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Los Altos Town Crier

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

Vol. 79 No. 34 • 50 cents losaltosonline.com WEDNESDAY • August 26, 2026

Los Altos Hills unveils Heritage House remodel



CLARKE CONDÉ/TOWN CRIER

Los Altos Hills History Committee Co-Chair Bernardo Ferrari shares a selection of his grandfather's photos of Los Altos Hills from the past century at the opening of the remodeled Heritage House Aug. 19.

By Ava Acharya

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

City officials and community members gathered to celebrate the completion of the Heritage House Upgrade Project, commemorating the history of Los Altos Hills alongside a tour of the historic building.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 19 coincided with the city's 70th anniversary and featured remarks

from several key figures behind the project's completion.

From mustard fields to apricot orchards, speakers highlighted how the city of Los Altos Hills grew from undeveloped land into its modern Silicon Valley community.

"This is a tribute to how much we value history and tradition in our town," said Los Altos Hills Mayor Rajiv Bhateja. "We care about our

open spaces and rural character, but we also really value our tradition and our history. And, this is a standing symbol of that."

Bhateja also gave thanks to everyone who made the project a reality. This included the County of Santa Clara's Office of Supportive Housing and Community Development, the Los Altos Hills City Council, the city's

SEE HERITAGE, PAGE 6

Los Altos considering first permanent pickleball courts at McKenzie Park

By Curtis Driscoll

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

The city of Los Altos is exploring turning an area of McKenzie Park currently used for both tennis and pickleball to exclusively pickleball following the success of a pilot program.

The proposed plan would remove the two existing tennis court surfaces near Fremont Avenue and create six standard pickleball courts, including nets, along with four new bike racks on a concrete pad and new fencing fabric

SEE PICKLEBALL, PAGE 4

Clean air advocates implore city to cite gas leaf blower scofflaws

By Giovanni Albanese Jr.

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

Local environmental advocacy group GreenTown Los Altos has ramped up its efforts to get the city of Los Altos to improve its enforcement of the illegal use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

The Clean Air Advocate group of GreenTown Los Altos, a project of the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation's Local Impact Collective that strives to protect and enhance the environment of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, has long been in the ear of city officials about the lack of code enforcement on gas-powered

leaf blowers. GreenTown has a web page explaining why gas leaf blowers are illegal in more than 170 cities throughout the country – greentownlosaltos.org/gas-leaf-blowers.

1,654 of all city code violation complaints, or 72%, are about gas leaf blowers.

Los Altos originally banned the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in 1991 through amendments to the city's noise ordinance and updated the ban of the blowers in

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What do you use AI for?

Interviews and photos by Max Asmar, Town Crier Editorial Intern
This week, we met up with folks at the Downtown Los Altos Farmers' Market to ask: What do you use AI for?



"I am a patent attorney at Fenwick West and I use AI all the time for legal research. ... Oftentimes (I use the) writing skills for Claude to do certain functions that are helpful to me or my legal practice ... "

– Antonia Sequeira, Los Altos



"For me ... the best use of AI is when I go to the doctor's office and it's documenting for the doctor everything I'm saying and they don't have to have a live person there. You can get caught up in emotions, and even doctors can omit or forget a minor detail."

– Lynn Gibson, East Palo Alto



"Most of what I use AI for is asking questions that I think it would know. Like, I'm going out of the country for college (and) I need to get a new phone plan for a different country. So, I ask Claude what phone plans are in the UK?"

– Allyson Lingo, Los Altos

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News

Hacker Dojo hosts 'hackathon for good' to aid struggling veterans

By Ava Acharya

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

Jacob Sterling Silver saw a gap in the care afforded to veterans in crisis, many of whom were burdened by the mental stressors of experiencing war.

This is a gap that has cost people their lives, as suicide is the second leading cause of death in veterans under the age of 45, according to stopveteransuicide.org.

Additionally, Silver highlighted how difficult it can be for people to access their resources while experiencing mental health decline. In 2022, 54.4% of veterans who committed suicide had no contact with Veterans Affairs in the five years leading up to their death.

Silver's efforts to remedy these issues led to the creation of Shut Up and Serve Veteran Crisis Reaction Force (SUAS

Veteran Crisis QRF), which aims to prevent crises by offering tangible support for struggling veterans.

"I'm trying to get past virtue signaling for veterans and just go show up when they ask for help," Silver said. "If a veteran is in crisis, I am not going to run away."

Even so, Silver thought that there must be a way to uti-

lize emerging technology and build a solution that is applicable in active crisis. Although Silver had limited tech know-how, he found the support that he needed with Hacker Dojo.

"I'm trying to get past virtue signaling for veterans and just go show up when they ask for help. If a veteran is in crisis, I am not going to run away."

Jacob Sterling Silver, SUAS Veteran Crisis QRF

Together, they are hosting

a three-day "hackathon" in order to build digital tools that will streamline care for struggling veterans. The event will take place from Aug. 28-30 at Hacker Dojo's Mountain View location, with a welcoming reception at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 28.

Hacker Dojo's executive director Qi Diaz equated hackathons to cramming before a

big test.

"It's basically like finals on purpose," Diaz said. "It's like a practicum for all the knowledge that you have, and it

SEE HACKER, PAGE 6

Sempervirens Fund to offer living tribute to Eshoo

By Tamara Fagin

FORMER POLITICAL DIRECTOR FOR
REP. ANNA ESHOO

Los Altos is full of nature lovers and conservationists. So it comes as no surprise to me that the then Sempervirens Club, California's oldest land trust, was founded in Los Altos in 1900. The Club's original mission was to preserve the old-growth forest that in 1902 became Big Basin Redwoods State Park, California's first state park.

Sempervirens Club later rebranded as the Sempervirens Fund. Given where we live, you may be forgiven if you thought that the Fund was some sort of clean tech or evergreen venture capital fund.

It is not. Sempervirens Fund's north star continues to

be the preservation of coastal redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) forests and other natural features of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Today they are hard at work on restoring Big Basin Park to its pre-CZU Lightning Complex Fire glory.

But they can not do this important work alone. They rely on partners in state, federal and local government and everyday citizens like us.

This autumn the Sempervirens Fund invites you to honor one such partner, Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif. On October 4, they will celebrate her remarkable conservation legacy with a Living Tribute Tree Naming Ceremony in Big Basin Park.

For more information, see sempervirens.org/about/tributes/anna-eshoo.

PICKLEBALL

FROM PAGE 1

and a gate entry, according to a staff report from an Aug. 18 Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting. The six courts would be the first permanent outdoor pickleball courts in the city. Currently, indoor pickleball is available at Egan Gym every Monday and Wednesday from 6:30-9:30 p.m. for members only.

The courts at McKenzie Park currently split priority days between tennis (Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday) and pickleball, with lines for pickleball added to the tennis courts three years ago under a pilot program to determine the interest in pickleball compared to tennis. City staff determined that tennis at the park on priority days was at a level that is currently non-measurable, according to the report. Community Services Director Manny Hernandez called the pilot program "overwhelmingly successful



ALEXANDRA DONGNGUYEN/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Pickleball players at play on the courts at McKenzie Park on Aug. 21.

for pickleball." The potential conversion would mean there are eight public tennis courts (five lighted) in Los Altos, with six public pickleball courts. Of the eight remaining tennis courts, three are

at Marymeade Park, three at Rosita Park and two at Montclair Park.

The courts at McKenzie Park would continue to have sound mitigation on three sides of the courts. City staff

felt the courts were an optimal location for pickleball because they were not adjacent to any residential area and noted the sound mitigation was acoustically engineered to push the sound in one di-

rection towards the maintenance yards and into the park.

City staff and several Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture commissioners noted there was growing interest from Los Altos residents in pickleball courts. Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States. In 2025, an estimated 24.3 million people participated in pickleball, up from just 4.8 million in 2021, a 479% participation growth, according to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association. Pickleball is a racket sport that combines aspects of tennis, ping-pong and badminton and originated in the 1960s on Bainbridge Island, Washington, a few miles outside Seattle.

The city is seeking public input on the proposed changes by Friday, Aug. 28, with residents encouraged to send emails with comments to losaltospickleball@losaltosca.gov. The city is hoping to finalize plans soon after to send project contract details out to bid.

News

BLOWER

FROM PAGE 1

2023 by creating its own municipal code chapter. The new municipal code was adopted in July 2023 and put into effect a month later, with property owners cited for any violations. A first offense is a written warning, followed by fines of \$100, \$200 and \$500 on the second, third and additional offenses within a 12-month period.

Initially the enforcement was the responsibility of the Los Altos Police Department, but that shifted to the city in April 2023, which hired a code enforcement officer to receive complaints and issue citations for violations. However, despite the municipal code and ban, GreenTown Los Altos advocates say the city isn't pulling its weight.

GreenTown Los Altos advocate Bruce McFarlane is a leader in the group seeking answers. McFarlane said that from July 2025 through June 2026, 457 complaints had been filed across 251 addresses throughout the city and not a single citation was issued.

"There is no reasonable explanation why, after having received 457 reported (gas leaf blower) violations in 12 months with over



PHOTO BY BRUCE MCFARLANE

McFarlane says he spoke to these workers and filed complaints with the city twice the previous week about using a gas leaf blower at a home on the 1500 block of Queensbury Avenue, only to see them return last week, gas leaf blower in hand.

Los Altos City Manager Gabe Engeland said the high complaint numbers show that gas-powered leaf blowers continue to be an issue in the city, but said enforcement is a challenge.

"A resident complaint gives the city information about a potential violation, but the practical challenge is observing the use while it is occurring," Engeland told the Town Crier, noting that the usage of leaf blowers is in short spurts and varies based on landscaping schedules. "To issue a citation, the city needs sufficient evidence to establish both the violation and the responsi-

ditional attention from staff. Engeland said that the city is still working on ways to evaluate and improve compliance, "but any approach has to recognize both the evidentiary requirements for issuing citations and the city's responsibility to appropriately allocate its enforcement resources."

As a means to help reduce violations and get closer to total compliance, the city is about to launch a rebate program to help residents purchase electric equipment. The city believes that education is the most effective way to reduce gas-powered leaf blower use long-term, and the rebates will make it easier for residents to transition to electric equipment.

While the city continues its pursuit to lower the usage of gas leaf blowers, McFarlane is steadfast that the education aspect is not a fruitful one. It all comes down to writing up citations, which hasn't been done in more than two years.

"Because of that, everyone now knows the city won't issue a citation for a gas leaf blower violation, so they keep on using them," McFarlane said. "Start enforcing the ban on gas leaf blowers and issue citations for violations as mandated by the municipal code."

McFarlane said the city had been doing the right thing when it initially took over, issuing around 30 citations within the first year, but none since. That is the root of the problem, he said.

"Absent issuing citations, there is no incentive for gardeners to stop using gas blowers," McFarlane said. "Resume issuing citations for gas leaf blower violations as you did when (the city hired) the code enforcement officer, and watch what happens – gas leaf blower use will decrease."

"A complaint about a violation and the evidence necessary to issue a citation are two different things. That can be frustrating for residents who report violations, but it does not mean their complaints are being ignored."

Gabe Engeland, LOS ALTOS CITY MANAGER

50 addresses having received multiple reported violations, the city did not issue any citations. Not one," McFarlane said in an email. "That is not enforcement. That is a dereliction of enforcement and the City Council should address the problem."

In information received through the city's public records portal, it showed that from April 2023 when the city took over the enforcement of gas leaf blowers, there have been just over 1,700 complaints filed through the end of July this year, or 42.5 complaints a month, with only 21 citations, or 0.5 per month. The last issued citation was March 26, 2024. All told, the city has recorded 2,229 code violation complaints from January 2023 through July 2026. 1,654 of all city code violation complaints, or 72%, are about gas leaf blowers.

ble property, including viewing the violation taking place. That is why there can be such a significant difference between the number of complaints received and the number of citations issued."

Engeland stressed that code enforcement follows up on every complaint received and that when a property has multiple complaints, staff takes additional steps, including in-person visits to the property.

"A complaint about a violation and the evidence necessary to issue a citation are two different things," Engeland added. "That can be frustrating for residents who report violations, but it does not mean their complaints are being ignored."

Currently the city uses complaint history to identify repeat locations, and properties with multiple complaints receive ad-

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HACKER

FROM PAGE 4

happens in a really intense, short amount of time.”

Over the course of three days, participants will first learn the issue at hand, then find and build a solution before pitching their final product to community investors who will provide startup funding.

On day one, participants will build teams and pitch solutions. Silver’s team will focus on building a crisis re-

sponse app that is easy to access and navigate.

“I want a three-year-old to be able to use it, it has to be

to any community members. Diaz said that it is necessary for teams to exhibit diverse expertise. Since an aspect

something like that,” Diaz said. “Whatever it may be, you can petition and join a team.”

“Hacker Dojo is a space where a lot of amazing things have been created. There’s a lot of super talented technical builders, technologists that are in that space,” Diaz said.

Diaz added these events are an opportunity for tech workers to build their portfolios by creating solutions to relevant issues, something that is especially useful for workers who have recently been laid off.

“(The Hackathon) is really about community building and solving problems that can create really significant impacts for the community,” Diaz said.

For more information, see suasqrf.org. To register for the event, visit tinyurl.com/HackerDojo-VeteransCrisisApp.

“I want a three-year-old to be able to use it, it has to be easy. If a veteran is out of his mind with trauma or addiction, we still want the service to get there.”

Jacob Sterling Silver

easy,” Silver said. “If a veteran is out of his mind with trauma or addiction, we still want the service to get there.”

Event attendance is open

of the event includes pitching their product in order to receive investor funding, it’s important to have team members who understand marketing and consumer demands.

“You can offer technical experience or maybe marketing experience. You can offer spokesperson experience, or maybe advisory experience because you’ve already done

On day two, attendees will build their product and on day three they will showcase and pitch their product to event sponsors.

This event is the first in Hacker Dojo’s new program, “Hackathons for good,” which centers around fostering creative solutions to relevant issues by partnering with local nonprofits.

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CLARKE CONDÉ/TOWN CRIER

Interior spaces within the remodeled Heritage House invite leisurely conversations about history.

HERITAGE

FROM PAGE 1

History Committee and Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee, as

Block Grant (CDBG) grant from the government of California.

Heritage House was first constructed by the Eschenbruecher family in 1908. It

Camp training exercise.

Heritage House was designated as a historical landmark before being relocated to Los Altos Hills in 1985.

The remodeling project aimed to update the house with modern conveniences, while maintaining its historic feel and architectural style. The new Heritage House features modern electricity, plumbing and tech products.

The building will be utilized for a variety of events, including city committee meetings, historical education, social events and community engagement.

“This is a tribute to how much we value history and tradition in our town. We care about our open spaces and rural character, but we also really value our tradition and our history. And, this is a standing symbol of that.”

Rajiv Bhateja, Los Altos Hills Mayor

well as contractors and staff. Bhateja also noted that a chunk of funding came from a Community Development

was originally located in Los Altos, near 2nd Street. In 1944, the house was damaged in a Page Mill Army

Los Altos PARC Commission selects 40 art pieces for display at Community Center

By Giovanni Albanese Jr.
TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

The Los Altos Parks, Arts, Recreation and Cultural Commission (PARC) at its Aug. 18 meeting chose dozens of art submissions to display at the city’s community center this fall.

“We’re aiming for variety. We want to keep it interesting and entertaining.”

Teresa Morris, PARC CHAIR

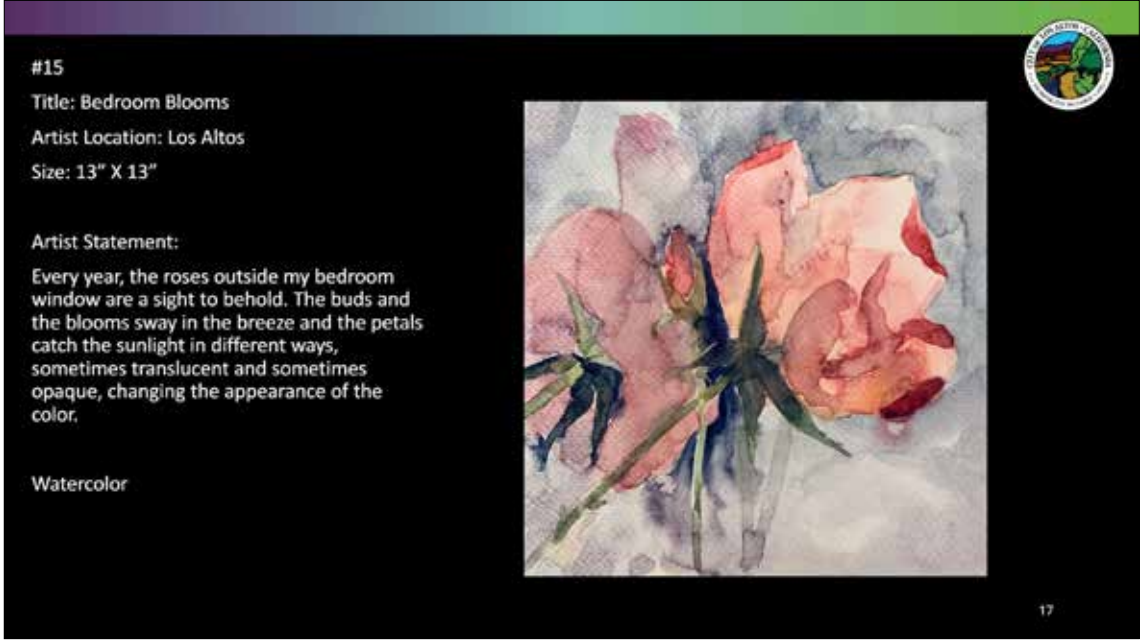
The commission previously made a call to the community for art submissions for the fall display gallery at the Los Altos Community Center with the theme of “Pistache Red,” receiving a record 105 submissions. Twelve sculptures were

eliminated because they don’t hang sculptures at the gallery. Another 13 were eliminated for not following the theme. Some others were eliminated due to space concerns, so the commission was left with 77 to choose from.

“We’re aiming for variety,” PARC Chair Teresa Morris said at the meeting. “We want to keep it interesting and entertaining.”

The PARC Commission went through the 77 submissions with a goal of selecting 40, with no artists having multiple pieces of work in the gallery. The goal in selecting the artwork was by seeing the interpretation and clarity of the theme and thinking about the creative and unique aspect of the work.

The commission said it wasn’t a matter of whether the commissioners liked the art,



One of the 40 works selected by the PARC Commission for an upcoming exhibit at the Los Altos Community Center. The artist’s identity was withheld during the selection process.

it was about choosing interesting art to hang on the wall of the community center lobby. Another four pieces were

chosen as alternates should the artist not deliver the piece to the community center.

The selected artwork is

scheduled to be on display at the Los Altos Community Center beginning in September and through December.

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Letters to the Editor

Plaza measure no way to govern

Voters should oppose the Downtown Parking Plazas measure. In all the plans being considered, the number of parking places at Plazas 1, 2 and 3 will be equal to or more than there are currently. So why not a beautiful park in the middle of our downtown? It would be a desirable draw, help our retail businesses thrive and include much-appreciated public restrooms.

If you don't want a downtown park, you should still vote "No" because this initiative is no way to govern. We should not have voters making the decisions proposed by this measure. The details of the financing, the construction plans and the possible fiscal impacts are all too complicated for the average person to want to wade through and make a wise choice. This is why we elect officials to make informed decisions; we can give our input.

The idea that the proponents would be paid for endless and possibly meritless court litigation costing millions of dollars is appalling.

Lastly, there is the possibility our Housing Element could be decertified as has happened with numerous other cities. We could be subject to "Builder's Remedy," sometimes known as a zoning holiday, where almost anything can be built almost anywhere.

Susan Russell

LOS ALTOS

Make the 9212 report available

Arguments against Measure D, recently published in LATC, rely heavily on information purchased by the city and referred to as "the 9212 report." I believe the report, in its entirety, rather than selective interpretations of the report, should be made available to all on the city website.

William Brown

LOS ALTOS

Editor's Note: The 9212 report is available on the city's website, as well as on the Town Crier's website – tinyurl.com/9212impactreport.

Yes on Measure D

A statement put out by the Los Altos Village Association (Town Crier, Aug. 12 – "Vast asphalt won't save downtown businesses, vibrancy will,") referred to our downtown parking plazas as "vast asphalt." That is a gross misrepresentation. They are key to our downtown's charm and "sense of place." These parking plazas make circulating our downtown easy and straightforward, providing airy, tree shaded and safe places to park and walk to nearby businesses. Along with our vibrant businesses and signature Chinese Pistache trees, they help to make our downtown a special place. But that beauty is fragile and should be carefully guarded. In the current hyper pressured environment pushing for development, a design conscious citizenry is the best way to ensure that the city handles these changes gracefully and avoids the tug of special interests. I'm voting yes on Measure D, the Downtown Parking Plaza Ordinance!

Catherine Lu

LOS ALTOS

No on Measure D

All Los Altos voters should be aware of an initiative that will be on our ballot in November. Deceptively called the "Downtown Parking Plazas Initiative," it is aimed at stopping any needed improvements, including new public restrooms, in Los Altos. If passed, this initiative will immediately trigger many lawsuits that will be expensive for the city, and could even result in rezoning that may affect single-family neighborhoods. We have elected a responsible City Council committed to providing good government. We do not need this costly initiative to interfere with the work of our council. I urge you to oppose the "Downtown Parking Plazas Initiative."

Margo Horn

LOS ALTOS

Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

Al (the barber) Galedrige's shop on Main Street was the place where men and boys got their hair cut and discussed the stock market, their golf scores, world events and recent town issues. Al's kindness and generosity were infectious; his shop served the community for over 65 years.

Measure D is about giving Los Altos voters a voice

As Los Altos debates Ballot Measure D, the Downtown Parking Ordinance, let's be clear about what is at stake: whether residents get a direct say before our downtown parking plazas are permanently reshaped. Some large commercial property and business owners would rather not put that question to voters. But these decisions affect all residents and visitors who shop and gather downtown, not just those with a financial stake in the outcome.

Some say the parking plazas are underused and could be converted to a park and theatre. We all want a vibrant downtown, but it doesn't need to be an either/or. Convenient parking is not a trivial luxury, especially for parents and older residents. It is part of what makes downtown Los Altos unique

on the Peninsula.

Los Altos is not Mountain View or Palo Alto. We do not have their public transportation corridors. If we trade accessible surface parking for less convenient multi-story structures, we risk getting their congestion and access problems without the train station and bus hubs that help those downtowns work.

If residents want that future and vote to approve it, the majority will have spoken. That is the point of Measure D: It gives Los Altos voters a say before irreversible decisions are made about our plazas and the character of downtown. This is about more than parking. It is about accountability, access, and whether residents, not a narrow set of special interests, should decide what kind of town Los Altos becomes.

Valerie Taglio

LOS ALTOS

Community

The railroad and Los Altos: *The ties that bind our history*

By Robin Chapman

SANTA CLARA VALLEY LIVES

While it is not exactly true that the Southern Pacific Railroad was responsible for creating Los Altos, it is true in part. One might also say it was the famous Sarah Winchester – of Mystery House fame – who was responsible. But the truth about the past can be complicated. In this case, even the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906 played a role.

Mrs. Winchester came to California in 1886 after the death of her husband, an heir to the Winchester rifle fortune. In 1888, even as she began famously remodeling the house she bought near San Jose, she purchased a ranch in what became Los Altos for her

sister and brother-in-law, Isabelle and Louis Merriman, so the couple could raise carriage horses there.

But even as Mrs. Winchester bought up acreage surrounding the Merriman property to increase its size, the Southern Pacific Railroad had plans of its own.

Between 1903 and 1904, Mrs. Winchester learned that the Southern Pacific wanted a right-of-way through her ranch so it could add a new line through Stanford University, over to the base of the Santa Cruz Mountains. This line, later called the Los Altos Branch, would include an interurban commuter line beside it.

Mrs. Winchester did not want to be forced to accom-

modate the railroad, since the right-of-way Southern Pacific wanted would bisect her property, making it hard for the Merriman's horses to reach the water they needed at Adobe Creek. This, she felt, would devalue her land.

Then something more powerful than the lady and the railroad intervened. The 1906 San Francisco earthquake badly damaged Mrs. Winchester's home near San Jose, knocking down its turrets and collapsing its stairways. It also exhausted her resolve. She told her attorney if Southern Pacific still wanted her land, they could have it, but they needed to buy all 100 acres. In the end, the railroad did just

SEE RAILROAD, PAGE 13

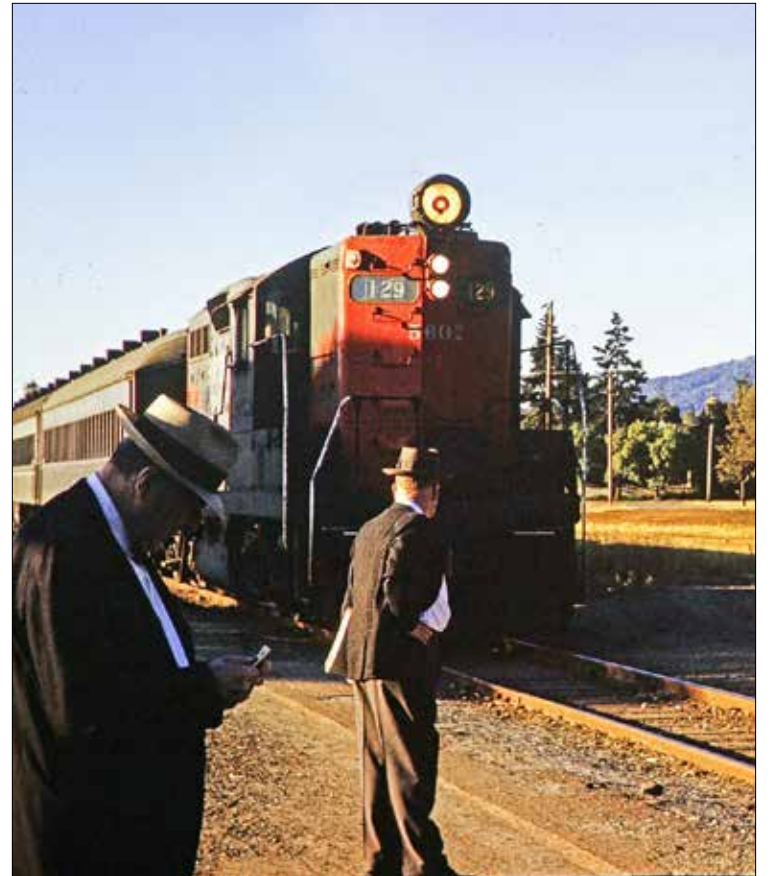


PHOTO BY GREG GNESIOS

Commuters prepare to step onto the train in Los Altos in 1963, the last year of Southern Pacific service at the station near First and Main.

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Enabling Seniors to Age in Place

Museum lecture discusses early California colonization

By Ava Acharya
TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

In 2026, the United States celebrates 250 years since the country's founding. However, as of 1776, large portions of modern America had yet to be incorporated into the new nation.

Here in California, Spanish colonial influence painted a much different history when compared to English colonial influence on the East Coast. Specifically, history was shaped by the often violent treatment of indigenous people.

A lecture on Aug. 19 at the Los Altos History Museum, titled "Junipero Serra and 1776: The West and East Coasts," discussed these key differences. Lecturers and Santa Clara University professors Robert Senkewicz and Rose Marie Beebe took attendees on a journey through coastal California in 1776, through the eyes of Franciscan missionary Junipero Serra.

Serra's writings were translated and published by Senkewicz and Beebe in "Junipero Serra: California, Indians, and the Transformation of a Mis-

sionary." This lecture is part of a series hosted by the Los Altos History Museum in connection with its ongoing exhibit "The Spirit of '76: Reflecting on America's 250th."

Senkewicz and Beebe emphasized the importance of reading Serra's writings through a human lens. It is easy to discredit past figures because of the harm that they ultimately caused, but ignoring the basic fact that they were human ignores a portion of the historical context under which they lived, they said.

"He expresses a range of

human emotions that we all can identify with," Beebe said. "And he also was a man who could get angry very easily ... he had quite the temper."

Senkewicz started the lecture by drawing a parallel between the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the first mass held at what would become Mission Dolores in San Francisco. These two events occurred one day apart in the year 1776.

While separated by over 3,000 miles, colonists on either side of the continent heavily documented their interactions with Native Americans, though this documentation took on different tones.

Senkewicz explained that this difference comes from their differing ultimate goals: Spanish colonials in California aimed primarily to convert the indigenous population, whereas English colonials aimed to fully overtake the existing society in that part of the world, establishing their own in its place.

As a result, the language with which native peoples

were referred to varied, with the Spanish missionaries referring to the Native Americans as "gentiles," or non-Christians, and the English referring to the Native Americans as "savages," or non-civilized.

Senkewicz added that these differing goals were a direct result of previous Spanish colonization in North and South America.

"What happened in the early period in the Caribbean, the Spanish really forced the native peoples to mine for gold for them ... and some of the missionaries objected to that," Senkewicz said. "The mission's origin in the Caribbean was to protect the native peoples from the conquistadores."

As these missionaries traveled into California, they continued to view conversion as a means of salvation, both in a religious sense and in the sense of protection from conquistadores.

Senkewicz further explained that as Serra moved north into modern California,

SEE LECTURE, PAGE 13

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AVA ACHARYA/TOWN CRIER

Junipero Serra: California, Indians, and the Transformation of a Missionary, written and translated by Santa Clara University professors Robert Senkewicz and Rose Marie Beebe.

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10-year-old from Los Altos places third at international chess tournament

By Curtis Driscoll

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

It didn't take long for Yulan Wang's parents to realize their child was talented at chess.

Yulan, then 6, was playing in a tournament in Novato against third- and fourth-graders and doing well, eventually placing fifth out of 40 participants. Her father, Bingqing Wang, was watching with other kids when he heard something that caught his attention.

"I was overhearing one of the kids saying, 'that baby is a monster,'" Bingqing said with a laugh. "So that's the moment I realized, wow, maybe she really has some potential here."

Since that time, Yulan, now 10, has combined her skills with hard work to achieve her best moment so far in her young chess career, finishing third in the girls U10 standard event at the 2026 Pan-American Youth Chess Festival in Medellín, Colombia, that ran from July 27-Aug. 1. The tournament is considered one of the most important youth events in South

America and is organized by the Chess Confederation of the Americas (CCA) and the Colombian Chess Federation, with age divisions from 8-18. This year, approximately 900 people played in the tournament and 40 in her age group. There were nine rounds over the week and two games a day most days, with an average game taking three to four hours.

"I was really proud and happy," Yulan said. "It was also sort of unexpected, because I started as the 19th seed."

Qualifying for international tournaments involves reaching a required US Chess Federation rating. The process took many games for Yulan, and she is now a top 100 ranked player in her age group. The Columbia tournament was her first international tournament.

"We are really proud of her," Bingqing said. "It's a big deal to us."

Yulan had a slow start to the tournament in Columbia, losing her second game and drawing another early. How-

ever, she readjusted and built momentum toward the end of the tournament. She finished the week with seven points, a half point behind the first-place winner. Her most nervous moments came during her last game of the tournament when the stakes were highest.

"I had to win the last game to get at least third place," Yulan said. "If I even drew it, I might not get the top three."

The tournament drew players from countries all over the world, with Yulan receiving a keychain from one girl, while a girl from Peru gave her a small doll.

"I like that people from lots of countries, speaking different languages, can still play chess together," Yulan said.

Yulan first started playing chess during the pandemic when she was at home looking for things to do and had different activities available. Yulan likes to solve puzzles, so her parents introduced her to chess, even though they did not play. While many kids at her age couldn't finish a game



COURTESY OF BINGQING WANG

Yulan Wang makes a move during a chess tournament.

of chess, Yulan showed a level of patience not usually seen by finishing entire games and progressing rapidly.

"She beat me very easily, after maybe three, four months," Bingqing said.

Yulan plays chess every day and plans to continue to play in

the future, and her father noted that even when she loses, she never gives up.

"I think one trait I'm really impressed with Yulan is her resiliency," Bingqing said. "She loses a lot, and I think, like everyone, you need to learn how to lose before you can win."



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Pet of the week



COURTESY OF PETS IN NEED

This week's featured pet is Sunny, a sweet young dog at Pets In Need who is ready to find a home of his own.

Sunny came to Pets In Need as a young puppy following a large-scale rescue response in Southern California, alongside his sister, Cher. While Cher quickly found a home, Sunny has continued growing up in our care and is now becoming a teenager.

Sunny is a wonderful companion dog who thrives with a confident canine friend by his side, big or small. He takes cues from other dogs, and having a buddy helps him feel more comfortable meeting new people, exploring new places and experiencing the world around him.

With people, Sunny is a slow-and-steady kind of guy. He appreciates having a little time to get to know someone, but with patience and consistency, his confidence begins to shine. His ideal home will give him the space to settle in at his own pace and have a canine companion who can help show him the ropes.

Sunny has spent much of his young life in shelter care, which means so many of the simple joys of having a home are still waiting for him.

For more information, see petsinneed.org/pet/sunny/

100 Women Charitable Foundation and Power4 Pilates celebrate community ties

By Ava Acharya

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

Centered on health, wellness and community bonding, 100 Women Charitable Foundation and Power4 Pilates studio partnered for a night of connection.

"Summer Nights," on Aug. 21, brought members of both organizations to Power4 Pilates Los Altos location for food, games and conversation.

"We teamed up with Power4 Pilates because both groups are built on the same basic idea: women showing up for each other," said Julie Sheehan, marketing and communications director for the 100 Women Charitable Foundation.

The 100 Women Charitable Foundation pools community donations across Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, in order to provide more central and substantial funding for local nonprofits, Sheehan said.

2026 marks the foundation's 20th anniversary, and in that time it has raised more than \$2.7 million for local nonprofits.

"We can make grants big enough to actually move the

needle for nonprofits serving those two counties, with a focus on education, family, and health and wellness," Sheehan added.

Every year the foundation's members nominate charities before voting on which ones receive funding.

"We teamed up with Power4 Pilates because both groups are built on the same basic idea: women showing up for each other."

Julie Sheehan, 100 WOMEN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

"It's philanthropy by committee, in the best sense: more voices, bigger impact, and a lot of women in one room deciding together where their giving can do the most good," Sheehan said.

The foundation's board president, Mary Ann Poulos, is a member at Power4 Pilates and knows the studio's owner. Sheehan said the partnership seemed like a good fit.

"This partnership just formalizes a community that already

existed," Sheehan added.

Power4 Pilates CEO Jennifer Gaines said that this community-building is one of the main reasons that she wanted to start the studio.

"I think that ultimately we're all serving a community and a purpose, and we want to help others. And so, you know, both of us coming from I think similar places and also from different perspectives are trying to do the same thing," Gaines said.

Power4 Pilates focuses on health and rehabilitation through exercise, while also giving its team members the best possible opportunities for growth, Gaines said.

"It's always been clear to us that our goal was first to create an organization where those who wanted to have careers in fitness could," Gaines added. "We also then focus on the community aspect of building our members and introducing them to Pilates."

The studio is celebrating its one-year anniversary in Los Altos next month, and in that year it has grown to include two studios and around 70 team members.

"We would like to give our members an opportunity to be exposed to a local organization who is doing really great work," Gaines said. "We're bringing a lot of strong people together, which we're excited about."



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RAILROAD

FROM PAGE 9

that. The company set aside what it needed for the tracks and flipped the rest to developer Walter Clark of Mountain View. Working with Southern Pacific board member Paul

Shoup – who later became Southern Pacific’s president – they formed the Altos Land Company and subdivided the Winchester acreage into lots, now within an easy walk of a train stop. Shoup and several family members “all bought fine lots and built substantial



PHOTO BY ROBIN CHAPMAN

The old Los Altos station, built in 1913, still stands, now repurposed as a restaurant.

LECTURE

FROM PAGE 10

he experienced non-Christian indigenous Americans for the first time, and his writings about them displayed some level of reverence.

In this same vein, Beebe pointed to a passage in Serra’s writings where he likened the non-Christian Native Americans that he encountered to Adam in the Garden of Eden.

“This passage, I believe, shows the affection that he feels for the people he encounters,” Beebe said.

Senkewicz added that Serra showed clear consideration of the indigenous cultures as a tool of conversion, relating Native American religious figures and stories to Christian theology.

“They were trying to discover aspects of that local culture that ... could serve as breaches to Christianity – this is an old missionary strategy used in the New World,” Senkewicz said. “What those missionaries were trying to do was tell the people that Christianity could be built upon the local traditions and the local cultures.”

As a result, Senkewicz said, aspects of these indigenous cultures were preserved in a way that did not happen on the East Coast.

Both Senkewicz and Beebe noted that, despite the missionaries’ self-perceived saviorism, violence towards indigenous people at their hands was incredibly commonplace.

At the same time, they said, this kind of violence was a culturally standard legal and spiritual punishment, although it was more often applied to native peoples.

Additionally, this widespread normalization of violence towards Native Americans built upon itself, eventually leading to the Indian Removal Act and subsequent Trail of Tears under Andrew Jackson, Senkewicz said.

The goal of reading and teaching Serra’s writings is not to justify the violence enacted towards Native Americans, Senkewicz said. Rather, they are intended to provide context for California’s history.

Additionally, Senkewicz said, this is not a situation in which one version of colonization is less violent than another.

“We don’t think this is black and white,” Senkewicz said. “Both the Spanish and the English colonial project, whatever their aims were, they both resulted in massive native dislocation and massive native deaths ... but we think that there are important differences between those systems.”

homes there,” Trainline magazine reported in 2024.

Afterwards, Mrs. Winchester wrote her attorney that she considered the forced sale just “one more distressing episode added to the list of harrowing experiences which I have met with since coming to California.”

Los Altos remained just a rail stop until after World War II, when a citizens’ initiative led to the successful incorporation election of December 1952, an election in which my parents were among the voters. You might add them to

the mix of those responsible for creating Los Altos, though both were contrarians, and it was, of course, a secret ballot, and I was in my crib at the time and cannot vouch for how they voted. One of the many things, alas, I forgot to ask before I lost them both.

By the 1950s, there was a beautiful station downtown and flag stops at Loyola Corners and Rancho Shopping Center. Southern Pacific shut down the line in 1963 – to much protest, by the way, from the remaining commuters – for the 1964 construction

of Foothill Expressway. And that was the end of the sound of the train whistle through this part of the Santa Clara Valley.

The Los Altos History Museum salutes these days of long ago with its annual Train Day celebration Sunday, Aug. 30, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, see losaltoshistory.org.

Robin Chapman is a journalist and the author of three books about Santa Clara Valley history, all from the History Press.

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Los Altos Town Crier

Schools

LASD eyes BCS enrollment impact as 10th site breaks ground

By Julia Baum

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

The Los Altos School District (LASD) held a groundbreaking last week for the new TK-8 San Antonio campus, which will serve Bullis Charter School (BCS) and is known as the 10th site. Superintendent Sandra McGonagle was joined by current and former trustees for a gold-shoveled ceremony on Aug. 19 as equipment moved rubble around in the background on the 11.7-acre former retail space.

McGonagle spoke about the investment the community was making in future generations by building the new school campus, saying, “Great communities invest not just in their needs today.” She added that the school will be part of the community for years to come, serving students not yet born. “Today we are taking a great step forward,” McGonagle said.

With demolition and clean-up well underway, construction is expected to move at a brisk pace with completion scheduled for August 2028.

The groundbreaking comes as LASD scrutinizes the financial and facilities implications of BCS’ growing share of out-of-district students – an issue trustees distinguished from LASD families who choose



CLARKE CONDÉ/TOWN CRIER

Current and former trustees gather at LASD’s 10th site to break ground on the new San Antonio campus last Wednesday morning.

to enroll their children at the charter school.

At an Aug. 17 board meeting, district staff projected that LASD will transfer about \$12.1 million to BCS in property taxes this fiscal year. BCS is also projected to receive about \$625,000 as its share of Measure A, while LASD spends about \$1.1 million annually on portable rentals for BCS.

About 17% of BCS students came from outside LASD boundaries in 2025-2026,

compared with about 5% of LASD students. LASD projects that about \$2 million of this year’s property-tax transfer to BCS will be attributable to out-of-district students, assuming their average daily attendance remains roughly flat.

Trustees said their concern was not the existence of out-of-district enrollment itself, but its recent growth. Board members said BCS’ share had historically been around 5%, in part because students who enrolled while living within

LASD could remain at BCS if their families later moved away.

Johnson noted that some out-of-district enrollment is unavoidable because California charter schools must accept applicants from across the state. But he described the recent increase as different from the longstanding pattern, saying BCS “could never have 100% of students from within LASD” but characterizing the jump as a decision by the BCS board to enroll additional out-

of-district students.

LASD’s current facilities-use agreement with BCS allows the district to terminate the agreement if out-of-district enrollment exceeds 8%, subject to a deadline. BCS exceeded that threshold last year, but LASD did not exercise its termination option during the applicable window.

LASD is not BCS’ charter authorizer and therefore does not directly control the charter school’s enrollment. Its leverage comes through its facilities relationship with BCS, including the 8% provision.

The current facilities-use agreement expires in June 2027, a year before the San Antonio campus is scheduled to open. Several trustees said they favored renewing the agreement for the 2027-2028 school year to bridge that gap, while also suggesting the district should take a closer look at how the agreement addresses out-of-district enrollment.

Trustees also discussed the possibility that BCS could seek facilities through the state’s Proposition 39 process, which would require LASD to undertake additional analysis and documentation. Board members said a Prop. 39 request could affect whether the district proceeds with a renewal.

LASD votes to begin transition to trustee-area elections

By Julia Baum

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

The Los Altos School District (LASD) Board of Trustees voted unanimously last week to begin transitioning from at-large elections to a trustee-area system, a change that would alter how residents elect school board members beginning with the 2028 election cycle.

The board approved the resolution by a 5-0 vote at its Aug. 17 meeting, after a discussion centered on the potential cost and risk of fighting a challenge under the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).

The district’s attorney, William Tunick, told trustees that the resolution would not affect the November 2026 election. If

the process moves forward as planned, the new system would begin taking effect in 2028 and be fully implemented following the 2030 election.

Under the current at-large system, voters throughout the district can vote for all five board seats. Under trustee-area elections, the district would be divided into five geographic areas, with each area electing its own representative. Candidates would have to live in the area they seek to represent.

According to Tunick, the district is considering the change after receiving a letter in June alleging that its at-large election system violates the CVRA. The letter was sent by attorney Robert Goodman on behalf of Los Altos resi-

dent Robert Yih. Tunick said the law has been interpreted broadly by California courts and that local agencies have generally faced difficulty successfully defending against such claims. He told the board that, of the hundreds of local agencies that have received such letters, approximately 15 have attempted to defend themselves – mostly cities – and that none of those challenges had been successful.

Board President Vaishali Sirkay said she did not believe the district’s elections violated the CVRA but would “reluctantly” vote in favor of the resolution, noting that other jurisdictions serving the area have already moved to district-based elections. Tunick said that those decisions could potentially

make defending the district’s current system more difficult because the jurisdictions share many of the same voters.

The board also raised concerns about the cost of making the change. Trustee-area boundaries must be revised after new census data becomes available in 2031. Tunick said the trustee areas must be population-balanced and would need to be revised using the new census data.

Trustee Bryan Johnson asked whether the district could negotiate with Yih’s attorney to “see if there’s some basis on which they’d be okay with not making us do this twice in four years and agreeing to do it in some sort of binding way.” Tunick said that possibility could be explored after the resolution is approved.

During public comment, one parent spoke in favor of the change, saying district-based elections would provide better community representation.

The board approved a revised timeline calling for the process to begin in January 2027, with trustee-area maps developed in February and March and a final public hearing and adoption in April.

The transition would not immediately change the composition of the board. Members elected under the current system would serve their existing terms, with trustee-area elections phased in during 2028 and 2030. By the end of the 2030 election cycle, all five seats would be elected by individual trustee areas.

Local student robotics teams excel at Botball Global Conference

By Navya Narayanan

TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Four robotics teams from Los Altos Community Botball placed among the top competitors at this year's Botball Global Conference, held July 14-18 in Oklahoma.

Among the four teams of teens, LACT 0399 placed first overall, LACT 0329 finished seventh, LACT 0328 took eighth and LACT 0510 came in 17th. Teams from as far as Austria and China participated in the event, held in Norman.

The Los Altos teams featured high school and junior high school students from Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, San Jose, Fremont, Union City and Foster City.

"This is our team's second time winning first overall," said Menlo Park resident Serena Tang, member of LACT 0399. "There's three brackets: seeding, double elimination and overall. We got first place in all three of those, which was a really great win for us and very monumental overall for Botball as well."

LACT organizer Michael Schuh said the team spent months preparing for the com-



COURTESY LOS ALTOS COMMUNITY BOTBALL

Alan Gao of Harker School, left, and Los Altos Hills resident Aaron Xie of Pinewood School, part of the LACT 0399 team that placed first in July's Botball Global Conference in Oklahoma.

down the tradition of working hard and really putting your passion into robotics. From the get go, they built this environment of hard work and also independence and collaboration at the same time, and that's why I think this team has been able to withstand for so long."

Los Altos Hills resident Aaron Xie said his responsibilities as co-captain of LACT 0399 included organizing meetings and keeping team members accountable for their progress throughout the season.

tively very well because everyone in the group knew what they were supposed to be doing at all times, and that made it so that everyone can work and be efficient," Xie said. "A lot of group members made themselves available at any time. We had great coaches and parents who were very supportive of our work and helped us a lot."

Xie said the team's achievements demonstrate the strength of the Los Altos robotics community and its ability to compete successfully against teams from around the world.

"We're (LACT) a very strong community of not a lot of schools, but we're able to compete against a lot of older students from all over the world," Xie said. "It shows me that, as a community, we're really strong and we can accomplish a lot."

Schuh said the team's success came from a combination of strong preparation and strategic decision-making.

"The top performing teams all work really hard," Schuh said. "I don't know if they worked harder than other teams because I can't see into other teams. But this team (LACT 0399) worked really hard, and they had great strategy in deciding which aspects of the game to pursue and which point-scoring opportunities."

For more information, see boardsailor.com/botball.

LASD seeks art and nature docents

TOWN CRIER STAFF REPORT

Los Altos School District (LASD) is seeking volunteers to help local elementary students explore art and nature through hands-on classroom lessons and school garden activities.

No formal art or teaching experience is required. Both docent programs provide training, lesson materials and support to help volunteers engage students in creative and environmental learning.

Living Classroom is recruiting nature-loving volunteers for docent training from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays, Aug. 31 through Oct. 19, at the LASD iLearn Studio, 201 Covington Road, Los Altos. There will be no

training Sept. 7. Those unable to attend Monday sessions may inquire about apprentice-style training. Contact livingclassroom@lasdschools.org or (650) 947-1103, or see LivingClassroomLASD.org.

Los Altos Art Docents is also recruiting volunteers. An informational coffee event will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, at iLearn Studio, offering prospective volunteers a chance to meet current docents and learn about training and the classroom experience. Art docents typically visit an elementary classroom about once a week, or approximately 30 times during the school year.

For more information, see losaltosartdocents.org.

"So many different years of hardworking people passing down the tradition of working hard and really putting your passion into robotics."

Serena Tang, MEMBER OF LACT 0399

petition, continually improving its robots and approach.

"The team learned of the challenge in January, and they spent from January until the competition building different robots and programming them and refining their strategy," Schuh said.

Tang added that her team's long history and culture of dedication, independence and collaboration have been key reasons for its continued success across generations of members.

"One (differentiating) factor is that 0399 has been around for many years," Tang said. "So many different years of hardworking people passing

"As a co-captain, with another captain who's leaving this year, we helped to organize every team meeting," the Pinewood School senior said. "We assign tasks and we also have a whiteboard where you can just write down your schedule. We also, as co-captains, hold meetings every week to get progress reports from everyone."

Teamwork was a key part of LACT 0399's success, Xie added. LACT 0399 succeeded because members clearly understood their roles, worked efficiently together and received strong support from coaches and parents.

"We all worked collabora-

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Sports

Local students win national rowing competition

By Meghna Dixit

TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Three Los Altos students recently earned national awards at the USRowing Youth National Championships in Florida.

Aretha Liu, Dominik Bera and Lucy Wright were each members of boats that placed first at the event, held June 11-14 at Nathan Benderson Park in Sarasota.

All three students are part of the Los Gatos Rowing Club. To qualify for nationals, they won regional competitions at Lake Natoma in Sacramento in early May. Four of the club's boats won national titles – two in the men's division and two in the women's division. Each boat had four rowers, and all the races were 2,000 meters.

To prepare for the competition, the club maintained a rigorous practice schedule with early morning and afternoon training at Lexington Reservoir in Los Gatos.

"Returning athletes show up in the fall with the goal of performance at next year's nationals," said Michael Harris, first-year Youth Men's assistant coach. "We train over 5,000 meters in the fall, and shorten to 2,000 meters in the spring. We shift the training to be more conducive to higher intensity, shorter duration."

For Youth Women's rower



PHOTO BY SEAN RIORDAN

Jenna Yoder, left, and Los Altos resident Aretha Liu competing at the USRowing Youth National Championships in June.

competition waters, according to Bera. The LAHS senior said each boat's success depends on how well the rowers work together.

"With rowing, it's so dependent on your teammates, so you can't give up because you'd not only be harming

had. I was lying down, sleeping on the grass right before we left just because I couldn't bear sitting there, being awake and thinking. But after all that, you get out on the water, and there's nothing you can do but give it your all."

Liu had a similar experi-

push for all of us. You know you have it, and you just have to focus on not messing up or missing a stroke."

Harris said that as a coach, the anxiety of the competition decreases before the race itself. He emphasized independence during practices closer to the competition because he knew that once they get onto the water, it's up to them to push through.

"These are athletes who I worked really hard to establish a deep and meaningful connection with, and to get them to push themselves harder," Harris said. "And I trust they're going to race hard. Watching them go out and row well and be relaxed and aggressive was really good to see from them."

Both Wright and Liu took time to process their wins. For Wright, she said it clicked after she was congratulated.

"I was in the elevator with the head of the boathouse, and he's like, 'Good job by the way, being a novice, first year rowing, winning nationals. That's

really impressive.' And I was like, 'Wow,'" Wright said.

Bera said it was fulfilling to see his hard work pay off because this competition has been on his mind for a long time. He added that the club is mostly known for sculling (rowing with two oars), but his boat was sweeping (rowing with one).

"It was especially satisfying because we weren't expected to win," Bera said. "After the race, I completely collapsed and laid down for two minutes straight because I was so exhausted and tired, but it was a really nice feeling."

"With rowing, it's so dependent on your teammates, so you can't give up because you'd not only be harming yourself, but everyone in your boat."

Dominik Bera, LAHS SENIOR

Wright, who joined Los Gatos in September 2025, balancing practice with her rigorous course load as a junior at LAHS was difficult in the spring. However, she said teamwork kept her motivated.

"You can't get good on your own without a boat, but at the same time you can exercise more to get better individually," the senior said.

The club arrived a couple days early to Florida to acclimate to the climate and the

yourself, but everyone in your boat," Bera said. "So it's not really an option, which makes it so much harder."

Bera was recruited for rowing two years ago by a couple of his friends from school, who graduated in 2025. He said there was a lot of pressure to go to a national competition in another state.

"Coming up to race day, I was kind of in my head a lot," Bera said. "I felt honestly sick just because of all the stress I

ence dealing with stress during the days leading up to the competition. As a freshman at Boston University and Pinewood High School graduate, Liu has been rowing with Los Gatos for five years.

"I was so scared, but I wasn't nervous: I just wished I could race right now instead of waiting," Liu said. "At one point, I knew we just had to push ourselves and push each other. This was my last chance to win this, and we really wanted to

If you have an idea for Sports or would like to comment on its content, email section reporter Curtis Driscoll at curtisd@latc.com.

Sports

St. Francis football faces tough tests in WCAL

By Curtis Driscoll

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

With just five returning starters on offense, three on defense and a tough early schedule, there is an urgency this summer for the St. Francis football team to gain experience quickly.

"We are going to have to grow up fast," St. Francis head coach Greg Calcagno said.

St. Francis opens the season at home against Manteca Aug. 28, followed by a home game against Del Oro and a trip to play Northern California powerhouse De La Salle. Its West Catholic Athletic League (WCAL) opener is against league champion Archbishop Riordan, which also won the Central Coast Section Open Division championship. St. Francis, which finished third in the WCAL last year, will again face tough league tests from Serra, St. Ignatius and Archbishop Mitty as it seeks to dethrone Riordan.

"We've got a loaded front end of our schedule for sure," Calcagno said.

Historically known as a power running team that relies on its running back and offensive line to be the offensive focal point, Calcagno acknowledged there may be some style changes to the offense scheme this year compared to previous years. St. Francis will have a running back by committee and more of an emphasis on using the talents of junior quarterback Drew Cumby to lead the offense after a breakout sophomore campaign



CLARKE CONDÉ/TOWN CRIER

St. Francis head coach Greg Calcagno watches drills from Brother Fisher Field Aug. 19.

that earned him being named the WCAL sophomore player of the year. St. Francis will try to leverage the dual-threat talents of the 6-foot-4 quarterback who ran the 40-yard dash in 4.55 seconds at a recent high school recruiting camp.

"We are going to have to grow up fast."

Greg Calcagno,
ST. FRANCIS HEAD COACH

"There's some cool things about what he can do and just building on his experience from last year, so we're excited about his continued growth," Calcagno said of Cumby.

Two key offensive starters from last year's team have transferred. Offensive lineman Apisai Fifita is now at Oaks Christian in Southern California, and

running back Motu Keanaaina is now at Serra.

On defense, safety and wide receiver, Uate Pifeleti, a US Naval Academy commit, is a returning starter at safety and will be a leader on the defense, while also serving as the team's punter. Pifeleti is also a rugby player for the school team and has played for the USA Rugby Under 18 team.

"He's going to be a heck of a player for us," Calcagno said.

Linebackers Jayden Lewis and LJ Parry will be key parts of the defense as St. Francis looks to replace last year's WCAL linebacker of the year, Chase Cahoon, who will play for Stanford University this year. Junior defensive linemen Parker Jacobs and Miles Day are returning starters with experience after starting as sophomores last year.

"Defensively, we feel pretty good," Calcagno said.

CIF reaches TV agreement for high school regional and state championships

TOWN CRIER REPORT

The California Interscholastic Federation has reached an agreement with PlayOn Sports to have the NFHS Network serve as the exclusive content distribution partner for the state's high school regional and state championship events, the sports governing body an-

nounced last week.

The 10-year agreement starts this year on the streaming service, and the deal also includes the NFHS Network continuing to broadcast the football and basketball state championships on linear television while also adding the girls volleyball championship finals to the lineup as well.

Spectrum previously owned the rights for 15 years, beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.

The NFHS Network is a PlayOn Sports company, as is sports site MaxPreps and ticketing company GoFan. PlayOn Sports is a technology company offering website management, ticketing and streaming services for high school sports.

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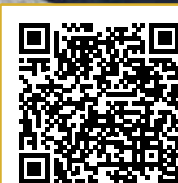


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Your Home

Sustainable systems keep vehicles clean and organized, part 2

By Lyn Rogers

CONQUERING CLUTTER

“The trunk is a great space – but it can quickly become a black hole.” – Dana Meyer

Depending on the size of your trunk or cargo area, you can potentially store or transport a great number of items for either business or fun. But how you organize them will determine whether they are easily accessible, arrive at your destination in one piece, or end up in a giant messy pile.

The first task is to thoroughly clean out everything and vacuum the space. Divide what’s in your trunk into categories that make sense to you: car maintenance, first aid and emergency supplies, pet supplies, baby and child necessities, reusable bags, sports equipment, work



PHOTO BY MIKE HAGERTY

Start with a clean trunk and build your organization system from there.

items, and random things that you always forget you need. If you frequently travel for business, you may need extra items in several categories, just in case.

Some sports equipment (such as baseball mitts) may be able to be stored in a cooler in your garage until you’re

ready to take it all to your child’s game. At that point, your work items (in their storage container) can be temporarily removed to the garage.

If you are a micro organizer, a lidded bin with smaller containers for individual items is essential. For combination micro/macro people,

just a lidded bin for each major category is plenty. If you are someone who needs to be able to see everything (but keep it contained), a sturdy trunk organizer with individual components is perfect.

My daughter and I share a car. I’m a micro-organizer; she is macro. The compromise is we have one lidded bin for all car emergencies or care: flares, jumper cables, various tools, vacuum, extra dusters, etc. The second bin has first aid supplies, my as-needed work items, soap nuts for the laundromat, books for her to read on car rides, etc. Our reusable bags are in an insulated bag on the far right of the rear of our trunk. I make sure that everything stays in place with a tension rod. Some cars, SUVs and trucks have netting for this purpose.

When you open your trunk

lid, the goal is that everything is contained and easy to locate by you and others in your family. You want your entire, organized car to bring you peace.

Speaking of peace, one thing you *never* keep in your trunk when you aren’t in your car is your valuables. Thieves watch you hide your purse, gifts and laptops under blankets from their car in parking lots. When you return, your items are long gone. They also have scanning apps on their smartphones that can detect any electronics that may be hidden out of sight. Always use caution.

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

How to create a dedicated backyard game space

STATEPOINT

What distinguishes a good backyard gathering from a great one? More often than not, a little friendly competition.

Location

“Location makes or breaks everything else. Get it right, and your space invites people in without saying a word. Get it wrong, and it becomes just another stretch of grass,” says Scott.

A good game space will be ideally sized, on flat ground, and receive shade during peak afternoon playing hours. Kubbs, for example, only requires a 16 by 26-foot footprint, making it one of the most space-efficient options out there. If you want room for larger games like cornhole or football, aim for a 40 by 60-foot area.

Your space should feel like a natural extension of where people naturally congregate. Situate it close enough to the house that nobody’s making long treks for bathroom breaks

– but far enough that a late-night game doesn’t carry into any bedrooms. Also, watch for overhead utility lines, exposed tree roots and fences that could cut the fun short.

Seating

Giving spectators comfortable seating keeps the energy going between rounds. Options to consider include:

- A cluster of Adirondack chairs with a side table gives you a movable conversation spot that adapts to wherever guests want to settle. Orient them so the sun is behind spectators during prime playing hours.

- For a more permanent setup, a simple L- or U-shaped built-in bench along the perimeter is hard to beat. It frames the space, and can be topped with cushions.

- A picnic table pulls triple duty, offering seating, a surface for food and drinks and a natural gathering point between games.

- A fire pit just outside the perimeter is the perfect pre-

and post-game hang-out that extends your space’s usability into cool-weather season.

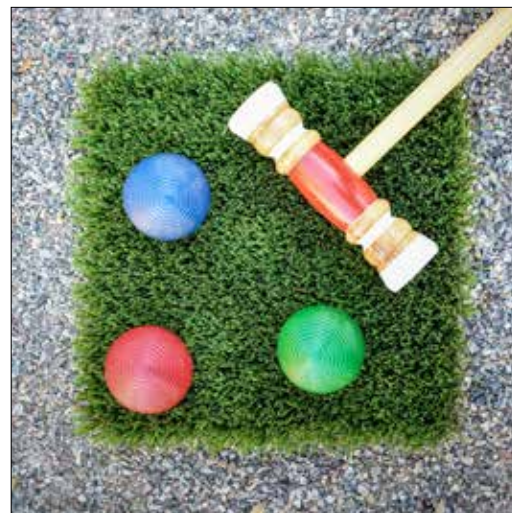
Storage

Accessibility is key. If equipment is stuffed in a bag under the porch, games won’t happen spontaneously. But when everything is right there? Game on! Whether you use a storage bench, a custom-built bin locker or shelving in your shed, the common thread should be proximity.

Lighting

Good lighting separates a space that’s useless after sundown from one that keeps the energy going all night. Just be sure to keep the light warm and out of players’ eyes. A simple layered approach works great:

- Warm string lights overhead at 10 feet or higher
- Solar lanterns around the perimeter to define the space



CLARKE CONDÉ/TOWN CRIER

A dedicated outdoor space with equipment at the ready invites pickup games.

well outside the playing area. They define the space, add a little privacy and frame the action without blocking sightlines.

- Edging and borders. Natural stone, timber borders, pavers or bricks give the court a clean, defined edge that tells everyone exactly where the play space begins and ends. It’s a small detail with a big visual payoff.

- Shade trees. Planting a tree at the southwest corner is a long-term investment worth considering.

- Rain garden or dry creek bed. Both are functional, attractive and help keep the play surface from becoming muddy and washed out after a heavy rain.

Remember to avoid mulch adjacent to the playing surface, which migrates, and thorny shrubs. You don’t want a ball – or guest – rolling into a rose bush.

- A lit path connecting the game area back to the main patio. It’s a safety feature and says, “something’s happening over there.”

Landscaping

Landscaping transforms any patch of grass into an actual outdoor room. Here’s what to include:

- Low shrubs or ornamental grasses along the sides,

Your Home

Is your home designed for the person you may become?

By Duanni Hurd

AGING BY DESIGN

We spend years thinking about where we want to live. We consider neighborhoods, schools, commute times, architecture, views and proximity to the people and places we enjoy. A home is both a practical decision and an emotional one; over time, it becomes part of our identity. But there is another question most of us rarely ask when choosing or remaining in a home: Will this home still work for the person I may become?

For many Americans, the answer to where they want to grow older is simple: at home. The desire is understandable. Home represents familiarity, independence, memories and control. Yet “aging in place” is often treated as a preference when, in reality, making it possible requires considerable planning. A house that works beautifully at 55 may become challenging at 75 or 85. Stairs that once seemed inconsequential can become barriers. A large yard can shift from pleasure to burden. Bathrooms can become unsafe. If driving becomes difficult, even a beautiful and peaceful neighborhood can become isolating. The home has not necessarily changed, but the needs of the person living within it have.

This is why I think of housing as part of the infrastructure of aging. In my work with older adults and their families, housing decisions frequently arise after an incident has already happened: a fall, hospitalization, new diagnosis or noticeable cognitive change. Suddenly, families are considering grab bars, stair lifts, downstairs bedrooms, caregivers or an entirely different living arrangement, often while simultaneously managing a medical crisis. A better question to ask much earlier is not simply, “Can I stay in my home?” but “What would need to be true for me to continue living here well?”

The answer extends well beyond the physical house. Home modifications such as better lighting, accessible bathrooms, safer entrances and fewer stairs can make an enormous difference, but independence also depends on what exists outside the front door. Can groceries and



CLARKE CONDÉ/TOWN CRIER

Modifications like grab bars in the bathroom can make a big difference in the home, but independence also depends on what exists outside your front door.

everyday necessities be reached easily? What happens if driving is no longer possible? Are medical services accessible? Are family or trusted friends nearby? Can professional care be brought into the home if needed? Are there opportunities for exercise, social interaction and community participation? Aging in place is not really about remaining inside a particular house. It depends on whether the larger environment continues to support the life of the person who lives there.

For some people, the best-designed later life will mean remaining in the same home for decades. For others, it may mean downsizing, moving closer to adult children, choosing a more walkable community, or eventually transitioning to independent living, assisted living, memory care or another supportive setting. None of these choices inherently represents success or failure. What matters is whether the decision can be made intentionally, according to one’s own priorities, while meaningful choices still remain.

“We’re not there yet” is something I hear frequently when families consider these possibilities. But exploring alternatives does not mean committing to them. Learning what different living arrangements offer, understanding their costs and trade-offs, and discussing personal preferences before they become urgent can actually preserve independence rather than diminish it. The earlier we understand our options, the more likely we are to retain agency when circumstances change. Waiting until after a crisis may

mean that health, safety, finances or time make the decision for us.

This is an important principle behind Aging by Design. Planning for later life is not about predicting exactly what will happen, nor should it be viewed simply as preparing for decline. It is about intentionally strengthening the systems around us so they can adapt as our lives change. The decisions we make about our homes are connected to health, care, finances, family relationships and the communities around us. A weakness in one area can quickly affect all the others.

Perhaps, then, we should think less about whether we can “age in place” and more about whether we can age in the right place. Aging well does not require us to know today exactly where we will live at 85 or 95. It asks something more realistic – that we think about these questions early enough to preserve our ability to choose. We cannot design away the uncertainties of aging, but we can design homes, communities and options that give us greater capacity to meet them.

The most important question about our homes is therefore not simply whether we love where we live today. It is whether where we live can continue to support the life we hope to live tomorrow.

Duanni Hurd is founder and CEO of Starlight Caregivers, a Los Altos-based home-care organization that serves Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. For more information, see starlightcaregivers.com. Find her aging life care tips on Instagram @duannihurd.

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Stepping Out

TheatreWorks names Jeffrey Lo associate artistic director

By Allison Mu

TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Sixteen years ago, Jeffrey Lo started at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley behind the scenes as a soundboard mixer. Now, he is stepping into a new role at the Tony Award-winning theater company, joining its leadership team as associate artistic director.

As Lo moved through different roles at TheatreWorks – including as a crew member, box office worker, director and now artistic assistant – he gained insights into the many people and processes that come together to make a production possible.

“The fact that I have moved my way through many of these different positions and gotten to know all of the people that are doing their part to put on these productions, I think is very helpful,” Lo said. “It helps me connect with our different employees, our different staff

members, our different artists, to have a bit of perspective on what they’re working on.”

Artistic Director Giovanna Sardelli, who has worked with Lo for over 10 years, said his years of experience will suit him well in his new role.

“Elevating him to this position is a natural fit for who he is as a person, what he knows about the company, and also what he brings to the role in terms of his focus for new works as a director, a playwright himself and an advocate for other artists,” Sardelli said. “Lo has clarity. He’s kind, and he’s somebody I trust 100% as a partner.”

Lo said he is drawn to the community that theater creates through telling stories, uplifting underrepresented communities and gathering audience members to laugh at a comedy or cry together at a dramatic story or watch people fall in love. For Lo, that abil-

ity to bring people together has remained an important part of what theater means to him.

“Getting the community together and sharing stories was something that, at a very young age, I learned was something that felt so important and such a big part of the human experience, and to be able to do that for a living really means a lot to me,” Lo said.

Now, Lo intends to bring that focus on community and storytelling to his new position.

“I’m really excited to continue the legacy that TheatreWorks has of developing new works and uplifting and exciting emerging playwrights,” Lo said. “I’m also excited by TheatreWorks’ commitment to uplifting the Bay Area in particular.”

According to Sardelli, Lo’s love for the Bay Area and its artists is another way he supports other artists behind the scenes. “He’s such an advocate for the



PHOTO BY ROGELIO BARRERA JR.

Jeffrey Lo was recently promoted to associate artistic director at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley.

artists, and he champions actors in the Bay,” Sardelli said.

The local artists are also a crucial part of Lo’s vision for the future. Lo, who was born and raised in San Jose and is now a resident of Campbell, hopes to help make the Bay Area back into a national hub for the de-

velopment of new writers and plays.

“I’m excited to be a leader in helping TheatreWorks be a leader in driving this next era of creators in the Bay.”

For more information, see theatreworks.org.

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Art and poetry walk comes to downtown Los Altos this September



COURTESY OF ARTS LOS ALTOS

The Art & Poetry Walk returns for a second year to downtown Los Altos for a strolling tour of local murals this September.

TOWN CRIER STAFF REPORT

Arts Los Altos welcomes Bay Area poetry group Salt & Poetry on Sept. 11 to downtown Los Altos for an evening of poetry and a stroll around the village. Local poets will recite poems in front of selected downtown murals, starting with State Street’s “Los Hills” mural at 5:30 p.m. Strolling will continue with

poetry stops along the way until it concludes at the Comerica Bank building for a final recitation in front of Roan Victor’s “California Birds, Stewards of our Environment.” A reception that includes activities, food and beverages will follow.

For more information on this free, family-friendly event, see artslosaltos.org.

Business & Real Estate

MVHS grad makes app to track, organize streaming

By Lara Leon

TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

A Mountain View High School graduate recently launched an app that helps users track and organize what they're watching across multiple streaming services.

Described by creator Dave Wooldridge as “your unified watchlist at a glance,” the app – called BingeBliss – is designed to give users all the information they need without having to tap through multiple screens or search across streaming services.

Originally from Mountain View, Southern California resident Wooldridge said the app is an extension of the tech roots he built growing up in the Bay Area. He has worked as an app developer and designer since

wife, Madeline DiNonno, nightly would go through their various streaming services, often not knowing what to watch. For Wooldridge, that problem led to the creation of BingeBliss.

DiNonno said the frustration of constantly forgetting what she was watching was the breaking point.

“We were constantly losing a lot of time looking for things and trying to remember,” DiNonno said. “It was that frustration. And I turned to Dave and said, ‘You know, could we build something to help us remember and just keep track?’”

From there, Wooldridge decided to build something simpler.

“We just wanted something easy that we didn’t have to spend a lot of time click-

functioning as a simple, automatically updating watchlist.

“It shows you what shows I’m watching, what is up next in my queue, what I’ve already watched,” Wooldridge said. “It tells us when the last episode dropped, when the next episode (will be) dropped, where exactly you can stream the show or the movie.”

In contrast to other watchlist apps, Wooldridge said BingeBliss prioritizes simplicity, focusing on making it easy to find something to watch and save people time. One of his favorite parts of the app is a feature that lets users track actors’ performances.

Called “Who’s on Screen,” the tool lets users take a picture of their TV screen so the app can automatically identify the actor and pull up their name and filmography, Wooldridge said.

Rather than expand the app with more tools, Wooldridge said he and DiNonno chose to focus narrowly.

“We didn’t want to overstuff the app. We wanted to do one thing really well,” Wooldridge said.

For both DiNonno and Wooldridge, the app grew out of a shared need and close collaboration.

“It was from both of our needs – we were both equally frustrated sitting down and spending so much time going through all the streaming ser-



COURTESY OF DAVE WOOLDRIDGE

Dave Wooldridge shows his new app, BingeBliss.

“We just wanted something easy that we didn’t have to spend a lot of time clicking through to reference what we were watching, so we can sit down at dinner, just throw something on that’s in our watch list.”

Dave Wooldridge, BINGEBLISS CREATOR

1995 through his company, Electric Butterfly, building websites, desktop apps and, more recently, mobile apps.

“We’re really looking to just save people time,” Wooldridge said.

During the pandemic, Wooldridge said he and his

ing through to reference what we were watching, so we can sit down at dinner, just throw something on that’s in our watch list,” Wooldridge said.

BingeBliss is an app available on Apple products that lets users track and queue movies and shows in a single place,

vices every night before we actually sat down to watch something,” Wooldridge said.

While Wooldridge built the app himself, he credited DiNonno as a vital part of shaping it.

“She was very instrumental in what things we wanted in the app, what things we did not want to have in the app,” he said.

DiNonno, in turn, said the app’s design and flow are a product of Wooldridge’s work during his free time.

“We came up with an idea, and he was able to do it completely without any support or help from anyone else,” Di-

Nonno said. “Not many people can do all of those things. They may be good at technical, but they’re not good at visual and creative, and that’s one of his strengths.”

For Wooldridge, the project was never about turning a profit.

“We just want an app that works for us and works for other people,” he said. “It’s a labor of love.”

The app is free to use with a limited number of watchlist items, or users can subscribe for \$1.99 a month or \$15.99 a year. For more information, see bingebliss.com.

How does California’s new \$3,500 EV rebate work?

By Carlos Cabrera-Lomeli and Ella Jackson

KQED

This story was originally published by CalMatters.

Thinking about buying or leasing an electric car in the near future? California will soon be making that cheaper.

Early this month, Gov. Gavin Newsom launched “My-FirstEV,” a new state program that sets aside millions of dollars to fund rebates for resi-

dents who buy or lease a zero-emission vehicle – a category that includes battery-electric cars and hydrogen fuel cell-powered vehicles.

First-time EV buyers can qualify for a \$3,500 discount when buying or leasing a new electric vehicle, as long as the retail price is under \$50,000. If you’re looking for a used electric car, there’s still a price reduction available – a smaller one, however: \$1,750 off for vehicles retailing for under \$25,000.

The state’s program comes a year after President Donald Trump’s massive spending and tax plan known as the One Big Beautiful Bill ended federal tax credits for EVs nationwide. Previously, American consumers could claim a \$7,500 tax credit after buying a new EV or \$4,000 for used EVs.

When announcing the program in July, Newsom said that as the federal government pulls back from supporting EVs, California would instead be “putting its foot on the ac-

celerator” – and that the instant rebate program would “[make] it easier for families to drive clean, breathe clean and keep more money in their pockets.”

The program has secured \$270 million in funding – half of that from the state budget and the other from participating EV automakers.

Who qualifies for new EV rebate?

Only California residents who are buying or leasing

an EV for the first time are eligible for this rebate. And consumers will have to confirm that this is the first time they are buying or leasing an EV before taking their car home, said Lindsay Buckley, communications director of the California Air Resources Board, the agency tasked with managing the program. “Participants will be required to sign a legal document declaring that this is in fact their first

SEE REBATE, PAGE 23



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Transactions

Los Altos	Living Trust to Capitoline Hill LLC for \$5,298,000
950 Black Mountain Court, Hal-ey Living Trust to M. & Q. Geng for \$4,680,000	Mountain View
24299 Summerhill Avenue, Phil-lips Family Trust to Summerhill Ave Trust for \$4,700,000	905 West Middlefield Road #971, A. Kamat to A. Fountaine for \$775,000
1564 Wessex Avenue, Smith-Green Family Trust to D. & J. Johns for \$5,475,000	189 Bedford Loop, C. Eichhorn to K. Hun for \$1,300,000
253 Fremont Avenue, N. Pellegrini to Fremont253 LLC for \$9,300,000	217 Diablo Avenue, S. Rahman to P. & A. Jain for \$2,425,000
Los Altos Hills	635 Tami Way, J. Wu to D. & H. Tammareddi for \$2,610,000
25550 Moody Road, Taelemans	<i>- Transaction information is ob-tained from public county records and provided by CalREsource.</i>



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REBATE

FROM PAGE 21

purchase or lease of an electric vehicle,” she said. “So if you’ve already bought or leased an electric vehicle in the past, then you wouldn’t be eligible for this program.”

Limiting the program to first-time buyers could actually help boost the popularity of EVs among people who have never bought them, said Scott Moura, a UC Berkeley professor of civil engineering.

“Providing incentive to people who have bought EVs before isn’t really adding to the number of people who purchase EVs,” he said. “The funds can be used most effectively if they’re targeted towards first-time EV buyers.”

Do you need to apply ahead of time?

No – there’s no application to fill out ahead of time. All you need to do is go to a dealership of one of the 15 participating automakers.

Hyundai, Lucid and Tesla rebates are available now. The



PHOTO BY MIKE HAGERTY

The new 2026 Chevrolet Blazer EV with the SS trim package tips over the \$50,000 threshold for the rebate, but base models qualify.

other participants will launch their programs throughout the fall.

This is different from other past state rebate programs – like the now-terminated Electric Bicycle Incentive Program – which have required participants to fill out an application before making a purchase.

If you move forward with making a purchase or lease, confirm two things with the salesperson and the financing team:

- That you qualify for the MyFirstEV discount
- That there are still state funds available for this specific car brand.

When federal EV rebates were available, buyers had to initially wait until they filed their taxes the year after buying their car to request this money back. But state officials say that folks interested in the FirstEV discount won’t have to wait so long.

“Californians will be able

to go down to participating automakers’ dealerships and access the rebates at the point of sale,” Buckley said. “They won’t have any delay in getting this discount.”

Can I get a rebate for any EV I want?

No – MyFirstEV discounts will only cover battery-electric cars and hydrogen fuel cell-powered vehicles from automakers participating in the program.

Hybrid vehicles are also not included in MyFirstEV, state officials confirmed with KQED.

There’s also a price limit: The EV you choose must cost under \$50,000 if it’s a new car, and \$25,000 if it’s used.

There is, however, a small exception to this price rule if the automaker is headquartered in California – in which case the discounts will apply regardless of the manufacturer’s retail price.

More than a dozen electric car brands are based in the Golden State, with several selling models priced beyond

the \$50,000 limit.

Can low-income buyers get additional support?

While the MyFirstEV discount will not vary based on income, consumers can stack the discount with other incentive programs, including the Driving Clean Assistance Program and Clean Cars 4 All.

To qualify for Clean Cars 4 All, residents must have an income of less than or equal to 300% of the federal poverty level. This program could unlock up to \$12,000 in additional savings.

Will some carmakers have more rebates than others?

No – funds will be divided equally among the participating automakers.

However, there may be greater demand for some brands, which could mean that rebates may run out faster at some dealerships.

This article includes reporting from KQED’s Laura Klivans.



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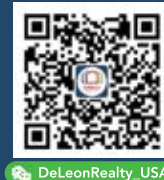
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Public Notices

PitLane Moto FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729517

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: PitLane Moto, 1765 Ravizza Ave, Santa Clara, CA, 95051, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): PitLane Technologies LLC, 2108 N St Ste N, Sacramento, CA 95816. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Brian L. Harkness / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/14/2026. (08-26-26,09-02,09,16-26)

216-T

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PETITION OF ANGELINA HA MONTECITO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME 26CV500684

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

- Angelina Ha Montecito
- Angelina Ha Nguyen
- Ai Thi Le Ha

Proposed Name:

- Angelina Ha Montecito
- Angelina Ha Nguyen
- Angelina Ha Montecito

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 10/20/2026 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: 08/12/2026 /s/ Daniel Nishigaya Judge of the Superior Court (08-26-26,09-02,09,16-26)

215-T

KINDCENTRIC PSYCHIATRY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729380

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: KINDCENTRIC PSYCHIATRY, 330 2nd St Ste 4, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a corporation. The name and mailing address

of the registrant(s) is (are): KINDCENTRIC PSYCHIATRY INC, 330 2nd St Ste 4, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Kathrine Casillas / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/11/2026. (08-19,26-26,09-02,09-26)

214-T

CLC Construction FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728530

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CLC Construction, 1585 Bradford Way, Morgan Hill, CA, 95037, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a corporation. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Mineral Selective Technologies Corp, 1585 Bradford Way, Morgan Hill, CA 95037. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Christopher Camire / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/15/2026. (08-19,26-26,09-02,09-26)

213-T

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: CATHERINE M. VALLONE, aka CATHERINE MARCIA VALLONE CASE NO. 26PR203161

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of CATHERINE M. VALLONE, aka CATHERINE MARCIA VALLONE. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ROBERT P. VALLONE in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ROBERT P. VALLONE 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: 09/14/2026 at 9:01AM in Dept. 2 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 Dina Hoffman 736 Chestnut St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060 PHONE (831) 423-1411 (08-19,26-26,09-02-26)

212-T

SAGE PRODUCTIONS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729377

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SAGE PRODUCTIONS, 1059 Park Ave, San Jose, CA, 95126, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Vanessa Maria Marrufo-Lerma, 1059 Park Ave, San Jose, CA 95126. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 08/03/2026. /S/ Vanessa Maria Marrufo-Lerma / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/11/2026. (08-19,26-26,09-02,09-26)

211-T

EMProductions FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729062

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: EMProductions, 826 Terrace Drive, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Elliot Michael Gorelick, 826 Terrace Drive, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Elliot Michael Gorelick / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/03/2026. (08-19,26-26,09-02,09-26)

210-T

Puro Michoacan Restaurant Inc FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728995

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Puro Michoacan Restaurant Inc, 1065 S 1st St, San Jose, CA, 95110, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: a corporation. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Puro Michoacan Restaurant Inc, 1065 S 1st St, San Jose, CA 95110. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/29/2026. /S/ Juan Luis Villegas Martinez / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/31/2026. (08-19,26-26,09-02,09-26)

209-T

PISTON DORADO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729256

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: PISTON DORADO, 237 Leo Ave, San Jose, CA, 95112, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): GOLDEN PISTON DIAGNOSTICS LLC, PO Box 8371, San Jose, CA 95155. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 03/23/2026. /S/ Jesus Gomez / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/06/2026. (08-19,26-26,09-02,09-26)

208-T

CDEE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729255

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CDEE, 237 Leo Ave, San Jose, CA, 95112, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): CALIFORNIA DIESEL ELECTROMECHANIC ENGINEERING LLC, PO 8371, San Jose, CA 95155. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/2026. /S/ Senette Ortega / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/06/2026. (08-19,26-26,09-02,09-26)

207-T

ECHELON CONSULTING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729094

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) ECHELON CONSULTING, (2) ECHELON, 2091 Huntington Lane, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): ECHELON CONSULTING PARTNERS LLC, 2091 Huntington Lane, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Andrew Kryzan / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/04/2026. (08-19,26-26,09-02,09-26)

206-T

CEDAR DOULA CO. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728898

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CEDAR DOULA CO., 2310 Homestead Rd, Suite C1 #321, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Ella Maluf, 2310 Homestead Road Suite C1, #321, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/26/2026. /S/ Ella Maluf / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/28/2026. (08-12,19,26-26,09-02-26)

205-T

ALLURE DESIGN & EVENTS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN729118

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ALLURE DESIGN & EVENTS, 2227 Bikini Ave, San Jose, CA, 95122, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Don Phung, 2227 Bikini Ave, San Jose, CA 95122. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Don Phung / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/04/2026. (08-12,19,26-26,09-02-26)

204-T

Julie Graham PsyD FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728838

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Julie Graham PsyD, 230 California Avenue Suite 107, Palo Alto, CA, 94306, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Julie Graham Lunn, 1715 Selig Lane, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 09/30/2004. /S/ Julie Graham Lunn / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/27/2026. (08-12,19,26-26,09-02-26)

203-T

BRITO CONSTRUCTION LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728300

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: BRITO CONSTRUCTION LLC, 1075 Space Parkway Spc #249, Mountain View, CA, 94043, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): BRITO CONSTRUCTION LLC, 1075 Space Parkway Spc #249, Mountain View, CA 94043. Registrant began transact-

ing business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/12/2026. /S/ Ramiro Brito / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/07/2026. (08-12,19,26-26,09-02-26)

202-T

LEMON TREE FLORAL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728946

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: LEMON TREE FLORAL, 809 Cuesta Dr B 1008, Mountain View, CA, 94040, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Yuning Liu, 809 Cuesta Dr B 1008, Mountain View, CA 94040. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/15/2026. /S/ Yuning Liu / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/29/2026. (08-12,19,26-26,09-02-26)

201-T

CHICKADEE TREE CONSULTING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728934

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CHICKADEE TREE CONSULTING, 3451 Grass Valley Ct, San Jose, CA, 95127, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): CHICKADEE TREE LLC, 3451 Grass Valley Ct, San Jose, CA 95127. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/26/2026. /S/ Kaitlyn Shelton / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/29/2026. (08-12,19,26-26,09-02-26)

200-T

INSPIRED BY ROHINI FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728896

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: INSPIRED BY ROHINI, 18085 Idalyn Dr, Los Gatos, CA, 95033, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Rohini Sharma, 18085 Idalyn Dr, Los Gatos, CA 95033. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Rohini Sharma / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/28/2026. (08-05,12,19,26-26)

198-T

MCLENNAN CONSTRUCTION LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728797

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: MCLEN-

NAN CONSTRUCTION LLC, 649 Distel Dr, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): MCLENNAN CONSTRUCTION LLC, 649 Distel Dr, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/15/2026. /S/ Margaret Manassero / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/24/2026. (08-05,12,19,26-26)

196-T

SOUTH BAY WATER LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728796

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SOUTH BAY WATER LLC, 649 Distel Dr, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): SOUTH BAY WATER LLC, 649 Distel Dr, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/15/2026. /S/ Margaret Manassero / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/24/2026. (08-05,12,19,26-26)

195-T

Pacific Ballet Foundation FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728839

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Pacific Ballet Foundation, 1103 Lisa Lane, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a corporation. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): San Jose Ballet Association, 1103 Lisa Lane, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Diana Lee / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/27/2026. (08-05,12,19,26-26)

194-T

AA FOUNDRY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728642

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) AA FOUNDRY, (2) AA-FOUNDRY, 1467 Phantom Avenue, San Jose, CA, 95125, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Andrew Apodaca, 1467 Phantom Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/01/2026. /S/ Andrew Apodaca / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/20/2026. (08-05,12,19,26-26)

193-T

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

EVENTS

Hackathon for Social Good – Veterans Crisis App Development. Aug. 28-30. Hacker Dojo, 855 Maude Ave., Mountain View. Hosted by Hacker Dojo, engineers who lost their jobs in the tech layoffs will spend three days building an app to aid Veterans in Crisis. Attendance is open to all community members, regardless of skill level or speciality. This build is the first event in a new quarterly program at Hacker Dojo: hackathons for social good, held every quarter, in which engineers, designers and students build working software for local nonprofits and charities at no cost to those organizations. For more information, check out tinyurl.com/HackerDojo-VeteransCrisisApp.

15th Annual Train Day. Aug. 30, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Los Altos History Museum. This popular family event features model trains, local railroad hobbyists, robotics demonstrations, classic train films, and a train-themed Festival of Lights Parade float, along with food for purchase. For more information, see losaltoshistory.org/events/train-day-26/.

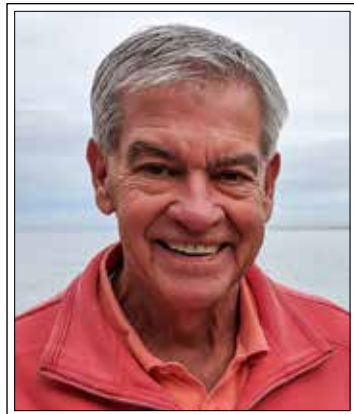
The Music of Wayne Shorter – Community School of Music and Art Fall Concert series. Sept. 4 at 7:30 p.m. Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Pianist and keyboardist Michael Echaniz and his trio present an acoustic-electric tribute to the music of Wayne Shorter, one of the most prolific and influential jazz composers and improvisers of the last century. Reserve tickets at arts4all.org/events.

Los Altos Art & Poetry Walk. Sept. 11, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Arts Los Altos in conjunction with Salt & Poetry and Poetry Los Altos present an Art & Poetry Walk, with local poets reading original poems in front of the artwork in downtown Los Altos. Meet at 260 State St., site of “Los Hills Mural.”

Bye Bye Kids Cancer. Sept. 12, 1-3 p.m. Valencia Park at Santana Row, San Jose. Kids from around the Bay Area get up and sing or dance or play something, and every dollar goes to pediatric cancer research at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford. For more information, see byebyekidscancer.org.

Scout Troop 30 reunion. Sept. 13, 3 p.m. Los Altos Troop 30 troop room. Join Troop 30 in celebrating the 50th anniversary of its troop room. For more info and to RSVP, see tinyurl.com/troop30reunion.

ANDY LUDWICK



October 30, 1945 –
June 2, 2026

Andrew Kennedy Ludwick, husband, father, friend, and advisor, died at home in Palo Alto on June 2, 2026. He leaves behind his wife and 60-year partner, Worth, as well as children, Paly grads Jocelyn, Theo (Emma) and Chris (Adrienne); Los Altos grandchildren Katherine, Kenna, Dashel, Bode, Maeve, Graham, Tenor, Leighton and Natalie; and myriad coast-to-coast friends.

Andy was born October 30th, 1945, in Beavercreek, Ohio, to parents Jean Cameron and Kenneth Earl and older sister Susan Cameron Ludwick. His father's work as an Air Force airplane mechanic brought the family to France, Germany and Portugal before returning to Beavercreek for high school. Andy was an Ohio boy through and through: principled, family-oriented, generous, humble and kind. Integrity was his most critical value, often defined practically: communicate your plans completely and with full intent and commitment to delivering; if you change plans, promptly inform, explain and recommit. Second on his list was respect: for people, different perspectives and ideas as well as for work and effort. And he was proud to have cared about work-life balance “before that was a thing,” prioritizing reading to his kids at bedtime

over work dinners.

Guided by those simple but deep values, Andy walked the world as a true gentleman. He was courageous in standing up for his convictions and did not shy from confrontation when the situation called for it. He had the rare combination of kindness, humility and intellect – a sharp mind, highly competent, without a trace of arrogance. Interesting and informed, he was a great conversationalist. He listened carefully before he talked, excelling at, as he called it, “the sophisticated application of common sense.” He was thoughtful, sincere, and considerate, treating everyone with dignity and respect, regardless of gender, race or education. He was an exceptional communicator who relished making the complex simple. Deploying his strategic mind with grace, patience and humor, he could lead even people with the most different points of view in respectful, high-integrity collaboration. All wrapped in a good-natured persona that was warm, gracious, and engaging, with a smile that lit up the room.

Andy traced his ultimately wildly successful career to his Ohio roots, including a high school football coach who showed him what it meant to pursue excellence. Discovered and sponsored by the Dayton Harvard Club, Andy washed dishes as a work-study Economics student at Harvard, and then on the recommendation of his thesis advisor took the unusual step of going straight to Harvard Business School. Andy knew computers were going to change the world, so early on set himself the goal of becoming a general manager of a technology business. He overachieved.

In 1985, he co-founded SynOptics Communications, a pioneering networking startup. As CEO he led an outstanding team through

years as Silicon Valley's hottest startup to a Fortune 500 company in 1994. When he retired in 1996, what was then Bay Networks was a \$9B enterprise, though the numbers meant less to him than the impact SynOptics had. They changed the world, pioneering twisted-pair Ethernet (better, faster, cheaper) and shifting enterprise markets from “bus” to “star” topologies (more reliable, scalable and easier to manage). The resulting Local Area Networks enabled computers to talk directly to each other, paving the way for today's online world.

Andy was equally proud of building a company with a stellar industry reputation. SynOptics was routinely celebrated by financial press and trade journals as the definitive poster child for hyper-growth, hardware disruption, and market dominance during the early PC networking boom. Andy himself was widely respected for his leadership and exceptional standards of ethics. In 1990, Ernst & Young, Inc. magazine and Merrill Lynch named him Entrepreneur of the Year, and Communications Week magazine named him an Industry Visionary as one of the 25 Most Influential Leaders. In 1996, Harvard Business School awarded him the Alumni Achievement Award.

Over the years, he contributed his leadership skills and strategic acumen to organizations he cared about. He was a Founding Director of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors; served on the Harvard College Dean's Council for Applied Engineering and Sciences; was an Advisory Board member for the Northern California Innocence Project; was a founding member of the 49ers Foundation Red & Gold Society; a member of the Board of Overseers of the Hoover Institution at Stanford Uni-

versity; and a Director for the Foundation for Hearing Research. He and Worth received the “Spirit of Volunteerism Award” for their contributions to Oregon forestry conservation. Andy also served on the boards of many public companies, including Zebra Technologies and Foundry Networks, and he was always willing to mentor and advise people trying to make their impact on the world. A lifelong athlete and avid golfer, he and Worth were also regulars on the local bridge circuit.

Reflecting on his life, Andy said he'd made mistakes but had no regrets. He succeeded because he knew how to lead and had a great team; and he was deeply committed to his children and their families, who cherished him. And he never lost the simple grace of his Ohio roots: he loved looking down at the earth from airplane windows, observing redwood trees and listening to backyard birds, and playing on the beach with his children and grandchildren.

For the many who will miss his companionship and sage advice, some parting values, in his own words. Don't diminish one's own values to group values. Always act with respect, but be willing to challenge ideas and people, especially in service of integrity. Stay in touch with the people in your life who matter. Own your life: know where you are and where you're going next, and ensure the track is true to your principles and ethics.

Andy lived life fully, with kindness and enthusiasm. At the end of his life he said he wanted to leave behind something noble. You did, Pop. We miss you.

Donations in his name are welcome to Vida Verde Nature Education, an organization he believed in deeply and invested considerable time in over several decades. A Celebration of Life will be held October 10th in Los Altos.

If you would like to submit an obituary to run in the Town Crier, please email obits@latc.com.



Obituary Notice



JOHN T. MOSS



July 4, 1942 – August 7, 2026

John T. Moss, former mayor and civic leader of Los Altos, died August 7, 2026, at his home in Roseville, California due to complications from Parkinson's. He was 84 years old.

John was elected to the Los Altos City Council in 1999 to 2007, serving as mayor for two terms in 2000 and 2004. Prior to that, he was elected to the Los Altos School District Board of Trustees from 1991 to 1999, serving as president for one term.

John was an active member of the Los Altos Rotary Club, serving as president with many happy years hosting the Los Altos Fourth of July celebrations at Shoup Park. Independence Day was particularly meaningful for John as his birthday was July 4, 1942.

He and his wife, Jackie, were active band parents for Mountain View High School, volunteering regularly for multiple Parent Teacher Associations, Los Altos Village Association as well as the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce. As an avid reader, John loved books and would often guest read to first grade

classrooms.

Born and raised in Dayton, Ohio to Richard Yaeger Moss and Rhoda Toothill Moss, John attended Western Reserve Academy high school in Hudson, Ohio, where he played center on the football team, participated in track and field, and lived in the freshman dorm as a counselor during his senior year.

Majoring in electrical engineering at Princeton University, John was a member of Quadrangle Club, one of the popular eating clubs on campus. He was active in the Princeton Engineer magazine, track and field, as well as the campus radio station, WPRB. He loved classical music and could often be found sitting in the campus chapel listening to the young organists practice in the evening.

Immediately upon graduation, John joined IBM in computer sales. IBM sent him to Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) for three years. There he met his future wife, Le Thi Tuyet (Jackie). John next moved to San Francisco, worked for several small computer start-ups,

and married Jackie in 1972. He then completed the two-year Sloan Management program at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business and joined Hewlett-Packard. John and Jackie loved attending Stanford football games and were proud season ticket holders for forty years.

John and Jackie bought a home and settled in Los Altos, near his older brother Richard (Dick) Moss and sister-in-law Susan Moss. John's younger sister Claudia Holzemer and her husband John Holzemer eventually moved their family to California as well. John and Jackie had two daughters, Jennifer and Rhoda, who both attended Loyola Elementary, Blach Intermediate, and Mountain View High schools. Jennifer Moss Drysdale now lives in Sydney, Australia with her husband John-Paul Drysdale, and their three children, Ashley, Jacquie, and John. Rhoda Moss Lerner and her husband, Adam Lerner, reside in Orinda, California with their two children, Noah and Sydney.

In 2011, following John's retirement, he and Jackie moved two hours north to a retirement community in Roseville, where they entertained their new neighbors with Jackie's fabulous Vietnamese cooking. John and Jackie kept close ties with Jackie's relatives and returned to Vietnam many times, once travel resumed between countries in 1989. He and Jackie also visited Australia many times over the years.

A private celebration of life will be held for John's family and close friends later this year.

YVONNE ELSIE JACOBSON (NÉE OLSON)



July 12, 1938 – August 18, 2026

Yvonne Olson Jacobson, acclaimed Santa Clara Valley historian and author of *Passing Farms: Enduring Values* and beloved by many, has died at 88 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's Disease. Yvonne was born on July 12, 1938, in Sunnyvale, California, the youngest of three children of Ruel Olson, a second-generation orchardist, and Rose Olson, operator of the family fruit stand. She attended Sunnyvale's Fremont High School from 1952 to 1956, where she won several debates, including one proud bout against future Supreme Court Judge, Stephen Breyer.

From 1956 to 1960, Yvonne studied English and Humanities at Stanford. There, she met her future husband, William Jacobson. After earning a master's degree in English from Columbia in 1961, she and William moved to his original home in South Africa, where they married in 1962. Upon returning to California, they raised three kids in Los Altos Hills. From the 1970s to 1980s, she lectured, and then taught, at San José State University, De Anza College, and Foothill College, on women in religion and art.

In 1979, Yvonne began documenting the transition from family farms to Silicon Valley. This led to a highly-acclaimed 1984 book, *Passing Farms: Enduring Values*, with a foreword by Wallace Stegner. It also led to an exhibit in the California Governor's Office that became permanent in 1988 at San

José's History Park. More photos and research of hers appear in the Michelle Ann Jacobson Memorial Collection at De Anza's California History Center, named after her elder daughter who died in 1982.

After Yvonne began to lose her memory in the mid 2000s, she and William gathered many of her stories into a 2012 book, *Memoirs of a Farmer's Daughter in Silicon Valley*. She kept her cheerful nature to the end, lighting up a room with laughter, smiles, hugs, and songs. She will be remembered for her welcoming personality, keen intellect, and quick wit. She loved hosting, traveling with William, canning, gardening, singing, and celebrating with family and friends.

She is survived by her loving husband of 64 years, William Jacobson; her son Mark Jacobson; her daughter Laura Jacobson (partner Anthony Wagner); her grandchildren Dionna Jacobson MacWright (husband Michael MacWright), Daniel Jacobson, Naomi Wagner, Kieran Wagner, and Jessica Jacobson; her sister Jeanette Gottesman; her brother Charles Olson; cousins, nieces, nephews and cherished friends.

A service was held at Alta Mesa Memorial Park, 695 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto, on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 12:30 pm. To honor Yvonne, please consider donating to the Alzheimer's Association or De Anza College's California History Center.



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