacious dining

room with plenty of tables suitable for couples or large groups. Tables are set with white linens and blue cloth napkins, giving the space a polished feel.

When we arrived just a few minutes after opening for lunch, we were greeted by a strong smell of cleaning disinfectant (another couple nearby noticed it as well), along with loud drilling sounds coming from the back of the restaurant. Thankfully, the drilling stopped after several minutes.

The menu is extensive. They offer a fixed-price menu at \$39.90 per person, which felt steep for lunch. The regular menu was reasonably priced, though it lacked detailed descriptions of the dishes. NAR also features Caucasian wines and a stunning wine bar, though I skipped the wine.

We started with the lentil soup, which was puréed and topped with dry mint. The spice blend was wonderful, though the soup arrived lukewarm. Still, the flavors came through nicely. The lamb kebab was cooked to perfection and served with a fresh green salad and pan-seared potatoes. We also tried the chicken shawarma wrap, which was generously filled with flavorful chicken and came with excellent French fries.

Service could use improvement – our server did not check in on us until after we had finished our meals. However, she did treat us to their special tea, which was quite good and a nice touch.

Despite a few hiccups, the food shows a lot of promise. I'm looking forward to returning



HOWARD BISCHOFF/TOWN CRIER

The Lule Kebab at NAR features a grilled minced lamb kebab, tomato onion salad and baby potatoes.

for dinner and exploring their wine selection.

NAR Restaurant is located

at 286 West El Camino Real in Mountain View. Their phone number is (650) 705-2007.

Food, friends and romance: A recipe for finding love

By Christine Moore

They're questions for the ages: Where is my soulmate? What's taking them long to find me?

Stories of Cupid's mischief would have us believe that love happens randomly, with the help of a sly cherub. The mythology of this Roman god or his Greek predecessor, Eros, is all the evidence needed to see that we've been trying to unscramble the process of falling in love for all of history. This, I believe, should come as some reassurance for singles. You're not the first, and won't be the last, to journey on this perplexing path of partner finding.

Sure, nowadays there's an app for that. And I have plenty of friends who have met their loves using these tools. But there is something to be said for the old-fashioned ways, too. You know, getting out there. Joining groups. Being brave enough to strike up a conversation with that neighbor you keep passing in your building's foyer. Saying yes when friends invite you out on a Saturday night when all you really want to do is stay in and binge "The Pitt." Letting trusted people in your life fix you up.

Let's not forget that Cupid was as likely to cast a silver tipped arrow as a gold one – resulting in two potential partners rejecting one another. Which is all to say that rejection is part of the deal when it comes to looking for love. When things don't work, it can most certainly hurt. But if we are gentle and loving with



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK LAMARRE

A lively gathering can result in new friends – and sometimes, love.

ourselves, perhaps refusals can invite growth, too.

Research tells us that part of match making is learning more about ourselves. We do this by cultivating deep appreciation for the abundant gifts we each have to share. Finding love might be somewhat akin to catching a butterfly – casting the widest, most patient and gentlest net you can is best.

Joining groups that align with your interests is great way to make more friends, romantic or otherwise. Locally there's the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Singles which coordinates hikes for members based on age ranges. SJMA Young Professionals (San José Museum of Art) is for art-loving singles. For a faith-based program, check out St. Simon Parish's Young Adults group, with bi-monthly

meet-ups and social gatherings. Or stay connected to the Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto for singles-specific events and activities.

Dinner party plan

It will come as no surprise that I advocate for getting to know yourself and others around food-focused social gatherings. Getting together in a kitchen, prepping dinner and sharing a meal as a group means more mingling, more mixing and memory making.

If you have a space to host, regardless of how small, start a supper club. Kick off the club with a pasta and people potluck. Like all potlucks, guests bring a dish to share, but they also bring a person for all to meet. You make the sauce, invite four friends, ask each to bring a guest along with a contribution to the meal: a box of pasta, a loaf of bread, salad, dessert drinks, etc. At the end of the meal, decide where the next party will take place.

Bolognese sauce

This is enough sauce to serve eight. Years ago, while housesitting for friends in Marin, I hosted a dinner party. Too cheap to purchase the magazine, I perused it at the market and then went home and loosely recreated this bolognese sauce. It has become a favorite because it feeds a crowd and fills the house with welcoming aromas.

Ingredients

- 2 large cans (28 oz.) crushed

Silicon Valley Sips

tomatoes

- 1 can (15 oz.) tomato sauce
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 12 oz. shitake mushrooms, cleaned, stems removed, sliced
- 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh sage (that's 12–15 large leaves)
- 2 lbs. ground meat. I like to use 1 lb. ground pork and 1 lb. of ground chicken
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt, plus more to taste
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes (a good pinch; adjust to taste)
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 tablespoons olive oil (for sautéing)
- Parmesan cheese for serving

Heat olive oil in a large, heavy pot over medium heat. When oil shimmers, add the onion and cook until soft and translucent, about 6-8 minutes. Stir in garlic and cook 30 seconds. Add ground pork and chicken; cook until browned – taking your time to break up the meat well. Stir in sage, salt, black pepper and red pepper flakes. Add crushed tomatoes, tomato sauce and bay leaf. Bring to a gentle simmer, then lower heat and cook for 60-90 minutes, stirring occasionally, until rich and thick. Remove bay leaf, taste and adjust seasoning.

The big salad

I call this The Big Salad, but it could

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Food & Wine

LOVE

From Page 18

also be titled the simple salad or comes together fast salad. It feeds a crowd and gets even the most inexperienced guests involved in the meal prep.

Ingredients

- Two heads romaine lettuce, washed, dried and chopped
- 2 Pink Lady or Honeycrisp apples, diced
- 1 14 oz. can garbanzo beans
- 1 14 oz. can artichoke hearts, roughly chopped
- Handful of candied pecans, roughly chopped

Dressing

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoon honey
- 1 medium shallot, finely diced

- Salt and black pepper to taste

In a large bowl mix salad dressing. Add all ingredients on top of prepared dressing and toss just before service. Taste for seasoning and add more salt and pepper as needed.

Meyer lemon polenta olive oil cake

This cake is outrageously moist and travels well. Because it is rather dense, small slices satisfy, making it a great potluck dessert.

Ingredients

- 2/3 cup olive oil, plus more for greasing the pan
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups almond meal
- 3/4 cup polenta
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3 large eggs
- Zest of 2 Meyer lemons (squeeze the juice and set it

aside to make a syrup)

- 1 pint fresh raspberries, washed and dried (for serving)

Meyer lemon syrup

- Reserved lemon juice
- 1 cup powered sugar

Grease and line with parchment paper a 9-inch springform cake pan. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Beat the olive oil and sugar till pale and whipped – this can be done by hand using a wooden spoon or in a mixer.

In a separate bowl, mix together the almond flower, polenta and baking powder. Add the dry mix to the sugar and olive oil mixture in batches. After each batch of the dry ingredients, add an egg and mix to incorporate. When all dry ingredients and eggs are mixed in, add the lemon zest and mix one more time.



CHRISTINE MOORE/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER
This Meyer lemon polenta cake is great for potlucks.

The batter will be thick. Using a spatula, add the batter to the prepared springform pan. Bake for 40 minutes. The cake may look a bit loose when baked, but a toothpick will come out clean and the edges

should be pulling away from the sides of the pan.

While the cake is cooling, make the syrup by bringing the lemon juice and powered sugar to a boil in a small pot. Do not remove the cake from the pan – you'll want it in the pan while you pour the syrup over. Using the toothpick, poke a series of holes evenly around the cake. Pour the syrup all over and allow the cake to cool completely in the pan.

You can transport the cake in the pan if you'd like, but before serving, remove from the springform pan and top with raspberries. Serve with additional raspberries on the side.

Christine Moore is a Mountain View resident. To read more food and drink tips from her, visit writeyum.com.




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Business & Real Estate

El Camino Health awarded nursing excellence honor

By Christina Casillas

Staff writer/christinac@latc.com

El Camino Health received the Magnet designation for nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for the fifth time. The designation distinguishes El Camino Health among top hospitals across the country, according to an El Camino Health press release.

The evidence-based recognition, first introduced by the American Academy of Nursing in the 1980s, is awarded to hospitals with exceptional nursing as related to leadership, measurable outcomes for patients, professional practice and innovation. The recognition, the result of a 1983 study by nurse researchers, identified top hospitals with practices that result in high nursing retention, according to the release. El Camino Health was one of the 41 hospitals identified on the original list.

“This fifth Magnet recognition belongs to our nurses and their compassion, professionalism and unwavering commitment to our patient-centered



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF EL CAMINO HEALTH

El Camino Health officials announced the Norma Melchor Nursing Excellence Endowment in 2025. That endowment will fund different aspects of nursing, for which the health system received a recent award.

care, day in and day out,” Cheryl Reinking, chief nursing officer at El Camino Health, was quoted in the release. “At El Camino Health, nurses are trusted leaders, supported in lifelong learning, and empowered to innovate. That commitment allows our nurses to continue setting the standard for personalized, evidence-based care for patients.”

The recognition is granted after an evaluation that measures the healthcare system and its nurses against national benchmarks for patient care

excellence based on five components: structural empowerment, exemplary professional practice, transformational leadership, empirical outcomes and new knowledge, innovation and improvements.

The award, given for a four-year period, followed a meticulous evaluation including an on-site review and documentations.

The evaluation also included nurse surveys; according to the press release, El Camino Health nurses noted high-caliber teams and a positive and engaged work environment. Hospital data re-

lated to patient falls, catheter-associated urinary tract infections and central line-associated bloodstream infections and patient outcomes were also evaluated. Magnet-awarded hospitals have lower patient-complication rates, high reported patient satisfaction and strong nursing engagement, according to the release.

Receiving the recognition also meant the ANCC determined that all units outperformed national benchmarks for patient courtesy and respect; 55.6% of nurses were certified in their specialties, surpassing the hospital’s goal of 51% specialty board certification; 90.1% of nurses held a bachelor’s degree in nursing or higher – the Magnet designation requires 80%; the hospital had fewer patient falls with injury than the national benchmark; the hospital’s ER consistently surpassed benchmarks for treatment time in heart attack patients, resulting in improved survival and preserved heart muscle; chemo units across El Camino Health had no record of extravasation, meaning there was no accidental

leaking of chemotherapy IV fluids into the surrounding tissues of the vein.

“Magnet recognition is an incredibly rigorous process that evaluates nursing practice, outcomes and innovation at every level of the organization,” said Jackie Keane, Magnet program director at El Camino Health. “Achieving this designation five times speaks to the strength of our team and our committed focus on continuous improvement.”

El Camino Health has focused on supporting its nurses through campaigns like the Norma Melchor Nursing Excellence Endowment, announced Nov. 4, 2025, in honor of Los Altos Norma Melchor, a once-matriarch of the hospital.

The multi-million dollar endowment allows for investment in teaching El Camino Health nurses as discoveries advance treatment, allow for nurses to find their nursing specialties and advance their careers, provide nurse leaders leadership skills and analyze trends to better support nurses and their needs into the future.

Marry the house, date the rate: The cost of waiting for interest to go down

By Owen Halliday

In Los Altos and the surrounding communities, real estate conversations are often filled with familiar refrains. Home prices always go up. Houses double in value every 10 years. (They have almost doubled since just before the pandemic!) Interest rates rise and fall. Many of these generalizations are rooted in truth. Over the past five decades, local home prices have increased at an average rate of roughly 5% per year. Mortgage rates have cycled dramatically; some longtime residents still remember 16% interest rates in the early 1980s.

Yet beyond these broad trends, there are more subtle dynamics at play today, particularly among buyers who are choosing to remain on the sidelines. One of the most common reasons they cite is the belief that interest rates will decline in the near future, resulting in a lower monthly mortgage payment. While that assumption may prove correct, it often overlooks another important variable: home prices rarely stand still while buyers wait.

Let’s consider a common question. Why shouldn’t a buyer wait for interest rates to come down? After all, rates today, generally ranging from about 5 1/2% to

7%, are higher than they have been in recent years, and many forecasts suggest they may decline over the next year or two.

For the sake of argument, assume mortgage rates drop by a full percentage point next year. Based on recent economic trends, this is unlikely but bear with me. During that same period, if prices continue their long-term trend and rise by 5%, the buyer ends up with a lower interest rate applied to a higher purchase price. In many cases, the resulting monthly payment is the same, or even higher, than if the buyer had purchased sooner. In addition, a higher price typically means a larger down payment and higher property taxes, increasing the amount of cash required to buy the home.

Some buyers ask: What if prices decline while I’m waiting for rates to fall? In that scenario, the buyer would indeed benefit from both a lower purchase price and a lower interest rate. However, history suggests that meaningful price declines in our local market are relatively rare and often short-lived. Betting on that outcome can be risky, particularly in supply-constrained communities like Los Altos.

On the Market

Fortunately, buyers who are concerned about today’s interest rates do have options. A well-known saying in real estate is “marry the house, date the rate.” Refinancing after a year or two is often straightforward and the costs are generally modest. In fact, many lenders proactively contact borrowers when refinancing could be beneficial.

Another option is buying down the interest rate by paying points upfront, effectively prepaying a portion of the lender’s profit in exchange for a lower rate over the life of the loan. There are also temporary rate-reduction programs that lower payments for the first year or two, which can help ease the transition into homeownership.

An often overlooked option is “buy before you sell.” Many lenders offer very reasonable programs that allow a homeowner to purchase a new residence before they sell their departing residence, allowing for only one move. And if you are “house rich and cash poor,” there are now wonderful programs that allow you

to use the value of your home to qualify for the purchase of a new home. Feel free to reach out to me directly if you have questions about these kinds of programs.

As for finding the best rates, buyers are often well served by starting with their existing bank or investment institution. Established relationships can lead to more favorable terms, as lenders are motivated to retain long-term clients. From there, it makes sense to compare offers from other banks and mortgage brokers. Transparency helps: letting lenders know you are shopping around often results in better options.

Ultimately, no one can predict with certainty where interest rates or home prices will be a year from now. Faced with uncertainty, human nature often defaults to inaction. But in real estate, waiting can carry its own cost. For many buyers, the question is not whether rates will change, but whether delaying a purchase today may make homeownership more expensive tomorrow.

Owen Halliday is a longtime Los Altos resident and realtor who manages the Christie’s-Sereno office in downtown Los Altos. Call him at (650) 492-0062 or email Owen@Sereno.com.



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The DeLeon Team is proud to congratulate Alexander Lewicki on being named the 2026 President-Elect of the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors.

With more than 4,000 members, SILVAR is the preeminent real estate organization in the Bay Area, overseeing the ethics of its Realtor members while championing the legal and property rights of homeowners across the state.

Alexander's legal background has contributed to his meteoric rise into leadership within organized real estate. In his professional role, Ken DeLeon and Michael Repka have selected Alexander to lead DeLeon Realty's listings in

Los Altos and Los Altos Hills. His singular focus, depth of market knowledge, and leadership within the industry make Alexander an invaluable resource to clients and colleagues alike.

SILVAR and its leadership team devote countless hours toward the excellence of the profession, to the benefit of both Realtors and the public at large. All of this work is on a volunteer basis, and much of it, unfortunately, goes without recognition. We would also like to congratulate outgoing President Tammie Peters, 2026 President Stacey Woods, Treasurer Jim Hamilton, and the rest of the SILVAR leadership team for their commitment to excellence.

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Public Notices

GERST FINANCIAL ENGINEERING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723522

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) GERST FINANCIAL ENGINEERING, (2) CLEANTEC BUSINESS SERVICES, 26120 W Fremont Rd, Los Altos Hills, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): GERST CAPITAL, LLC, 26120 W Fremont Rd, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/03/2007. /S/ Gregory J Gerst / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 02/05/2026. (02-11,18,25-26,03-04-26)

030-T

CHEIRON FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722638

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CHIERON, 4970 El Camino Real, Suite 210, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): PHNYX LAB LLC, 4970 El Camino Real, Suite 210, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Donggi Lee / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/08/2026. (02-11,18,25-26,03-04-26)

029-T

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: PATRICIA K. CUTKOSKY CASE NO. 26PR201809

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of PATRICIA K. CUTKOSKY. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by MARK R. CUTKOSKY in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MARK R. CUTKOSKY be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested 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: 03/13/26 at 9:01AM in Dept. 7 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 JANET L. BREWER - SBN 74181 LAW OFFICE OF JANET L. BREWER 4 MAIN STREET - SUITE 20 LOS ALTOS CA 94022 Telephone (650) 325-8276 2/11, 2/18, 2/25/26 CNS-4010757# LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER (02-11,18,25-26)

028-T

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PETITION OF SONGYUAN LIN, WENCHUN KU ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME 26CV485781

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioner: Songyuan Lin, Wenchun Ku filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: a. Dana Lin

Proposed Name: a. Caitlin Chingyu Lin

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

NOTICE OF HEARING 05/12/2026 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: 02/04/2026 /s/ Charles Adams Judge of the Superior Court (02-11,18,25-26,03-04-26)

027-T

TAO & JIAYU HERBS & ACUPUNCTURE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723231

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: TAO & JIAYU HERBS & ACUPUNCTURE, 1287 Hammerwood Ave., Sunnyvale, CA, 94089, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): TAO XIE, 1287 Hammerwood Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94089. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/2025. /S/ Tao Xie / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/29/2026. (02-11,18,25-26,03-04-26)

026-T

WORLDWIDE CHAUFFEURS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723400

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: WORLDWIDE CHAUFFEURS, 80 Los Altos Sq, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): SOUTH BAY EXOTICS LLC, 186 E Gish Rd Unit #103, San Jose, CA 95112. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Cameron Crose / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 02/03/2026. (02-11,18,25-26,03-04-26)

025-T

ALLIANCE LENDING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723262

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ALLIANCE LENDING, 5450 Thornwood Dr #P, San Jose, CA, 95123, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): ALLIANCE GROUP & ASSOCIATES INC., 5450 Thornwood Dr #P, San Jose, CA 95123. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/12/2013. /S/ Rameil Eyvaznejad / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/29/2026. (02-11,18,25-26,03-04-26)

024-T

BREAKER BOYS ELECTRIC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723214

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: BREAKER BOYS ELECTRIC, 200 Carlester Dr, Los Gatos, CA, 95032, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Russell T. Condie, 200 Carlester Dr, Los Gatos, CA 95032. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/28/2026. /S/ Russell T. Condie / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/28/2026. (02-11,18,25-26,03-04-26)

022-T

LOS ALTOS SCHOOL DISTRICT PARCEL TAX EXEMPTION

The Los Altos School District parcel tax exemption for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is available for district residents who meet certain requirements. The deadline for the exemption is June 30, 2026. To see if you are eligible for the Senior Exemption (Measures H and A), or the SSI/SSDI exemption (Measure A) please see the eligibility requirements and download the exemption forms on our website, www.lasdschools.org, or contact Carol Pairis-Brown at the Los Altos School District at 650-947-1150 prior to June 30, 2026. (02-11-26)

021-T

Europa Crepes FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723162

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Europa Crepes, 2444 Old Middlefield Way Ste. M, Mountain View, CA, 94043, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Doorstep Organics, Inc, 2444 Old Middlefield Wy Ste. M, Mountain View, CA 94043. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/23/2015. /S/ Antonis Giakoumis / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/27/2026. (02-04,11,18,25-26)

020-T

LAMTA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723044

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: LAMTA, 146 Main ST #103, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): LOS ALTOS MASONIC TEMPLE ASSOCIATION, 146 Main ST #103, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/29/1962.

/S/ Patrik Korzinski / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/23/2026. (02-04,11,18,25-26)

019-T

BECAUSE WE CARE GIFTS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722351

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: BECAUSE WE CARE GIFTS, 8525 Burchell Rd, Gilroy, CA, 95020, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): LMC DIGITAL SOLUTIONS INC, 8525 Burchell Rd, Gilroy, CA 95020. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/24/2025. /S/ Larissa M Clark / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/24/2025. (02-04,11,18,25-26)

018-T

SOFIT FITNESS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722980

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SOFIT FITNESS, 1620 Palo Santo Dr, Campbell, CA, 95008, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Sophie Nicole Wilson, 1620 Palo Santo Dr, Campbell, CA 95008. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/08/2026. /S/ Sophie Wilson / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/22/2026. (02-04,11,18,25-26)

017-T

LUNGO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN723055

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: LUNGO, 137 E El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA, 94040, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): COMMON THAI LLC, 614 Central Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Somjed Wartrakchit / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/23/2026. (02-04,11,18,25-26)

016-T

CHAPTERBARBERSHOP FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722791

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CHAPTERBARBERSHOP, 2019 Bright Willow Cir, San Jose, CA, 95131, Santa Clara County. The business is owned

by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Hoang Chuong Huy Le, 2019 Bright Willow Cir, San Jose, CA 95131. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/25/2025. /S/ Hoang Chuong Huy Le / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/15/2026. (01-28-26,02-04,11,18-26)

015-T

SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT REPAIR FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722943

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT REPAIR, 949 Industrial Ave., Palo Alto, CA, 94303, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT REPAIR, 949 Industrial Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/18/1988. /S/ Kenneth Kennedy / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/21/2026. (01-28-26,02-04,11,18-26)

014-T

Rising Star Home Care Services, LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722272

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Rising Star Home Care Services, LLC, 4701 Patrick Henry Drive, Building 1, 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): Rising Star Home Care Services, LLC, 1401 21st St Suite R, Sacramento, CA 95811. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Esther Lomothey / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/22/2025. (01-28-26,02-04,11,18-26)

012-T

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: STEPHEN WEIR OHLS CASE NO. 26PR201665

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of Stephen Weir Ohls, Steve Ohls. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by GREGORY OHLS in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that GREGORY OHLS 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 ob-

taining 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 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 David Cross 10080 N. Wolfe Rd., Ste SW3-200 Cupertino, CA 95014 (650) 503-3078 (01-28-26,02-04,11-26)

011-T

EBENEZER MEDIA PRODUCTIONS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722249

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: EBENEZER MEDIA PRODUCTIONS, 1289 Anvilwood Ave, Sunnyvale, CA, 94089, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a general partnership. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Miguel Quintero, 1059 Mango Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/01/2025. /S/ Miguel Quintero / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/22/2025. (01-21,28-26,02-04,11-26)

010-T

RANGAN LOGIC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN722637

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: RANGAN LOGIC, 24801 Pros-

Public Notices

pect Ave, Los Altos Hills, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Venkat Rangan, 24801 Prospect Ave, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/05/2026. /S/ Venkat Rangan / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 01/08/2026. (01-21,28-26,02-04,11-26)

009-T

Do you need to have a Legal or Public Notice published?

Then look no further than the Los Altos Town Crier. The Town Crier's unmatched service can take care of your Fictitious Business Name Statement, Notice of Probate, Name Change and much more.

For more information, contact Melissa at 650-397-5208, or email legals@latc.com

OBITUARY NOTICE

JAMES ROGERS



April 21, 1938 – December 2, 2025

James R. Rogers, known as “Jim” to his family and friends, was born in San Francisco on April 21, 1938. He passed away peacefully at his home in Los Altos on December 2, 2025 at the age of 87. Jim was married to the love of his life, Patricia Hughes Rogers, for over 61 years before her passing on December 17, 2024. Together, Jim and Pat were a dynamic duo who enjoyed all of the great moments in life together—from creating a loving family, to building houses and businesses, to exploring the world together. They are survived by their daughter Kathleen (Mark), son Peter (Julie), and four grandchildren (Samantha, Christopher, Jeremiah, and Nathan).

Growing up, Jim attended Saint Ignatius High School in San Francisco and graduated from San Jose State with a degree in Civil Engineering. He spent his working years on the Peninsula developing real estate. Jim had boundless energy and a keen interest in the world around him. He was a charming, friendly, positive person who was quick to make friends wherever he went, many for life. He had a mischievous sense of humor and ability to make adventures with him fun for all involved, whether embarking on world travels, enjoying the outdoors hiking, skiing, and sailing, or on simple spontaneous neighborhood outings to local restaurants or favorite scenic drives. He will be remembered fondly for trips to get “treats” with his grandchildren; his love of sweets was legendary among family.

In the later years of his life, Jim was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. He faced his decline with the same steady calm and good humor with which he ultimately faced hospice care. He embodied an extraordinary capacity for joy and kindness, offering laughter, encouragement, and comfort in equal measures. His influence will

continue in the countless lives he brightened and in the enduring love he shared with his family. He will be deeply missed.

In lieu of flowers, our family kindly requests donations in Jim’s memory to the Alzheimer’s Association or to your local hospice care organization.



VIRGINIA MORGAN



June 27, 1920 - December 6, 2025

Ginny, as she was known, died peacefully in her home in Los Altos on Dec 6th at the age of 105. She was born in Bridgeport, CT, the eldest daughter of Madeline & Stanley Willis. Her family moved throughout the Midwest before settling in Cleveland, Ohio. She attended Flora Stone Mather College for Women (which later became part of Case Western Reserve University) before starting a career as a Medical Librarian at the Cleveland Clinic.

She married the love of her life, John Smith Morgan, on February 15, 1947 after being introduced to him by mutual close friends over an evening together playing Bridge. She reluctantly followed cultural norms of the day and left her job to start raising a family, eventually bringing 3 daughters into the world.

In 1961, John accepted a job leading Employee Communications for General Electric and they moved to Bronxville, NY. With her youngest child now 3, Ginny returned to the work force and became the head Medical Librarian for Lawrence Hospital locally. She loved the community and the work, proudly sharing how she had been able to help doctors at the hospital diagnose tricky health issues and assist their patients in their Recovery.

In 1973, John accepted a senior role at Rockwell International and moved with Ginny and their

youngest daughter to Pittsburgh, PA. Ginny opted to follow a different professional path there, becoming a Certified Financial Planner and opening a small coaching business with a colleague. She and John developed a large community of friends and got involved in a local program hosting international visitors to the city they learned to love.

In 1996, with both retired, they relocated to Los Altos, CA to be near their grandchildren. Once again, they quickly became active in the community and both served in leadership roles, including President of the Homeowners Association at the Parc Regent where they lived. Ginny was often asked what she attributed her long life to and she always replied it was her Connecticut Yankee genes. Although that was certainly a key component, it was also her penchant for keeping active & intellectually stimulated, developing strong friendships everywhere she went and always being surrounded by a loving family.

Ginny is survived by 2 of her three daughters, Patricia Berger & Madeleine Fackler, her son-in-law, Stephen Fackler, two grandchildren, Katie Cattani and Matthew Fackler, two great-grandsons and her nephew, Curt Willis.

A memorial service and reception will be held Friday, February 20th at 2pm at Foothills Congregational Church (461 Orange Ave in Los Altos).



PATRICIA CUTKOSKY

August 3, 1931 – December 29, 2025

Patricia Cutkosky, a Los Altos resident since 2019, passed away on December 29, 2025. She was 94.

Pat was born Aug. 3, 1931, to Eudora and Robert Klepfer and raised in a suburb of Pittsburgh, PA. She graduated from Mt. Lebanon High School and attended Muskingum College before starting work in a lab at Carnegie-Mellon University.

There she met physics graduate student Richard E. Cutkosky. They married in 1952. Dick accepted a faculty position at CMU, and the couple settled in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood, where they raised their three children. Pat would live in their Wightman Street house for 60 years.

Pat involved herself in faculty social activities and volunteered at

her children’s schools. She was active in the League of Women Voters and at Third Presbyterian Church. She belonged to several book clubs, supported public television and environmental causes, and regularly attended chamber music and opera concerts. She was an accomplished and original knitter, providing her children and grandchildren with lovely sweaters for decades.

Pat and Dick traveled widely. The family spent several summers at the Aspen Center for Physics, and lived in Copenhagen, Cambridge and Oxford when Dick was on sabbaticals. After Dick died in 1993, Pat continued to travel, enjoying trips to Iceland, Canada, England’s Lake District, France and Tuscany.

In declining health, Pat moved to Bridgepoint Los Altos in 2019 to be closer to family.

In addition to her husband, Pat was predeceased by her half-sister, Mary Rickley Lawson. She is survived by her son Mark Cutkosky (Pamela Reasner) of Palo Alto; daughters Carol Bertaut (Edgard) of San Francisco and Martha Varadan (Anand) of Ave Maria, Fla.; nephew George Rickley (Evelyn); grandchildren Jules Bertaut (Lucas Sanders), Katherine Bertaut, Char Cutkosky, Lara Phippen (Colton), Richard Varadan (Carolyn), Grant Varadan (Charlott), Robert Varadan (Brittney), Johnny Varadan, Teresa Varadan, Nicole Varadan and Margaret Varadan; and great-grandchildren Walter, Terese, George, Wade, Lillian and Henry.

Pat’s family thanks the staff at Bridgepoint for making Pat’s last years pleasant ones.

A memorial service is planned for 11 o’clock on February 28 at First United Methodist Church in Palo Alto.





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