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Los Altos Town Crier

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

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Mountain View rolls past Los Altos



Kellen Scanlon/Town Crier Editorial Intern

A dominating performance from Mountain View helped secure a 42-10 win over rivals Los Altos Friday night. Mountain View wide receiver Micah Perkins, No. 11, scored a touchdown in the first quarter to help give the Spartans a 14-0 lead and keep the Pride Bowl trophy.

Lang, van Deursen win council races

LAH elects Pombra, Waschura

Town Crier Staff Report

As of Saturday, Nov. 7, unofficial results showed Anky van Deursen holding a 12-point lead over Lynette Lee Eng for the District 2 Los Altos City Council seat. She collected 1,206 votes (56%) to Eng's 951 (44%), a margin of 255 votes.

A corporate attorney and PTA leader, van Deursen had been endorsed by the county Democratic party, local realtors and women's groups, along with a long list of regional public office holders.

Van Deursen gave thanks and looked forward to the opportunity to serve the Los Altos community.

"Throughout this campaign, I've had so many meaningful conversations with residents, listened to their concerns, and learned even more about what makes Los Altos such a special place," Van Deursen said. "Regardless of the final outcome, I'm proud of the positive, community-focused campaign we've run and deeply appreciative of the many volunteers, supporters, friends, family and neighbors who have been part of this journey."

Unopposed Larry Lang won in District 4 with 1,825 votes (99.5%), and 10 write-in votes were cast for other candidates. Lang is a former Cisco executive who has chaired the Los Altos Historical Commission.

See ELECTION, Page 4

Mountain View resident appointed Santa Clara County Poet Laureate

Town Crier Staff Report

Mountain View resident Devi S. Laskar has been appointed to the honorary post of Santa Clara County Poet Laureate. Laskar will assume this post from January 2027 through December 2028.

Laskar is a local poet and novelist, with education in English literature, journalism,

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Pet of the Week: Mr. Krabs



Photo courtesy of Pets in Need

Meet Mr. Krabs, a 10-year-old male who has been described by those at Pets in Need as having a soft spot for good company, tasty treats and a little peace and quiet. Don't let his name (or his slightly grumbly demeanor) fool you. Mr. Krabs is a sweet, affectionate senior cat who genuinely enjoys being around people. He's happy to greet you with purrs and friendly rubs, settle in beside you for some quality time and then wander off when he's ready for a little solitude. It is believed that Mr. Krabs spent much of his life outdoors as a tomcat before arriving at Pets In Need. He has tested positive for feline immunodeficiency virus and has some visible skin and coat changes from his time outdoors. His ideal home is one where he can enjoy affection on his own terms, plenty of comfortable places to lounge and the freedom to simply be himself. Come meet him at Pets In Need in Redwood City. For more information on Krabs, visit petsinneed.org/pet/mr-krabs.



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CAL FIRE expands nighttime specialized training

Town Crier Staff Report

All 11 CAL FIRE helitack crews are receiving specialized training to boost their nighttime firefighting capabilities.

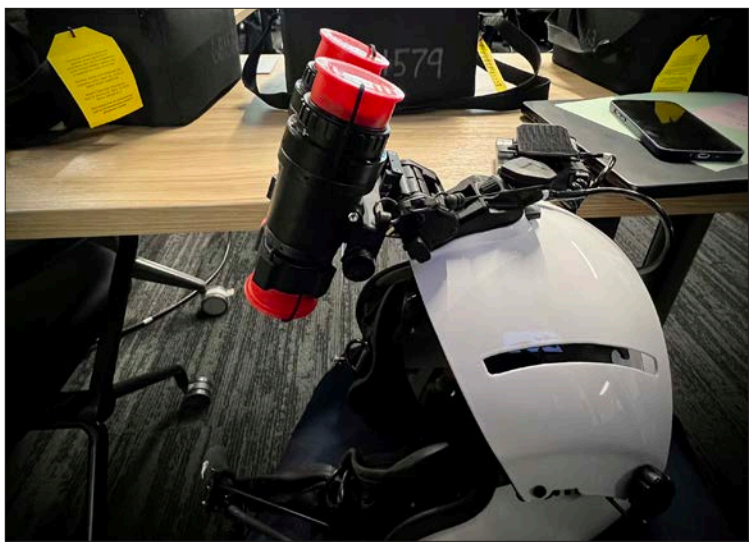
These efforts will standardize night operations statewide, allowing crews to operate seamlessly regardless of location, according to a press release published by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Helitack are on-the-ground firefighters, often utilizing helicopters for quick transport to ensure quick response in emergency situations. Currently, this specialized nighttime training is underway at three bases in California, located in Kneeland, Bieber and San Diego.

Nighttime training includes classroom instruction surrounding use of night vision technology, the technology's limitations and overall crew coordination.

Additionally, crew members gain experience using flight simulator exercises before moving into nighttime flight training in the field.





Courtesy of CAL FIRE communications

Top: Helitack crew leaving for night time training exercises.
Bottom: Equipment training in a classroom.

ELECTION

From Page 1

Lang congratulated van Deursen on her successful campaign and thanked his fellow Los Altans.

"I am honored to be the first councilmember elected to represent District 4," Lang said. "I look forward to working with (van Deursen) and Councilmembers Meadows and Weinberg to make Los Altos an even better place for our whole community."

Los Altos Hills

Voters gave Jasmeen Pombra and Jim Waschura a commanding lead in Los Altos Hills for two open City Council seats to replace Councilmembers Kavita Tankha and George Tyson. As of Monday, Planning commissioner Waschura received 2,048 votes (40.6%) while physician and parks commissioner Pombra collected 1,827 (36.2%). Indu Kadambi trailed with 1,166 votes (23.1%).

Waschura is moving to the council and was pleased with the election process. His main focus moving forward is the long path coming regarding state mandates on housing given the stakes and challenges. He noted the challenges associated with the new Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office contract were also an important priority.

"I am very happy about that outcome," Waschura said of the election. "I am so grateful for all the people who supported me throughout the campaign process."

Pombra is the chair of the Los Altos Hills Parks, Recreation & Community Events Committee.

Measure D

Measure D, the Los Altos Downtown Parking Plaza Ordinance, failed by 20 points in a 60% to 40% vote, with 12,095 votes cast. Preliminary totals show 7,247 votes were cast against the measure, and 4,848 voters favored it.

Measure D would have prohibited the city from selling, leasing, conveying or declaring as surplus land the 10 city-owned downtown parking plazas for any reason, or from authorizing new uses or physical alterations that would diminish protected trees or

See ELECTION, Page 5

Mountain View discusses plan to replant library trees

By Ava Acharya
Town Crier Staff Writer

Mountain View's public library on Franklin St. experienced significant tree decline earlier this year, due in part to city use of an herbicide containing imazapyr.

Now, city staff are moving forward with plans to replace affected trees, with special emphasis placed on prioritizing sustainability, native species and pollinator-friendly environments.

Parks and Open Space manager Tim Youngberg laid out the city's current plan at Mountain View's Parks and Recreation Commission and Urban Forestry Board's Nov. 4 meeting.

> 'The goals are to enhance biodiversity, provide habitat and pollinator resources, and improve the landscape while increasing the urban forest diversity and resilience'
>
> **Tim Youngberg**

Commissioners and community members gave feedback, which will be considered when formulating the final plan. The plan presented at the Nov. 4 meeting will likely be altered before it is implemented.

"The goals are to enhance biodiversity, provide habitat and pollinator resources, and improve the landscape while increasing the urban forest diversity and resilience," Youngberg said. "The idea is working with our biodiversity plan ... and bringing up concepts like this of what we want to do moving forward."

In total, 33 trees were removed from around Mountain View's public library and Pioneer Park, four of which were heritage trees. An additional 150 trees around the city showed similar symptoms, but exact tree removal numbers are unknown as investigations are still underway.

Youngberg clarified that the city stopped use of imazapyr herbicides in July, and will favor organic alternatives moving forward. However, Youngberg also noted that city soil testing is still ongoing and imazapyr may not be the sole cause of tree decline.

"The findings confirm its presence, but do not establish the extent or its contribution to the tree decline or exclude other contributing factors," Youngberg said. "Staff has initiated soil drenching intended to help reduce the imazapyr levels, and the third-party testing will continue in the soil to evaluate the readiness for replanting moving forward."

Youngberg's plan proposed planting 21 alternating white oak and western redbud trees by the library. The plan also proposed two other sites for additional landscaping, including the former time capsule site and the area near the City Hall staff breakroom which previously held Mountain View's centennial tree.

Youngberg also voiced a need to work alongside public works, as the Franklin Street library is experiencing drainage related issues which demand attention.

Community members brought up various concerns with the plan, including the high allergens associated with oak trees and potential use of herbicides which, while organic, may still pose certain risks.

Additionally, commissioners and community members stressed the importance of proper spacing when planting new foliage in order to ensure that trees have adequate room to grow.

No definitive plans have been approved or action taken, and discussions are ongoing.

Zoning approved for new school on corner of S. El Monte and Cuesta



Ava Acharya/Town Crier

Masterminds Academy banner, located outside the building which was recently re-zoned to allow for preschool through eighth grade education.

By Ava Acharya
Town Crier Staff Writer

Los Altos Planning Commission approved an alteration to the conditional use permit (CUP) awarded to the Lutheran Church on the corner of South El Monte Avenue and Cuesta Drive.

Previously, this area was zoned to allow a preschool to operate in conjunction with the church. Now, a private school educating students from preschool through eighth grade will take its place.

School representatives clarified that this new school, Masterminds Academy, will maintain roughly the same enrollment numbers as the preschool.

"Masterminds is intentionally small. We're a micro school, so the cohorts that we have are maximum six, and we do not plan to have any more

See ZONING, Page 8

ELECTION

From Page 4

parking availability, access or convenience, unless separately approved by a majority of voters. The measure excludes two parking plazas that may be developed for affordable housing without a vote. Los Altos city staff noted passage of the measure would likely have forced the city to amend its housing element to bring it back into compliance and avoid penalties from the state.

Mountain View

In the contest for Mountain View's three open City Council seats, IdaRose Sylvester and Silja Paymer led with 8,820 and 7,301 votes respectively. Erik Poicon and Robert Cox were in a dead heat for third place, with Poicon earning 7,237 votes and Cox earning 7,092.

Mountain View passed Measures E and F to modernize its city charter and raise the transient occupancy tax, which is paid by hotel guests.

Santa Clara Valley Water Board

Los Altan Pete Dailey will represent peninsula cities on the Santa Clara Valley Water board, finishing 16 points and 11,051 votes ahead of incumbent Rebecca Eisenberg. He won the District 7 seat with 40,983 votes, 58.2% of the vote, as of Monday morning. Eisenberg received 29,324 votes, or 41.7% of the votes.

An attorney, Eisenberg had been critical of Valley Water's spending and management. She was twice investigated and censured by her colleagues, and after a 2024 investigation, was stripped of her committee assignments. Eisenberg had been critical of Valley Water's spending on the now canceled Pacheco Dam project and had accused her colleagues and the district's executives of misconduct.

It's the second consecutive election in which a challenger has replaced the district's incumbent. Eisenberg replaced Gary Kremen in 2022.

Dailey serves on the Los Altos City Council, and his term ends this year. He felt relief after winning following a campaign that involved considerable work before it started publicly, also taking the time to acknowledge his opponent.

"I also want to extend my appreciation to Director Eisenberg even though her tenure was somewhat controversial for a variety of reasons," Dailey said. "I still appreciate her stepping forward to serve. It's not easy."

Eisenberg said she was proud of what she accomplished for District 7 in her fight for the public every day.

"I knew challenging corruption at Valley Water would come at a cost. I did it anyway," Eisenberg said in a statement.

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Rep. Sam Liccardo reelected, sees opportunities for bipartisanship in Congress

By Dan Pulcrano
Weeklys Media Group

Democrat Sam Liccardo, whose district includes the Los Altos area, won a second term in Congress on Tuesday, with 77% of the vote.

The former San Jose mayor returned on Saturday to a Washington, D.C. very different from the one he left, and as part of the majority party, sees opportunities to make progress. He believes it will take bipartisanship, however, and says he spends time on the other side of the aisle, talking to Republicans.

Liccardo, a moderate, took time on Sunday to speak with the Town Crier, in between his D.C. meetings. He says centrist Democrats have a majority in the House and that Rep. Hakeem Jeffries has the votes to become Speaker of the House. He believes that addressing affordability issues are more important than another round of presidential impeachment actions, though he expected a vote to impeach Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to proceed.

Liccardo thinks that the new Congress might be better positioned to tackle social media safety. "The calls for legislation on this have been coming for about a quarter century. And we've seen no significant progress," he said.

With "the change in leadership in both houses, (there's) greater commitment to getting something done early. We have to get this done in 2027, because by 2028, we'll be in the middle of a presidential election."

Liccardo addressed the impact of large election campaign expenditures and the effect it's having on elections. "If you look at the polling, there's a bipartisan supermajority of Americans who say, 'there's too damn much money in politics.'"

The Citizens United Supreme Court ruling that equated campaign spending with First Amendment free speech protections was a turning point that ended spending limits. "We may have that opportunity where, with enough Republicans filling the populist heat, to actually move forward on a constitutional amendment. ... It's an idea that I'm conjuring around with two colleagues."

Asked about the recent multi-billion dollar cryptocurrency heist attributed to state actors, Liccardo discussed proposed legislative actions to protect the financial system.



Dan Pulcrano

U.S. Rep. Sam Liccardo, D-Calif., was reelected to Congress and believes it will be better able to tackle the issue of social media safety and other problems.

"There's a number of different bills. The largest on the House side is called the Frontier Act, and that's led by Lori Trahan and Jay Obernolte. And I've been talking to them for a while about it."

"There are some things that need to be added to it. Cyberhacking alone from AI is going to have hugely disruptive impacts in our financial system and our economy. And as that drumbeat gets louder, I pray that we'll be able to get Congress and the President to move – before it becomes catastrophic," Liccardo said.

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ZONING

From Page 5

than 54 students," said Nicole Fiorentino, the school's director of parent engagement and inclusion.

The updated CUP was approved at the Planning Commission's Nov. 5 meeting. Fiorentino, alongside school operations and design director Liz Curry, attended in order to answer questions and address concerns.

"We're getting very excited to open up come January," Curry said.

Commissioners and community members raised concerns surrounding traffic in the area. Specifically, commission member Joe Beninato pointed to existing traffic in the area, voicing concerns that school drop-off may add to the congestion and present dangers for children walking and biking to school.

Fiorentino and Curry clarified that students at Masterminds would be barred from biking to school due to overall safety concerns.

They also said that Masterminds intends to use the property's large parking lot for pick-up and drop-off, instead of the roundabout on the corner of South El Monte Avenue and Cuesta Drive. This, in addition to staggered drop-off and pick-up times, would decrease the likelihood of school commute congestion, they said.

The CUP was approved, with added clarifying details surrounding drop-off and pick-up.

Commissioner Daphne Ross encouraged school administrators to get involved with the surrounding community ahead of opening.

"I would really encourage the applicant to reach out to neighbors," Ross said. "I think it's really important ... not only to be building the community that is choosing to participate, but also the community in which the school exists."

Fiorentino and Curry agreed, confirming efforts at community engagement through church events.



Courtesy of the Santa Clara County Library District

Mountain View resident Devi S. Laskar has been named the ninth Santa Clara County Poet Laureate.

POET

From Page 1

creative writing and South and West Asian studies. In this role, Laskar will promote the art of poetry through community outreach, acting as a resource for the Santa Clara County Library District (SCCLD).

Through writing, Laskar tackles difficult issues such as misogyny and racism, drawing on her own experience as the daughter of immigrants, according to a SCCLD press release.

"Poets inspire us, giving voice to our deepest feelings, experiences, and imagination," said County Librarian Jennifer Weeks. "The County Libraries look forward to hosting poetry and spoken word events by Devi, sharing her love of poetry and writing with patrons of all ages."

> 'Poets inspire us, giving voice to our deepest feelings, experiences, and imagination'
>
> **Jennifer Weeks,** County Librarian



Comment

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Letters to the Editor

Praise for intern's food, theater writing

I am writing to publicly commend the outstanding work of the Town Crier editorial intern Kate Rose, whose Food Feud articles (Sept. 9 and Oct. 14 Food & Wine sections) have been an absolute joy to read. I also enjoyed her recent write up of the "Dracula" performance (Oct. 21 Stepping Out). In a media landscape that can often feel heavy, Ms. Rose's unique blend of sharp wit and unique point of view is a breath of fresh air for our community.

It takes a rare talent to balance humor with insightful journalism, yet this young writer manages to do so effortlessly. Her articles are not only genuinely funny but also interesting, offering a refreshing younger perspective for local businesses and community events.

It fills me with immense pride to see such bright, capable young voices developing right here in our neighborhood. This intern possesses a natural flair for connection and a distinct comedic timing that cannot be easily taught.

Please pass along my sincere congratulations and encouragement to her. If these articles are any indication of her future, this young journalist has an incredibly bright career ahead. Thank you to the Town Crier for providing a platform for such promising local talent.

Traci Wang
Los Altos mom
who loves coffee and tacos

Roja review riles reader

As a long-time Los Altos resident and Town Crier subscriber, I was incensed by Maria Crowder's unfair review of Roja (Oct. 12 Food & Wine section). So, I was thrilled to see Angela McConnell's well-written rebuttal in the Oct. 28 edition. I, too, have dined at Roja many times and vehemently agree with everything McConnell said and would like to add a few comments.

Maria calls herself a "picky eater." How does that qualify her to be a food critic? Why would you go to review a restaurant with four companions and only try two entrees?

She wrote that the pork chop is "Schnitzel-style." While the cooking technique is basically the same, at Roja the Pork chop Milanese takes two days to prepare and is served with Arugula, in an Italian presentation. It is a dish that food dreams are made of.

She also failed to mention the baguette with browned butter (something I tried to re-create at home without success) is truly a taste sensation. The fish specials are always delicious, and chef Roberto Juarez manages to create "creamy" soups without any cream, which is an art form. The chicken presentation changes with the seasons and is always delicious, and the portion provides for my next day's lunch.

As winter approaches I'm looking forward to having the lamb shank or the lasagne again. I could go on and on, but it's making me hungry.

Maria mentioned it was a busy night. So maybe the service wasn't spot-on. Aren't we glad that a privately owned restaurant was bustling? Don't we wish the owners success? I applaud Angela for speaking up and encourage diners to visit Roja.

Susie Fasanaro
Los Altos

How to fill vacant council seat

Thank you, District 4, for your trust. My win creates a puzzle the whole city should weigh in on.

When I'm sworn into the District 4 seat Dec. 8, I must resign my at-large seat, which runs through November 2028. State law (Government Code 36512) gives the Los Altos City Council 60 days, until Feb. 5, 2027, to either appoint a replacement or call a special election.

Neither option is perfect.

An appointment fills the seat quickly, but the Council – not voters – would choose, and recruiting would be squeezed into the holidays.

A special election is more democratic, but the Council can't simply pick a date. State law requires it to fall on an established election date at least 114 days after it is called, most likely Nov. 2, 2027. The seat would sit empty for nearly a year, and the candidates would run a citywide campaign for roughly 12 months in office.

The new districts add a twist. Any Los Altos voter may fill this at-large seat, and whoever does might carry the advantage of incumbency into the next election. Where that person lives may matter more than it first appears.

My colleagues and I want to hear from you:

- Appointment or election?
- Is November 2027 too long to leave the seat open?
- If appointment, what process and qualities matter most?
- Should district of residence factor in?
- Are there residents you would encourage to consider serving?

Please email publiccomment@losaltosca.gov before the December 8 council meeting.

Larry Lang
Los Altos Vice Mayor

Peek into the Past



Courtesy of Margie Alving/Los Altos History Museum

Citizens and military members lined a local street to mark Armistice Day on Nov. 11, circa 1920, to honor World War I veterans and the end of fighting on the Western Front. Renamed Veterans Day in 1954, it now honors all military veterans.

Former tech worker leans in on his second act as a magician

By Deeksha Venkat
Town Crier Editorial Intern

At Apple Inc., David Martinez spent 17 years making technology easier to understand. Now, as a magician, he makes things a little harder to explain.

The former Apple writer has traded product copy for playing cards, office meetings for audience participation and a career in tech for a full-time job in magic. The magician regularly performs in Los Altos. The principles he carried out of Apple, like simplicity, thoughtful design and putting the audience first, remain central to his work.

"I think it's a very similar aesthetic," Martinez said. "I'm always thinking: What is the audience perceiving?"

Martinez, who spent his final years at Apple as a user experience writer in product design, began performing magic for coworkers around 2005. He said they gave him the nickname Daz, short for "the Dazzler." What began as a hobby gradually grew into paid performances, and by 2016, he was entertaining the possibility of making magic his career.

Then the pandemic hit, and Martinez, in his early 50s, realized there might never be a perfect time to leave his job. After 17 years at Apple and a 30-year career in the workforce, he decided to take the leap.

"I realized that life is short," Martinez said. "There was never gonna be a great time. Like, I just had to do it."

Five years into his full-time magic career, Martinez said he has no regrets. Martinez said last year was his busiest and most financially successful year yet, and he expects this year to match or surpass it.

His transition, however, has not meant abandoning his former profession's lessons. As a marketing communications writer and later a user experience writer, Martinez learned to prioritize the customer, make information accessible and keep designs clean. Today, those same principles shape everything from his website and booking emails to his performances.

At Apple, he said, creative directors challenged writers to produce headlines that sounded distinctly like Apple rather than something any company could say. Martinez applies a similar standard to his magic.

"I want to take a trick that

See MAGIC, Page 12



Deeksha Venkat/Town Crier Editorial Intern

David Martinez performs magic at Enchante Boutique Hotel in Los Altos. After 17 years in the tech world, he became a full-time magician.



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Marcia turned retirement into a chance to connect deeply with the community she calls home.

She volunteered and then served eight years on the Board of local non-profit Kara which provides grief support to adults and children in their hardest moments. She then joined the Los Altos History Museum's Oral History Committee and served on its Board while interviewing past mayors and notable figures to preserve their stories.

She even opened her historic home for the Museum's Home & Garden Tour. Her sharp legal mind and warm heart make her exceptionally deserving of this honor.

Professor John W. Gardner, a distinguished public servant, championed community building. His teachings continue to be guideposts for Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation.

Morning Forum speaker: 'There is a lot of pain in African history'

By Allyson Johnson
Special to the Town Crier

Most Los Altos Morning Forum lectures do not start off with a trigger warning, but Allyson Hobbs warned her Morning Forum Audience Oct. 20 that the material she was about to cover would be "quite heavy," and urged compassion.

"There is a lot of pain in African history," said Hobbs, an associate professor and director of African and African American studies at Stanford University, "and it's important to hear these stories so that we can understand ourselves and our own history."

Hobbs spoke against the stereotyped vision of Black women as being both stoic and promiscuous, so that they were expected to put up with hardship, humiliation and sexual exploitation. Anita Hill was upending these stereotypes when she spoke out at Clarence Thomas' Supreme Court confirmation hearings about his attempts to embarrass and humiliate her as his aide.

"The hardest thing was knowing that my parents (both devout Baptists) would have to hear what Clarence Thomas had said and done," she said.

Hobbs added, "A number of years ago I was sexually assaulted, and though I was able to tell my parents and receive their support, I found that even years later the most ordinary things might trigger those feelings of anxiety, fog and sickness. I had to learn to live with unpredictable flashbacks."

Hobbs said that when she began her research on the sexual violence experienced by Black women, she expected to find gaps in the record.

"There are many reasons why Black women would not want to talk about their experiences, as their expectation is not to be believed," she said. "The Black community had a collaborative commitment to forgetting, and children were taught not to ask about memories that were probably painful. What I found was that Black women had been telling their stories, but they were not heard."

One of the strategies employed by Black women to ward off aggressors was to cultivate a strong image of respectability, Hobbs noted. Families emphasized cleanliness, thrift, good manners and purity as a way to ward off sexual aggressors. This politics of respectability constrained Black women, but they still suffered sexual violence.

Hobbs went on to speak of the systemic trauma undergone by Afro-Americans, particularly women. She said the word "trauma" has been overused recently and its meaning watered down. Even the clinical definition of "trauma" as resulting from a singular event is inadequate to describe the systemic trauma experienced by Black women as a product of the social structure. The classical definition has little to say about the world the survivor of trauma lives in, and is based on the medical community's familiarity with the white middle class.

The historic myth of the Black woman as both stoic and promiscuous brought about some truly horrific acts, she said, notably early gynecological experimental operations performed with no anesthetic on Black women who were believed to be incapable of feeling pain. These experiments formed the basis of modern gynecology but were nothing short of torture.

At the same time, Hobbs said the myth of the Black man as a sexual predator was used to justify lynchings. White women have been raised with protection by law and by custom which has historically been denied to Black women, she added. Even when they speak up, their contributions may be erased. Hobbs cited Congressional testimony by Harriet Smith, who named the Ku Klux Klan members who had raped her as retribution for her registering to vote. Her testimony resulted in efforts to disband the Klan, but her testimony was erased from official reports.

In 1961, Fannie Lou Homer of Mississippi went to a hospital for a routine procedure and the doctor performed a hysterecto-

See FORUM, Page 12

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FORUM

From Page 11

my. Hobbs said this was done so routinely on Black women that it was jokingly called a "Mississippi appendectomy." Homer was later arrested after registering to vote and beaten so severely by her jailers that she suffered lasting back and kidney damage. Yet when she appeared as a delegate to the 1964 Democratic Convention, then-President Lyndon Johnson was so intent on keeping her testimony out of public view that he called a press conference at the same time. The strategy backfired; the "news" at the conference was stale and footage of Homer's testimony ran on every major evening news channel.

More recently, the #MeToo movement was founded by Black activist Tarana Burke to help support women of color who had been victims of sexual violence in low-wealth communities, but Hobbs said it didn't go viral until white celebrities exploited by Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein took up the #MeToo hashtag.

There is also pressure in the Black community to protect successful Black men. Hobbs said Anita Hill faced this in her testimony, as did Drew Dixon when she testified against record company executive Russell Simmons.

For more information on Morning Forum and its fall series, see morningforum.org.

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MAGIC

From Page 10

maybe someone else has invented and make (it) something that only I could do as a magician," he said.

That might mean replacing ordinary playing cards with unusual props, developing a story around an illusion or adapting a routine to a particular setting.

Martinez performs at corporate events, weddings and private parties, tailoring each show to its audience. He also spends considerable time scripting performances, considering even the pauses between tricks and how to keep an audience engaged while a volunteer walks onstage.

His goal is not simply to fool people, but rather to make the experience feel effortless, even when the preparation behind it is anything but.

Apple's philosophy of "surprise and delight," Martinez said, also translates naturally to magic. Just as opening a carefully designed product can be an experience in itself, a successful trick should leave an audience with an unexpected final turn.

"We want to bring joy and fun and amazement," he said. "We want to delight our audiences, but also make them surprised."

That philosophy is on display at Enchante Boutique Hotel in downtown Los Altos, where Martinez has performed regularly since 2023.

Hotel owner Abby Ahrens said she found him while searching online for a magician, and after seeing Martinez's proposal for table-to-table performances, invited him to try out.

Their initial agreement was for one month, but Martinez offered to extend it to two, promising to stay longer if other work came along. He has continued performing there ever since.

"He has no ego," Ahrens said. "He loves what he's doing, and it shows every minute he performs."

Beyond his regular appearances during Saturday brunch and on Monday evenings, Martinez developed an intimate close-up show in the hotel's library dining room, where audiences gather around a table in groups of no more than 10.

His October program, "Magic from Beyond," explored séances and the legacy of Harry Houdini, combining historical storytelling with illusions inspired by spiritualism. The show is spooky, he said, but not intended to frighten.

Lisa Eng-Beeman, who attended one of these séances, said Martinez's ability to draw people into an illusion stood out more than any individual trick. She described the show as intimate, carefully prepared and full of moments that left her wondering how he had accomplished what she had just witnessed.

"He knows how to deal with people who are like naysayers, people who don't believe in any of this," Eng-Beeman said.

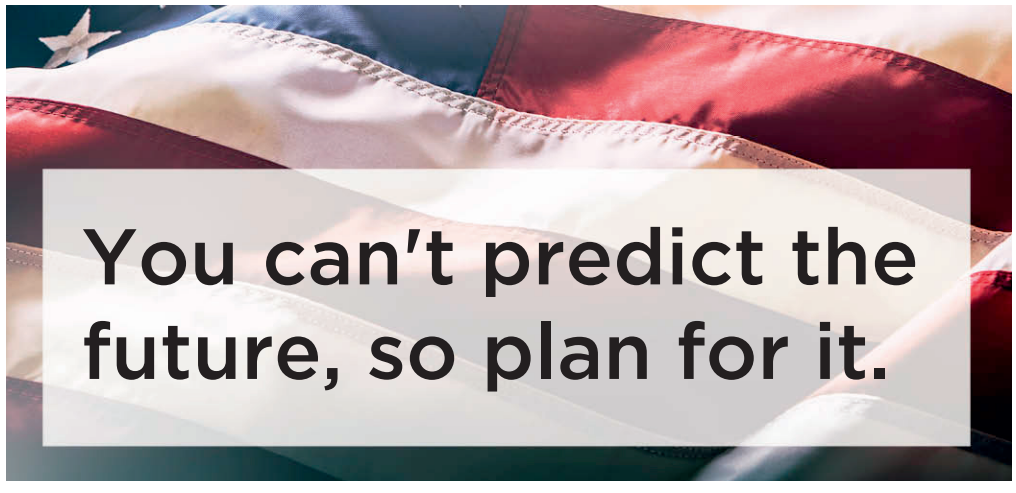
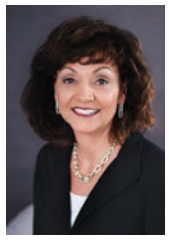
For Martinez, uncertainty is part of the appeal. He said he knows audiences may try to reverse-engineer his tricks, particularly those with science or engineering backgrounds. But he hopes they will also allow themselves to enjoy the experience without needing to solve every mystery.

His ultimate measure of success goes beyond applause or astonishment.

"I want them to feel like it was time well spent," Martinez said. "Whether it's a two-minute-long close-up card trick or an hour-long show, that's a lot for me to ask of them, and so I want them to feel that it's a memory they're going to keep for a long time."

Martinez's next show at Enchante, "Magic and a Meal," is set for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 14. He will perform free tableside magic for those dining at the hotel bistro. Enchante is located at 1 Main St.

For more information on Martinez, see davidmartinez-magic.com.

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Stepping Out

Despite lineup changes, teen rock band rolls on

By Kate Rose
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Student rock band Kalico recently took the stage at a local house party as the audience jumped, clapped and screamed-sang along. The crowd's energy was infectious – even Phineas Lunt, one of the band's former guitarists, who's usually serious during gigs, broke out into song.

"He was really happy and immersed in the audience's energy," drummer Annabelle Bock said. "That's what music is all about."

Bock and Lunt are two of Kalico's six founding members. The band formed around November 2024, after Simona Choi and Jaz Santos thought up the idea. It originally consisted of one senior (Simona Choi), four juniors (Lunt, Santos, Joshua Chai, Tom Freda-Eskenazo) and a sophomore (Bock), all connected by the Los Altos High School marching band.

Creating Kalico took commitment. Although Chai already played the synthesizer, vibraphone and piano, he learned bass for the band.

"I did a lot of playing by myself," Chai said. "So getting a chance to be with other talented musicians was an amazing experience."

With Simona as the lead singer, the group debuted at a Matchbox open mic at Red Rock Coffee in downtown Mountain View. In February 2025, they performed at the LAHS Diversity Rally – a school-wide event featuring cultural clothing, dancing and live music.

"I was really nervous leading up to it," Chai said. "But on the day of, all the practice kicked in."

Following the rally, Kalico continued booking performances, covering artists from Fleetwood Mac to Beabadoobee. They also secured a regular practice space: the Los Altos United Methodist Church that Simona attended.

"I started learning to do all these stick tricks," Bock said. "Before, I was learning the technicalities of playing drums, but now it's all about performing."

When February 2026 rolled around, Kalico performed at the Diversity Rally once more. But this time, Simona had graduated and was replaced by her younger sister, Elyse Choi, who attends Mountain View High School.

Singing had always been a part of Choi's life, but she said the hobby had never made it past casual karaoke nights with her family. Now, practicing with Kalico to prepare for a crowd of over 2,500 LAHS students, the stakes were suddenly much higher.

"I was nervous to play with Kalico because I saw them as my sister's friends, and my sister's group," Choi said. "But everyone was so nice and welcoming. It came naturally."

According to Bock, Kalico is just as much a tight-knit group of friends as it is a band. Because everyone's united by a shared love of music, she said they don't face much internal drama.

"You can have leaders, but we're all still friends," Bock said. "Everyone's equal, everyone's depending on each other."

Kalico now approaches its third year as a band, with Bock and Choi the only remaining members, as the rest have gone to college. But they're dedicated to not letting the band's legacy end with them. They've recruited two new musicians – MVHS senior Robin Rinn and LAHS sophomore Claire Hash – and intend to start practicing with them soon.

"It would be great if Kalico keeps recruiting younger people, carrying on the flame," Chai said. "But if people want to start their own bands, and have this just be our thing, I think that's good too."

And for aspiring band-starters, Chai emphasized how many resources there are for practice and exposure. Reflecting on his high school years, he pointed to the First Fridays in downtown Los Altos and open mic nights at Red Rock Coffee.

"There's a lot of places in our area you could go that are low stakes and good for beginners," Chai said. "I know because we were beginners when we did them."





Cerise Wong/Town Crier Editorial Intern

Annabelle Bock plays drums for Kalico, a band comprising Los Altos High School students. Elyse Choi is the band's lead singer.

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CAASPP scores rise in Los Altos, MVLA districts

Students in both districts make gains, while Bullis Charter posts high scores

By Julia Baum
Town Crier Staff Writer

Students in the Los Altos and Mountain View-Los Altos school districts recorded gains in several areas of California's standardized tests in 2025-2026, according to newly released state results.

In the Los Altos School District (LASD), 87.37% of students scored in the top two achievement levels in English language arts, up from 85.46% the previous year. In mathematics, 86.79% reached the top two levels, compared with 85.46% in 2024-2025.

The districtwide figures combine results across the grades tested in LASD, which serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The year-over-year changes represent increases of 1.91 percentage points in English language arts and 1.33 percentage points in math.

Results varied by grade. Among fourth-graders, the percentage scoring in the top two levels rose from 80.84% to 87.46% in English language arts and from 84.03% to 89.59% in math. Fifth-grade English language arts results also increased, from 84.54% to 86.07%, while math results dipped slightly,

See CAASPP, Page 15



Town Crier File Photo

School board races await official certification

By Julia Baum
Town Crier Staff Writer

Unofficial election results continued to shift Monday as Santa Clara County election officials counted ballots in several local school board races. The closest contest remained the race for three open seats on the Los Altos School District (LASD) board, where challenger David Poll held a 173-vote lead over appointed Trustee Brandon Stroy in the latest results available Monday morning.

Los Altos School District: Johnson, Sirkay win seats, close tally remains for third one

Incumbents Bryan Johnson and Vaishali Sirkay led the four-candidate race for three open seats on the LASD Board of Trustees, with Poll maintaining a narrow advantage over Stroy for the third seat.

As of Monday morning, Johnson had 9,142 votes (28.1%), followed by Sirkay with 8,493 (26.1%). Poll had 7,535 votes (23.2%), compared with 7,362 (22.6%) for Stroy.

Poll and Stroy have traded places in the unofficial count as additional ballots have been tallied. Stroy held a 17-vote lead over Poll in Thursday morning's results, but Poll moved ahead in Friday's update and has since extended his advantage.

Poll, a first-time candidate running against three sitting board members, said the close race suggests some families are looking for a fresh perspective on the board.

"I'm grateful to everyone who voted, and to the volunteers, teachers, and neighbors who knocked on doors and talked with their friends about this race," Poll wrote in an email.

He said parents and teachers he spoke with during the campaign wanted stronger communication with the board, as well as confidence that students were developing strong reading and math skills.

"I think voters want a board with both kinds of perspective: people with years of experience on the board, and people going through the district with their kids right now," he wrote.

Poll said his priorities include ensuring families and teachers have a meaningful voice with the board, strengthening reading and math instruction, maintaining healthy enrollment and making the district one that families want to be part of.

Stroy was appointed to the board in March following former Trustee Vladimir Ivanovic's resignation. He said he was pleased with the results for Johnson and Sirkay, which he viewed as evidence of community support for the board's direction.

"Their success also reaffirms the broad community support for the direction of the existing board," Stroy wrote in an email.

He said he did not view his own standing in the race as a referendum on his performance, given his short tenure.

"I don't view the results as a referendum on my record as a board member because I haven't really had an opportunity to create one," he wrote.

Stroy said he believed voters were weighing two candidates with whom many were relatively unfamiliar. He said he was well-known among district parent-teacher association leaders, principals and families, while Poll had done a good job introducing himself to the broader community during the campaign.

If elected to a full term, Stroy said one of his priorities would be the district's new San Antonio campus. He described the project as consequential because of its cost, the planned transition to a sixth-through-eighth-grade middle school model and its implications for the district's relationship with Bullis Charter School.

MVLA High School District Elects Paz, Cornes, Kamei

Board President Thida Cornes led the Area 3 race with 2,950 votes (56.1%). Former trustee Sanjay Dave followed with 1,319 (25.1%), while incumbent Trustee Catherine Vonnegut had 980 (18.7%).

The district's other two trustee-area seats were uncontested, with Nir Paz and Mountain View City Councilmember Ellen Kamei running unopposed in Areas 1 and 2, respectively.

Conley, Lambert win MV Whisman school board races

Incumbents Devon Conley and William Lambert led the race for two board seats.

Conley had 8,833 votes (33.7%), followed by Lambert with 7,105 (27.1%). Challengers Sundar Subbarayan and Quintin Riis had 5,948 (22.7%) and 4,342 (16.5%), respectively.

Bill Wilson secures Foothill-DeAnza Area 4 Board Post

Incumbent William "Bill" Wilson led the Area 4 race with 11,747 votes (58.3%), compared with 8,405 (41.7%) for challenger Liangfang "Liang" Chao.

Incumbents unopposed in Cupertino Union School District

Incumbents Ava Chiao, Jerry Liu and Satheesh Madhathil were unopposed for the district's three open board seats after no challengers qualified.

Countywide voter turnout stood at 44.1%, with 476,407 ballots cast out of 1,080,711 registered voters.

The results are unofficial and will remain so until the county completes its canvass and certifies the election.

CAASPP

From Page 14

from 83.24% to 83.03%.

Sixth-graders saw a decrease in both subjects. The share reaching the top two levels fell from 88.83% to 88.38% in English language arts and from 89.43% to 87.06% in math.

Results among seventh-graders were nearly unchanged in English language arts, declining from 89.42% to 89.17%, while math increased from 87.44% to 87.68%. Eighth-graders recorded increases in both subjects: English language arts rose from 85.94% to 89.24%, and math increased from 82.38% to 86.63%.

In the Mountain View-Los Altos (MVLA) High School District, the results cover 11th-graders. The percentage of students scoring in the top two achievement levels in English language arts increased to 81.58% in 2025-2026, from 78.55% the previous year – a gain of 3.03 percentage points.



Town Crier File Photo

In math, 68.09% of MVLA 11th-graders scored in the top two levels, compared with 67.50% in 2024-2025, an increase of 0.59 percentage points.

The number of students tested also increased between the two years. In MVLA, 1,029 students had English language arts scores in 2025-2026, compared with 993 the previous year. In math, 1,027 students had scores, up from 1,004.

The Smarter Balanced assessments are administered annually to California students in grades three through eight and grade 11. They measure performance in English language arts and mathematics.

The state uses four achievement levels. In the 2024-2025 reports, the top two were labeled "Standard Met" and "Standard Exceeded." In 2025-2026, the labels changed to "Proficient" and "Advanced." The percentages in this report combine those top two categories in each year.

Bullis Charter School, which operates independently of LASD, also posted high results. According to state data, 92.4% of Bullis students scored proficient or advanced in English language arts in 2025-2026, while 92.25% reached those levels in math. The figures include all tested grades at the TK–8 charter school. Statewide, 49.3% of students scored proficient or advanced in English language arts and 38.4% in math.

The Smarter Balanced assessments are administered annually to California students in grades three through eight and grade 11. They measure performance in English language arts and mathematics.

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Sports

Spartans overwhelm Eagles, head to playoffs



Kellen Scanlon/Town Crier Editorial Intern

Los Altos quarterback Giancarlo Mendoza looks to escape pressure from Mountain View during the game Friday.

Town Crier Staff Report

The Pride Bowl trophy isn't going anywhere. Mountain View High's 42-10 rout of visiting Los Altos Friday night assured that trophy, which goes to the winner of this annual football game between district rivals, stays with the Spartans for the eighth year in a row.

Now, Mountain View will try to earn another trophy. The Spartans (5-5 overall) are bound for the Central Coast Section Division IV playoffs, securing the second seed with Friday's win. They are slated to host No. 7 Sacred Heart Prep (3-7) at 7 p.m. Friday in the quarterfinals.

There will be no postseason for the Eagles, who matched Mountain View's 5-5 record but did not play as difficult of a schedule.

The Spartans pulled away early in Friday's non-divisional game, leading 14-0 after first-quarter touchdowns by running back Dom Kristof and receiver Micah Perkins. Kristof ran for another TD in the second quarter and Leo Kirkpatrick scored his first touchdown of the year on a long pass from Ishan Devarapalli.

Los Altos mustered a field goal in the first half, a 35-yarder from Ethan Ling, but Mountain View entered halftime with a commanding 28-3 advantage.

The Spartans added two more TDs in the second half, courtesy of Rhys Kellett and Brad Smith, and the Eagles got one from Carter Leban on an 11-yard toss from Giancarlo Mendoza.

– Kellen Scanlon contributed to this report



Emmet Cahill
CONCERT TICKETS
2026

Acclaimed Irish tenor Emmet Cahill will be performing in Los Altos.

"Christmas from Ireland to Broadway"

Date: Saturday, November 28, 2026
Time: 12:00pm - Meet & Greet/1:00pm - Concert
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Tickets: $50 per person
Open Seating
All sales are final - NO REFUNDS
Questions? email: stnicholas@dsj.org

Also performing during the pre-show will be the Corry School of Irish Dance Ensemble from San Jose.
The dance company is made up of boys and girls performing traditional Irish Step Dance.

Get Tickets Online: | www.emmetcahill.com

Local 10-year-old tennis player leads NorCal team to second-place finish

By Sachin Chandran
Town Crier Editorial Intern

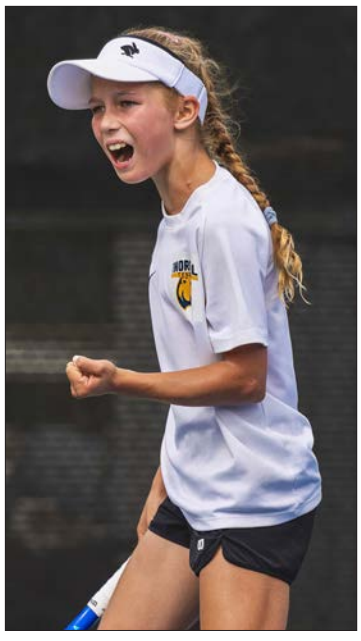
Since her success at the Little Mo International tennis tournament last year in Florida, 10-year-old Alexis Malakhov has continued her dominance on a national stage.

The Springer Elementary School student played the girls No. 1 position for Team NorCal at the USTA Pacific Coast 10s Exchange, a tournament held last month in Claremont. She won all of her singles matches and eight of nine matches in all.

The tourney brought together four 10-and-under teams from throughout the country, with each made up of four boys and four girls. It consisted of singles, doubles and mixed doubles, with Alexis – a Mountain View resident – leading the NorCal team to a second-place finish.

Compared to past tournaments, Alexis said this one was unique to her as it was her first team event. However, the camaraderie that comes with this new format helped motivate her while competing.

"If I played the last match, the whole team would come and cheer me on, and it would help support me," Alexis said. "They make me believe in myself more and be braver."



Courtesy of USTA

Alexis Malakhov, a 10-year-old from Mountain View, celebrates scoring a point at last month's USTA Pacific Coast 10s Exchange in Claremont. Alexis played the top spot for Team NorCal, which placed second in the tournament.

Since Alexis has begun competing against older players at the 14U level, she did not especially prepare for this tournament, according to Alex Malakhov, her coach and father. But, even if it was not particularly challenging, Malakhov said the tournament was a worthwhile social experience for his daughter.

"We met some kids she knows from Little Mo in previous years and from Florida, so (there) was a lot of communication during the tournament and after for play-dates in a hotel and breakfast and dinner," Malakhov said. "Every day we had dinner with our teammates plus some players from other teams who joined us. It was very nice."

In the past nine months, Malakhov said Alexis has dramatically improved, with her Universal Tennis Rating climbing nearly two points: from 4 to 5.8.

"I think the biggest change was her mental attitude improved a lot, (and) she worked on training behavior and her dedication," Malakhov said. "It has impacted everything."

Looking forward, Alexis said she would like to join a tennis academy to focus on her training.

See TENNIS, Page 17

Eagles can't keep up with M-A in 2nd half of CCS final

Town Crier Staff Report

It wasn't until the fourth quarter of Saturday's Central Coast Section Division I flag football championship game that Los Altos High fell behind, and the Eagles never recaptured the lead.

Menlo-Atherton scored a touchdown early in the fourth to break a tie game and held the Eagles scoreless the rest of the way to prevail 19-13 at Los Gatos.

Top seed Los Altos (18-7 overall) entered the game having outscored its first two playoff opponents by a combined 47-7, while the No. 3 Bears (15-6) were coming off a one-point win over Salinas.

The Eagles seemed to carry that momentum into Saturday's title game, scoring a touchdown on the opening possession. On the fourth play from scrimmage, Sabrina Neal threw a TD pass to Maya Stern.

The Los Altos defense kept Menlo-Atherton out of the end zone on its first two series, but the Bears broke through midway through the second quarter to knot the game at 7.

The Eagles scored just before halftime to regain the advantage, as Neal threw a TD pass to Charlotte Wolfe.

Menlo-Atherton opened the second half with a long drive that culminated in the game-tying touchdown. After forcing Los Altos to punt, the Bears drove for what proved to be the winning score, reaching the end zone on the first play of the fourth quarter.

The Eagles' final two drives ended with interceptions.



Katherine Manassero/Town Crier Editorial Intern

Los Altos quarterback Sabrina Neal runs during the CCS Division I championship game Saturday against Menlo-Atherton.

Neal finished the game as Los Altos' leading passer (123 yards) and rusher (76), while Wolfe was the team's top receiver with four catches for 35 yards.

– Katherine Manassero contributed to this report

TENNIS

From Page 16

"When you go to a normal school, you still waste energy and it takes time, (so) you can't do 110% in your practice," Alexis said. When you go to an academy, you do tennis in the morning, and then you go to school when it's really hot, and then another tennis practice in the evening, so you have lots of tennis practice."

In the next few years, one of Malakhov's main goals for Alexis is to keep her injury-free and ensure she is still enjoying the sport, he said. This consistency will hopefully translate to professional tennis in the future, Malakhov added.

"There is no goal to be No. 1 at 10 years old, or No. 1 in USTA U12, because you can see many examples of kids who were No. 1 and are not showing great results when they start playing pro level," Malakhov said. "I would say if she can start playing on the pro tour at 16-17 years old, it would be a good result."



LOS ALTOS HILLS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS VACANCIES

The Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) announces three (3) upcoming vacancies on the LAHCFD Board of Commissioners. The term of the positions begins on January 1, 2027. Residents are invited to immediately apply in accordance with the requirements below.

QUALIFICATIONS

Two (2) vacancies require applicants to be residents of the Town of Los Altos Hills.

One (1) vacancy requires applicants to be a resident of the unincorporated area served and protected by the LAHCFD, generally referred to as Loyola, Los Trancos and San Antonio Hills.

The appointment is for a four-year term.

Applicants are encouraged to immediately apply for the Board of Commissioners vacancies.

Applicants are required to complete the Santa Clara County online application at: https://santaclaracounty.primegov.com/Portal/NewForm/1?committeeId=7

Applicants are encouraged to submit a letter of interest to District 5 Santa Clara County Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga at: District5@bos.sccgov.org

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors makes the final appointment.

Applicants are invited to attend LAHCFD Commission meetings that are held in-person or via Zoom. Meeting details are located on the District website at: https://www.lahcfd.org/governance/commission-meetings/

The LAHCFD Board of Commissioners generally meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

To learn more about the LAHCFD, visit the District website at www.lahcfd.org. If there are any questions, please email clerk@lahcfd.org or leave a message at (650) 949-1044.

Medicare misconceptions to be aware of amid enrollment period

StatePoint

Each fall, the annual enrollment period (AEP) for Medicare, running Oct. 15 through Dec. 7, is an opportunity for people eligible for Medicare to choose the health plan that will work best for them in the coming year.

While Original Medicare provides broad coverage, there are some services that aren't covered, including many that people are likely to need as they age, according to Jane Funk, vice president of Medicare market growth for HealthSpring, which offers Medicare and supplemental policies.

For starters, Funk said it's important to know that people who choose Original Medicare generally remain responsible for deductibles and coinsurance, and there is no annual out-of-pocket maximum. Either Medicare Supplement or standalone Supplemental Health & Life policies can help with some of those costs. Medicare Advantage (MA) plans have annual limits on out-of-pocket spending for covered services, but costs, networks and authorization requirements vary.

Funk pointed to the following areas that can be particularly tricky for those looking to secure their coverage for the year ahead.



Courtesy of StatePoint

People enrolling in Medicare are advised to do their homework first to make sure they choose a health plan that suits their needs.

Routine dental, vision and hearing care.

Original Medicare generally doesn't cover routine dental care or dentures, routine eye exams for glasses or contacts, or hearing aids. Many MA plans or standalone dental, vision and hearing policies offer additional benefits in these areas. Services, provider networks, frequency limits and member costs vary so make sure you know exactly what is covered.

Hospital status.

Hospital services can also trip people up. Someone may spend several nights in a hospital but still be classified as an outpatient receiving observation services rather than as an inpatient. Under Original Medicare, that distinction can affect both the hospital bill and whether a subsequent skilled nursing facility is covered. Patients or their caregivers should ask directly: "Am I admitted as an inpatient or am I here under observation?"

Annual wellness visits.

An annual wellness visit is not the same as a traditional comprehensive physical. The wellness visit focuses on preventive planning and assessing health risks. If the provider performs additional tests or addresses medical concerns, deductibles or coinsurance may apply. Some MA plans offer more comprehensive annual exams at no additional cost to the member.

Prescription drugs.

Many people assume they have outpatient drug coverage under Original Medicare, but they do not. Original Medicare doesn't include outpatient prescription drug coverage; beneficiaries need a separate drug coverage plan, called a Part D plan, or they need an MA plan with Part D included (MAPD) for that. Each plan has its own formulary, pharmacy network and coverage rules, such as prior authorization, step therapy or quantity limits. Just because a medication is prescribed doesn't mean it will be covered by a specific plan.

International care.

Original Medicare provides limited foreign travel coverage. Medicare Supplement and plans may offer certain emergency benefits abroad, but Medicare beneficiaries with any Medicare plan should verify those provisions before traveling, rather than assume their usual coverage will follow them.

Funk also warned people to be wary of unsolicited calls from fraudsters about Medicare plans. Do not provide insurance or personal information without verifying that you are speaking to a legitimate Medicare provider. If you are not sure who you are speaking with, hang up and call back using a number from a verified source, such as the back of your Medicare card or a trusted website such as medicare.gov.

"Plan benefits, formularies and networks can change, and so can one's health, so people should never assume that last year's plan will still fit their needs best," Funk said. "Spending time doing research can prepare people to make an informed decision during AEP."

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Have you gotten your adult kids launched yet?

By Artie Green
Nest Egg Briefs

In the highly politicized world in which we live today, it's hard to find common ground with others who may not agree with your views. But I believe there is one goal that is shared broadly across much of middle-class America. It's about helping our kids turn into productive self-supporting adults.

To that end, we raise these kids, educate them as much as we can afford to and encourage them to follow a career path that balances their natural interests with practical job opportunities. The term I use for our adult children having successfully reached that level of self-sufficiency is "launched." And for some parents, it's a matter of pride to be able to brag about it to their friends.

Unfortunately, recent U.S. Census data suggests that our society still has work to do to get all of America's kids successfully launched. There's an annual survey administered by the U.S. Census Bureau that provides comprehensive information on individual and family income, households and employment. The latest report finds that quite a few parents end up providing financial support to their adult children even after they've moved out.

In 2024 (the latest data available), about 2.6 million parents provided over $26 billion in financial support to 3.7 million children over age 21 who lived outside the house. That's an average of over $10,000 spent per family in just one year. Each child received an average of over $7,000 (median amount $4,725). Those amounts do not even include money parents spent supporting adult children living at home.

> More than seven million parents received over $20 billion from other family members in 2024.

What were the causes? We can make some inferences from the historical data. Over the past decade, parental support remained consistent with 2024's amount. In 2017-2018, it peaked at over $30 billion each year, which coincided with increased earnings for all workers. It also declined significantly to under $21 billion in 2020, likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In other words, parental income has been a likely constraint to the financial support they are able and willing to provide to their offspring.

The Census Bureau survey also contains some interesting demographics about the parents who are contributing to their children as adults. They are more likely to have been born outside the U.S. and more likely to have a four-year college degree. They are also more likely to have had stock or bond investments. Most interesting to me, they are more likely to have been divorced. They are also more likely to be male.

While it's not surprising that many parents would want to support their kids throughout their lifetimes, the data suggests that many of their adult children have reciprocated. More than seven million parents received over $20 billion from other family members in 2024. And some subset of those family contributors were likely parents supporting their own parents at the same time they were supporting their offspring.

If as a parent you feel the need to provide financial support for your adult children, having a retirement plan for yourself becomes especially important. At their phase of life, your children have numerous sources of financial support available to them. When you become a retiree, your choices will be much more limited. Without a plan, you risk finding yourself in the position of possibly needing financial help from them in the future if you allocated too much money to them earlier.

That's probably not a family dynamic anyone would look forward to.

Artie Green is founder of Cognizant Wealth Advisors dba Perigon Wealth Management, LLC, a registered investment advisor. For more information, see cognizantwealth.com. More information about the firm can also be found in its Form ADV Part 2, which is available upon request by calling 877-977-2555 or by emailing compliance@perigonwealth.com.

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120 Merritt Court, D. Haviland to K. & S. Palukuri for $4,200,000

495 Arboleda Drive, Rodriguez Trust to X. & K. Wang for $4,375,000

1032 Riverside Drive, Hollifield Trust to S. & S. Gao for $5,123,000

562 Palm Ave., 562 Palm Lp to Vadasz Trust for $6,732,500

124 Yerba Santa Ave., Keil 2001 Family Trust to Dai & Xia Family Trust for $7,395,000

90 Marvin Ave., J. March to Massimi Family Trust for $8,475,000

766 Arroyo Road, Kozo 2009 Family Trust to Wang Family Trust for $8,509,000

125 Los Altos Ave., 125 Los Altos Avenue LLC to 125 Los Altos Ave Trust for $13,250,000

Los Altos Hills

11481 Magdalena Road, Jjp Realty Enterprises LLC to 11481 Magdalena LLC for $11,169,000

Mountain View

255 South Rengstorff Ave. #161, G. & J. Aytjanova to Brandon & Cecily We 2024 Trust for $420,000

2211 Latham St. #122, X. Qian to Y. Melnikova for $863,000

1968 Silverwood Ave., X. Mao to S. Lin for $920,000

612 Sierra Vista Ave. #K, C. Ye to S. & J. Jalal for $1,165,000

181 Hart Court, J. Kuan to I. & S. Kim for $1,325,000

534 Shockley Alley, Taylor Morrison of California to X. Gu for $1,413,000

120 Minaret Ave., Choi & Kim Family Trust to C. & A. Liu for $1,930,000

114 Mercy St., Mckaig Living Trust to Moffatt-Christoph 2020 Trust for $2,100,000

221 Hope St., Easthope LLC to M. Black for $2,100,000

540 Shockley Alley, Taylor Morrison of California to E. Rahimy for $2,430,000

202 Thompson Ave., L. Su to Liddick Living Trust for $3,628,500

1600 Don Court, Kappa Homes LLC to K. & W. Bae for $3,850,000

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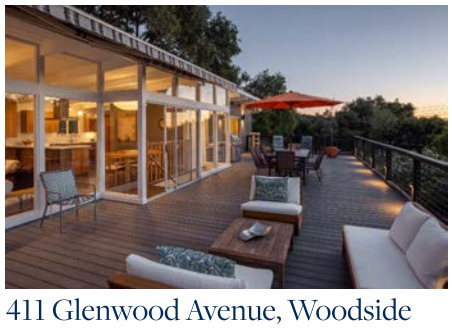
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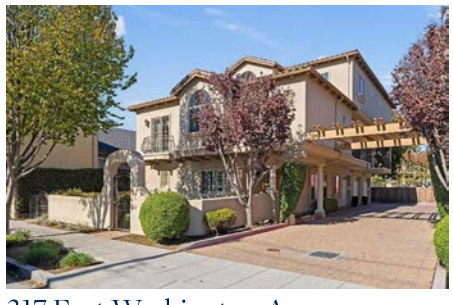
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Datebook

Datebook items are run on a space-available basis for entertainment, events, classes and groups run by nonprofits in our circulation area (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

She serves/ she served: Silicon Valley and beyond. Nov. 11, 12:00 pm. Delmas Ave. and Santa Clara St., San Jose. The Santa Clara County Women's Veterans Coalition, in association with She serves/she served, is inviting currently serving military women and women veterans of every generation to walk together in the San Jose Veterans Day Parade. As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, let's show Silicon Valley the women whose service and leadership continue strengthening our communities.

Wags and Wishes: An elegant evening to support pets with chronic illness and the families who love them. Nov. 14, 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The Women's Club of Palo Alto, 475 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Diesel's FootPrint will host its inaugural Wags & Wishes benefit at The Woman's Club of Palo Alto. The evening will bring together members of the veterinary, business, philanthropic, and animal welfare communities to help make chronic care possible for more pets and their families. Guests will enjoy a seated dinner paired with local wines, a thoughtfully curated silent auction, and conversations with leading veterinary and animal behavior professionals. Tickets are $250, for more information visit https://dieselsfootprint.org/get-involved/wags-wishes/

The Davin-Levin Duo – Community School of Music and Art Fall Concert series. Nov. 15 at 3:30 p.m. Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Emily Levin, Principal Harp of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and Colin Davin, Director of Guitar Studio at Shenandoah Conservatory, present a unique instrument combination in a memorable and dynamic chamber music experience. Reserve tickets at arts4all.org/events.

CSMA Merit Scholars Winter Concert – Community School of Music and Art Fall Concert series. Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. CSMA Merit Scholar student ensembles and soloists perform favorite selections in the popular annual event. Join us to experience the joy of music from these outstanding rising stars. Reserve tickets atarts4all.org/events.

Coffee Together. First Tuesday of every month, 1:30 p.m. Red Berry Coffee, 145 Main St. Group for windowed and divorced folks over the age of 60. Combat the loneliness epidemic by taking a small step in connection. Meet others navigating life after 60 without a partner. For more information, check outhttps://www.instagram.com/coffeetogetherlosaltos/

The Community Women's Chorus. Mondays starting Sept. 14, noon to 2:15 p.m. Mountain View Community Center, Cedar Room, 201 S. Rengstoff Ave. The Community Women's Chorus is looking for new singers! We are a non-audition chorus, sponsored by the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation's Local Impact Collective. Tuition for the fall quarter is $210. New singers should arrive 15 minutes early. Come try us out to see if we are a good fit for you. For more information, visit https://www.communitywomenschorus.org/

Los Altos Main Library. *All events held in the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road*

ESL Classes. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 1 - Nov. 5, 11:00 a.m. Join us to learn and improve your English listening and speaking skills with a professional ESL instructor. This class session is for beginner and intermediate ESL students (must have basic conversational skills). Please register at https://sccl.bibliocommons.com/events/692f74b6d8681b2900420795

Monday Meditation & Mindfulness. Mondays, 10:30 a.m. at Los Altos Library, 7:00 p.m. at Woodland Branch Library. Practice meditation for 20 minutes and ask questions for 10 minutes.

Poetry Open Mic. The first Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Hear and share poetry. You do not have to be a poet to attend. Presented by Poetry Los Altos.

Classical Guitar Open Mic. Second Tuesday of the Month, 6:30 p.m. Sign up to perform up to 10 minutes of freestyle guitar and watch performers during this open mic section.

Bay Area Games Day. The third Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Join a full day of convention-style open gaming at the library. Learn how to play a new board game or bring an old favorite.

City of Mountain View

Concerts in the Plaza. See live music every Friday night from 6-7:30 p.m. at Civic Center Plaza, 500 Castro St., Mountain View.

Clubs and groups

100 Women Charitable Foundation. All-volunteer philanthropic organization founded in Los Altos in 2006. Members pool their annual contributions to collectively fund nonprofits serving underserved communities in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties – more than $2.7 million granted to date. New members and volunteers are welcome. Join a community of local philanthropists making a difference close to home.

Kiwanis Club of Los Altos. Meets noon every Tuesday. Manzanita Room, Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave. Information: decaisun@losaltoskiwanis.org.

Los Altos Art Club. Meets 7 p.m., second Monday of each month. Apricot Room, Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave. Information: losaltosartclub.com.

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

Lindbergh Lodge. Promotes the learning and sharing of Swedish culture and heritage. Members are of all ages including Swedish natives, first and second generations and many who are descendants of immigrants. Meets 6:30 p.m. the second Friday of the month. American Legion Hall, 347 First St., Los Altos. Information: (650) 948-7030.

Public Notices

Fictitious Business Name Statements

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
The following person(s) / registrant(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s).
The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business name statement that was filed at the County Clerk's office.
LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER, 138 Main St, Los Altos, CA 94022
Filed in Santa Clara County on: 11/18/2024
Under File No. FBN711237
Full Name of Registrant(s): LATC MEDIA, INC., 138 Main St, Los Altos, CA 94022
This business was conducted by: a corporation
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Santa Clara County on October 09, 2026.
Louis Chiaramonte
County Clerk-Recorder
Santa Clara County
File No. FBN731179
(10/21, 10/28, 11/04, 11/11/26)
263-T

LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN731180
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER, 138 Main St, 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): SOTLASOL LLC, 138 Main St, Los Altos, CA 94022.
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/08/2026.
/S/ Dan Pulcrano /
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 10/09/2026.
(10/21, 10/28, 11/04, 11/11/26)
262-T

Life Celebrations

CHARLES DAVID TROGLIO



October 30, 1942 – June 30, 2026

Charles David Troglio and his twin sister, Gloria Troglio Walker were born in San Francisco on October 30, 1942. The family moved to Menlo Park in 1947 and were part of the Italian American community. Their father worked in construction and Charlie learned trade skills and the value of an honest day's labor early on, working full time during his summer breaks from the age of 13.

In 1964, he graduated from the University of Santa Clara with a BS in Business Management, but with the Vietnam War at peak, he enlisted in the Army National Guard, becoming Platoon Sargent over the 6 years he served. In 1965 he tested to work for the California Department of Transportation where his career spanned 35 year and his colleagues deemed him "Negotiator Emeritus."

Though he loved to travel the world with his wife, Doni, his home base remained the South Bay throughout his life, including 48 years in his Los Altos home until his passing June 30, 2026. His yard was his passion, with blooming plants always refreshed because, "I love the color." His garage was a work space where he restored multiple vehicles, including the 1961 Ford Truck his father drove for work.

With the early death of his father, Charlie became the head of his family at 24 years old and fully understood that responsibility, assuring that his mother with Alzheimer's and his wife with ALS received the best care and attention. Gloria passed unexpectedly on December 27, 2023 and Charlie was forever changed after enduring each successive family loss.

He was devoted to his Silky Terrier, Bella, loved red wine in the company of friends, and didn't tolerate fools. Please visit and add to his online memorial page at Charles-David-Troglio.Forever-Missed.com

ELIZABETH THOMPSON REAL ESTATE

My clients say it best.

I wholeheartedly recommend Elizabeth Thompson. After living in my Los Altos home for 40 years, selling was emotional and overwhelming. Elizabeth strategically updated my entire home to maximize my sales price, managing every detail from dumpsters to doorknobs. She even covered the upfront costs of improvements, making the entire process easier and stress-free. I was amazed by the transformation and the beautiful, updated home she created. Her organization, attention to detail, and willingness to go above and beyond were exceptional. Elizabeth became more than my realtor; she became a trusted partner and friend. I cannot recommend her highly enough!

VINITA, SELLER





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THEAGENCY