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Los Altos Town Crier

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

Vol. 78 No. 46 • 50 cents

losaltosonline.com

WEDNESDAY • November 12, 2025

The Town Crier Holiday Fund: Giving back to those that give their all

By Christina Casillas
Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

From resources that keep those in need afloat to those that encourage the creativity and wellbeing of children going through difficult times, The Los Altos Town Crier Holiday Fund – now in its 26th year – helps local organizations that directly serve those with the most pressing needs in the community.



Since its inception, the Holiday Fund has raised more than \$3 million. This year, the fund aims to raise \$260,000 to donate to 13 nonprofit organizations.

The organizations that the donations will be dispersed to include Child Advocates of Silicon Valley; Community Services Agency's Food & Nutrition Center; the Community School of Music and Arts' Artistic Intelligence program; the Day Worker Center of Mountain View; Help One Child; Hope's Corner; Hidden Villa Summer Camps; the MERIT program at the Krause Center for Innovation; Los Altos Youth Theatre; Music for Minors; Mentor Tutor Connection; MVLA Scholars; and the Veterans Resource Center at Foothill College.

Holiday Fund contributions are tax

See HOLIDAY FUND, Page 7

Fligor and Kumar likely to face off in runoffs, voters seem to move forward with Measure A

By Christina Casillas and Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writers/editorial@latc.com

A runoff election for the Santa Clara County Assessor's seat is looking probable, based on county polls, and Measure A is poised to pass.

The Santa Clara County Assessor's seat opened after Larry Stone, former assessor, announced his June 23 retirement after a 30-year career. The seat, voted in by county residents, required a Nov. 4 special election to fill Stone's seat for the one-year remainder of his four-year term.

Another election for a new four-year term will be scheduled the following November. Four candidates have emerged to succeed Stone: Los Altos Vice Mayor Neysa Fligor; Saratoga City Councilmember Yan Zhao; former Saratoga Councilmember Rishi Kumar; and Bryan Do, current president of the Eastside Union High School District.

As of 9:45 a.m. Monday, Fligor and Kumar are leading the polls, with 174,691 (37.73%) and 111,341(24.04%) votes, respectively. Zhao is third with 98,278 (21.22%) votes and Do follows with 78,227 (16.89%), 100% of precincts reporting.

In the event no candidate earns more than 50% of the vote, the top two contenders will square off in a runoff election, set for Dec. 30. Currently, those two candidates are Fligor and Kumar.

Fligor thanked voters for the opportunity to head to the runoff election in December.

"I look forward to continue sharing my vision for the assessor's office," she



SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Local voters took to the polls in Los Altos Hills last Tuesday for the Nov. 4 special election.

stated in a message to the Town Crier. "It is clear from the results that voters want someone who will be ready on day one to lead the assessor's office – protecting local revenue for vital services like health care, education, and public safety, improving processes, saving taxpayers money and producing an accurate, fair and transparent assessment roll."

Kumar said he's also excited to face off against Fligor.

"We're thrilled to have made the Dec. 30 runoff while spending a fraction of what my opponent did," Kumar stated in an email to the Town Crier. He also posted the same message on his website. "I stand by my pledge to deliver property tax exemption for those aged 60 and over with a statewide ballot initiative that's al-

ready forging ahead. I will get it done and we are going to win this seat."

Measure A

Measure A calls for a sales tax of five-eighths of a cent for five years, or 0.625%, generating \$330 million per year in annual revenue and needs a simple majority to pass. The measure, put on the ballot by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, was a response to funding cuts signed into law in July by President Donald Trump, including more than \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid nationally. Santa Clara County receives more than \$2.3 billion in funding from the federal Medicaid program, representing the largest single source of federal

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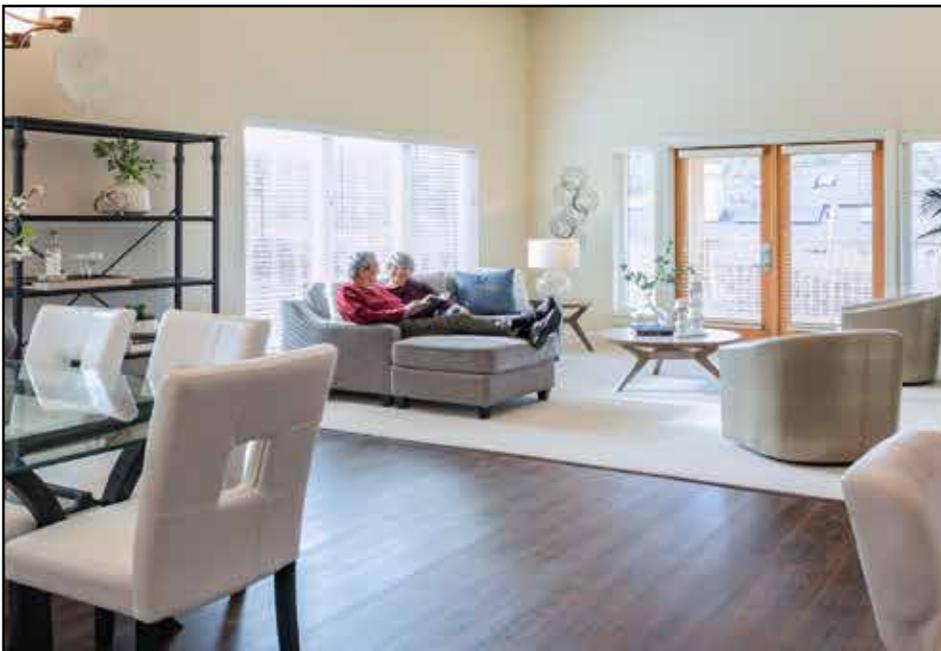
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Around Town

Football season quietly closes



COURTESY OF MITCHELL ENG

The Mountain View football team beat Los Altos 35-7 Friday night in its annual rivalry game. Mountain View running back Sam Ford, left, runs with the ball during the game, while Braden Greene, right, comes up with a pass breakup.



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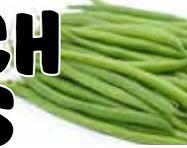
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News

Police Blotter

Auto burglary

Nov. 5, 7:17 p.m.: 2000 block of Homestead Road, Los Altos

Nov. 5, 9:06 p.m.: Intersection of Third Street and Plaza North, Los Altos

Battery of spouse or cohabitant

Nov. 7, 9:54 a.m.: 900 block of West Dana Street, Mountain View

Nov. 9, 1:22 p.m.: 1000 block of Castro Street, Mountain View

Commercial burglary

Nov. 7, 5:49 a.m.: 300 block of Polaris Avenue, Mountain View

Drunk driver

Nov. 7, 12:47 a.m.: Intersection of Bush Street and West Evelyn Avenue, Mountain View

Nov. 9, 2:12 a.m.: Intersection of Grant Road and West El Camino Real, Mountain View

Elder abuse

Nov. 7, 11:46 a.m.: 500 block of Mountain View Avenue, Mountain View

Residential burglary

Nov. 8, 9:40 a.m.: 2200 block of California Street, Mountain View

Stolen vehicle

Nov. 9, 9:36 a.m.: Intersection of Wright and Gemini avenues, Mountain View

Nov. 9, 10:23 a.m.: 500 block of Lambert Wat, Mountain View

Theft

Nov. 7, 3:32 p.m.: 0-100 block of East Middlefield Road, Mountain View

Nov. 8, 2:16 p.m.: 1600 block of North Shoreline Boulevard, Mountain View

Nov. 8, 9:09 p.m.: 600 block of San Antonio Road, Mountain View

Nov. 9, 6:48 p.m.: 2600 block of West El Camino Real, Mountain View

— Christina Casillas

Local organizations prepare for SNAP delay repercussions

By Christina Casillas

Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

While California families are seeing a return of their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, some local organizations are still seeing an increase in demand for food assistance – and those that haven't are gearing up for it.

SNAP provides food benefits to low-income families struggling to put healthy and nutritious foods on the table, according to the USDA. In 2024, approximately 13.5% of families in the state received SNAP benefits – known as CalFresh in California – and there are currently 133,000 recipients in Santa Clara County.

The largest nutrition aid system in the country, SNAP provided funds to approximately 4.7 million participants on average monthly in fiscal year 2024, which cost the feds approximately \$99.8 billion.

As of Nov. 6, lawsuits filed by California and multiple organizations resulted in the order of the Trump administration to issue full CalFresh payments to the state's 5.5 million SNAP recipients, according to a press release on California Governor Gavin Newsom's website. But since the federal government shut down Oct. 1, distribution of funds to the 133,000 people in Santa Clara County benefiting from CalFresh has been confusing, and in many cases, delayed.

While it's too early to provide hard data,



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

Volunteers help move food to be given at the CSA food and nutrition center.

Tom Myers, CEO of Community Services Agency (CSA), said the organization has seen an increase in people in need of food and the resources the food and nutrition center offers.

"The lines have increased going into our food center substantially, I can just look and see that the line is bigger than it was prior to Nov. 1," he said. "So that's one thing. The second thing is, anecdot-

ally, I've been told that on a regular day we generally have somewhere between one or two new people signing up for food. Right now, we're looking at more like seven to 10 people signing up for food every day (in the first week of November)."

The food and nutrition center addresses food insecurity by distributing more

See IMPACT, Page 6

Mountain View approves public safety building Environmental Impact Report

By Giuseppe Ricapito

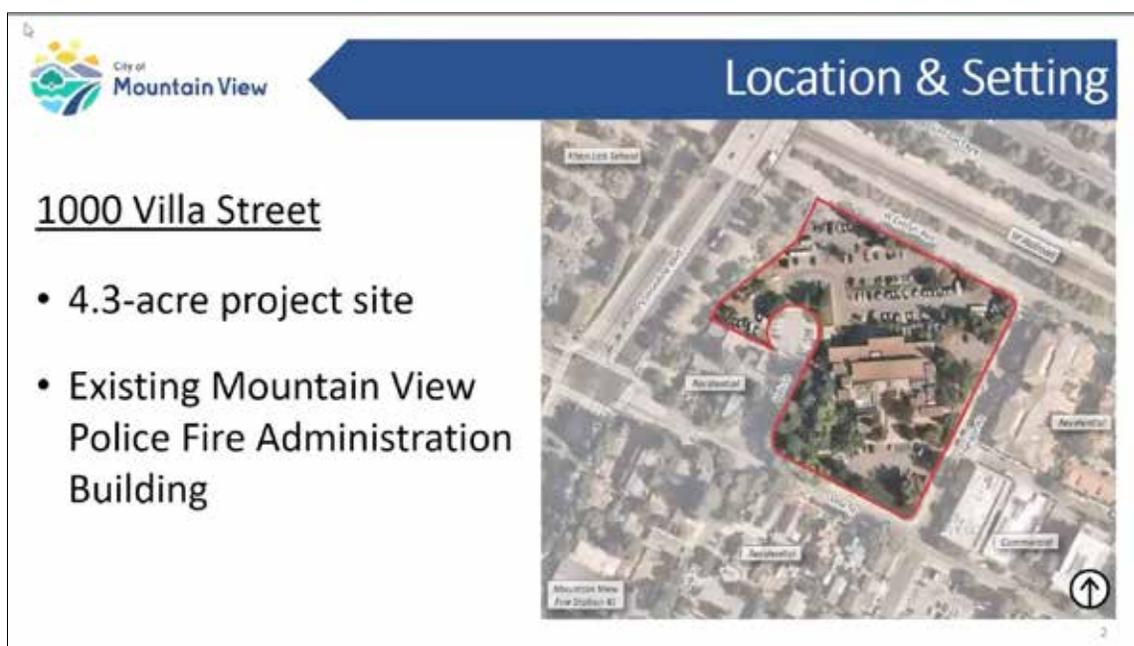
Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.org

The Mountain View City Council is moving forward with the development of a public safety building.

The council unanimously certified an Environmental Impact Report for a new police and fire headquarters at a meeting on Tuesday. The project, which would be located at 1000 Villa St., carries an estimated budget of about \$189 million.

"This is something the city has been talking about for over 20 years. Because we have people who are here to provide public safety who are in an unsafe building themselves, it is not seismic retrofitted," Mayor Ellen Kamei said.

The existing police and fire administration building opened in 1980. It houses public safety operations including police, dispatch, fire



SCREENSHOT FROM MOUNTAIN VIEW CITY COUNCIL MEETING PRESENTATION

The Mountain View public safety building will be located at 1000 Villa St., where the existing Mountain View Police Fire Administration building is located.

operations and the emergency operations center. The building was designed prior to modern seismic safety standards and is considered outdated.

The cost of the building

has been the largest sticking point in the development of the plan. The building includes an arts budget, a shooting range and other amenities which have driven up the cost. The building budget bal-

looned to more than \$200 million with various estimates, but with various cuts the council has settled on a cost of approximately \$189 million.

See BUILDING, Page 5

News

ELECTION

From Page 1

funding to the county each year, which threatens Santa Clara Valley Healthcare, according to a county press release. The cuts would threaten both public and private healthcare, potentially resulting in a \$1 billion loss in revenue to Santa Clara County's \$4.6 billion public hospital system.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga said that Santa Clara County is taking a \$1 billion hit in federal funding largely through Medicaid, with Measure A helping to staunch around one-third of the loss and preventing the most severe reductions to county services like healthcare, food assistance, housing and other safety-net programs.

"Nobody likes to pay more in taxes, so I am deeply grateful to the voters who likely chose to do so because they knew, like me, that we can't afford to lose our hospitals, particularly our trauma care hospitals that serve everyone in the county," Abe-Koga stated in an email.

As of 9:45 a.m. Monday, Measure A is passing with 303,391 (57.08%) votes in support and 228,122 (42.92%) against the measure, 100% of precincts reporting.

Kumar, also the chair of the No on Measure A campaign, had argued before the election that Measure A would hurt poor people and increase living expenses, calling it a regressive tax that hurts



SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Local voters drop off their ballots in Los Altos Hills during last week's election.

struggling families.

"The people have spoken, and I hope the county will spend the money judiciously," Kumar stated in an email after the election.

The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters began counting votes at 8 p.m. Nov. 4, and mail-in ballots that were postmarked the date of the election have until Nov. 12 to be received and counted by the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters.

As of 9:45 a.m. Monday, more than half of registered Santa Clara County voters have voted - 546,685 ballots (51.16%) were cast.



BUILDING

From Page 4

The building size is approximately 75,000 square feet to accommodate for a planned increase in staffing. Current staffing is at about 165 employees, with the new building able to accommodate up to 248 employees.

Staff expects to return to the council in December with a comprehensive budget plan. On Nov. 5, 2024, voters passed revenue Measure G, a property tax conveyance measure, to assist in the funding of the project.

"These are serious decisions," Councilmember Pat Showalter said. "I want to thank everybody for the work that's behind it."

The development of the

building also plans for the demolition of the existing structure.

Goodwin Steinberg, a noted master architect, designed the original building. Built in a Spanish colonial style, it is considered a historic structure and an example of his large-scale civic work.

The city plans for a range of mitigation measures, including photographs, documents and drawings to preserve evidence of the historic structure.

Officials plan that in 2026 the council will consider final approval of the funding plan and authorization of the sale of bonds to finance construction.

Online Poll of the Week



According to Gallup Polls, 39% of people surveyed in the U.S. believe in ghosts. Do you believe in ghosts?

- Yes, ghosts are real - 25%
- No, ghosts are not real - 52.3%
- I can't say if they're real or not real - 22.7%

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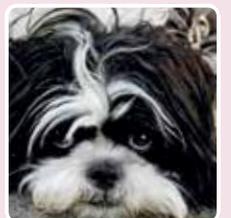
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MV to update below market rate housing ordinance

By Giuseppe Ricapito

Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

Mountain View is seeking to make new amendments to the city's below market rate housing program in order to include the increase of affordable units.

The city council unanimously voted during a meeting Nov. 4 to direct staff to return with changes next year which include modifications to fee formulas for developers and streamlining of approvals.

"I know it's been a long effort," said Mayor Ellen Kamei.

The city's below market rate housing program was adopted in 1999. It is intended to address the high cost of housing by mandating mixed-income residential developments that integrate market-rate and affordable units.

Since December 2023, 30 new BMR rental units have been constructed. There are 216 BMR units in the city at this time.

The new changes are intended to incorporate updates to the city ordinance on

See ORDINANCE, Page 7

IMPACT

From Page 4

than a ton of food every weekday to low-income families and individuals who would most benefit from spending their money on other necessities.

Last year, 3,312 people received nutritious groceries from the agency's food and nutrition center, according to its fiscal year 2024-2025 report.

While a major part of CSA's mission is food assistance through its food and nutrition center, the agency provides myriad resources to those in and around the communities of Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, including emergency financial assistance, homeless services, senior case management and lunch and nutrition programs. The agency's senior lunch program, which provides warm meals to people aged 60 and older at the Mountain View Senior Center, has also had an increase in people in need, Myers noted.

"I've been told we are seeing more clients over there too," he said.

Hope's Corner – a nonprofit organization providing warm meals out of Trinity United Methodist Church in Mountain View – hasn't seen an

increase yet, Hope's Corner board member Leslie Carmichael said, but they're preparing for one.

"We are anticipating that we probably will see some increase in our numbers as the month goes by," she said. "That's pretty typical, even when the money is flowing, that people by the end of the month are a little shorter on their funds. ... We're ready and able to make adjustments if our numbers go up."

The freezing of federal funds to some organizations began in January, an attempt from the Trump administration to ensure those benefiting fit his priorities, including ending "wokeness" and "financial assistance for foreign aid, nongovernmental organizations, DEI, woke gender ideology, and the green new deal," per a Jan. 27 memo from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

While Hope's Corner doesn't receive many direct federal funds, Carmichael said Second Harvest, one of the organization's biggest food donors, does. CSA used to receive federal funding through United Way Bay Area, the local branch of a worldwide nonprofit that helps communities across the country with food and nutrition access, but the \$40,000 funds it would have re-

ceived was frozen by the federal government.

Currently, CSA has allocated \$30,000 for non-perishable items, like rice, pasta and beans, but organization leaders expect additional funds will be needed in the near future. Though funds are tight, the agency expects to allocate emergency funds as needed.

For both CSA and Hope's Corner, there's a need for donations – both monetary and otherwise. Myers and Carmichael said non-perishable donations, like beans and rice, can go a long way – but monetary donations are preferred as they can be used where and when needed.

"Money is better simply because we can stretch the dollars further than they can. We have the ability to buy in bulk and to buy wholesale," Myers said. "Because of that we can, we can make monetary donations go further. That said, if people would like to donate food, we absolutely need that too, no question."

Carmichael also encouraged people who would like to help to contemplate volunteering directly with Hope's Corner.

To donate to CSA, visit csacares.org/donate/. To donate to Hope's Corner, visit hopes-corner.org/give/.

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HOLIDAY FUND

From Page 1

deductible and processed through a donor-advised fund at DAFFY. The Town Crier will present checks to the 13 organizations in early 2026.

The Town Crier will profile each organization in a series of articles published throughout the holiday season. We profile two of our recipients, the Community Services Agency and MVLA Scholars, beginning with this issue. Turn to page 9 to learn more about the organizations.

To donate online, visit daffy.org/campaigns/los-altos-town-crier-holiday-fundraiser.

To donate by check, make checks payable to "Daffy Charitable Fund" and mail to 221 Main Street, PO BOX 2061, Los Altos, California, 94022.

Downtown Los Altos gas leak last week being investigated by local entities

By Christina Casillas
Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

The city of Los Altos and other organizations are investigating a gas leak last week caused by construction in downtown Los Altos that caused an evacuation order.

The leak was the result of West Valley Construction, a California Water Service (Cal Water) contractor, performing work in the area of Parking Plaza North near First Street.

"The leak was an unfortunate accident that occurred as our contractor was performing work to connect a fire service to a recent water main upgrade in the downtown area," Chris Wilson, Cal Water operations manager, stated in an email.

Since the summer, Cal Water and PG&E have been working on infrastructure upgrades downtown aimed at improving long-term service reliability and upgrading water mains near the downtown parking

plazas.

Currently, PG&E and West Valley Construction are looking into the cause of the leak, Wilson said. If PG&E determines the contractor did not follow safe digging procedures, the construction company would be liable for the repair costs, PG&E communications representative Stephanie Magallon stated in an email to the Town Crier.

The city of Los Altos is also conducting an investigation into the leak, according to City Manager Gabriel Engeland.

"The city is also investigating the leak and trying to determine if proper protocol was followed by the contractor for Cal Water," he said. "If it is determined there was negligence that led to the gas leak the city could file a claim against the responsible party for damages and the cost of the public safety response. At this stage, it is too early to determine if any party was negligent in their actions or if the city would proceed with a claim."

Erica Ray, Santa Clara County Fire information specialist, said the county is not looking into the leak; their focus was on safety. She said such incidents are dangerous and digging must be approached with caution.

"These types of incidents are dangerous and impactful to surrounding homes and businesses, and in most cases, they're preventable," she stated in an email. "Always call 811 before digging to ensure PG&E has an opportunity to check for and mark any underground gas lines. This includes when digging on your own property, such as when planting new trees or erecting new fences."

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

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

ORDINANCE

From Page 6

below market rate housing from a December 2023 study session on the topic. The amendments include new requirements for physical accessibility units, new rules for alternative means of compliance and other amendments.

The physical accessibility amendments would require that 15% of the total BMR units in a project or one BMR unit, whichever is greater, be part of the designated units if a project is designated "accessible or adaptable."

"This streamlined approach would ensure that at least one accessible or adaptable BMR unit is available in a project, would not increase development costs, and would be administratively easier to incorporate into the city's review process," according to the staff report.

The plans also include the institution of a cost-recovery fee if a development applicant proposes an alternative compliance instead of building on-site BMR units. The master fee schedule would be updated with a fee of \$32,000 and will be escalated annually according to the consumer price index.

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Comment

Letters to the Editor

Say no to CO2 sequestration

Last Monday's (Nov. 3) evacuation of downtown Los Altos brings to mind a related concern about sequestration of carbon dioxide.

To reduce the effect of burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas, there are sometimes proposals to collect the carbon dioxide and permanently keep it out of the atmosphere. These proposals usually plan to pump the carbon dioxide gas into depleted oil and gas fields. In my opinion, such a suggestion is quite dangerous.

(Last week's) leak was of natural gas, which is lighter than air. It rises, and emergency responders can still work in the area. In contrast, when there is a leak of carbon dioxide, it is heavier than air and stays at or near the ground. Carbon dioxide does not support life, so emergency workers could not breathe air, nor use equipment that needs air,

such as trucks, fire engines, bulldozers, etc.

On Aug. 21, 1986, Lake Nyos, in Cameroon, Africa had an event when carbon dioxide escaped from the lake. The eruption killed 1,746 people and 3,500 livestock within 16 miles of the lake.

A carbon sequestration project would need to contain much more carbon dioxide than was released in the 1986 disaster.

To reduce the climate change caused by carbon dioxide, the gas would have to be contained for as long as we hope to have air-breathing life on the planet. It would need to be guarded and protected long after anyone remembers where it's buried, or why.

Keep this danger in mind if anyone suggests trying to sequester carbon dioxide underground.

Mark G. Leonard
Los Altos

Letters to the Editor

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



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The Los Altos Town Crier, ISSN 87504585, is published weekly every Wednesday by LATC Media Inc., 138 Main St., Los Altos 94022. Periodicals Postage Paid at Palo Alto, CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Los Altos Town Crier, 138 Main St., Los Altos, CA 94022. The Los Altos Town Crier is an adjudicated newspaper of general circulation for Santa Clara County; Decree No. 328150. Yearly subscription rates in advance: within county, \$70; seniors, \$60; out of county, \$80.

Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

Los Altos Police Department officers stand next to their squad cars parked in front of San Antonio School in 1954. The school building was located on the corner of San Antonio Road and Hillview Avenue until it was demolished in the 1970s.

Resilient Los Altos prepares communities

By Patricia Evans

In the face of earthquakes, wildfires, power outages and other emergencies, the difference between chaos and recovery depends on who steps up and how quickly. That's the work of Resilient Los Altos (RLA), a volunteer-powered initiative dedicated to helping residents in Los Altos prepare for, respond to, and recover from such events.

RLA is a sponsored project of the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation (LAMVCF) Local Impact Collective. That allows RLA volunteers to focus on their mission, while the Foundation takes care of the infrastructure and nonprofit status. This gives RLA volunteers the freedom to stay focused on neighbors, training, drills, outreach and cohesion and thereby build community resilience.

RLA's mission states that it is "dedicated to strengthening neighborhoods ... by providing residents with the knowledge, training and resources needed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies such as power outages, storms, fires and earthquakes."

RLA is composed of three groups of volunteers meeting this mission: BATs (Block Ac-

Other Voices

tion Team) members, Community Emergency Response Team members (CERTs), and amateur radio operators (aka Hams). Together, they have a broad and vital role: they build community before disaster strikes and help neighbors respond together if it does.

Here's how they work in practice:

BATs organize neighborhood gatherings, block parties or social check-ins that build relationships and trust – because neighbors who know and trust each other will help each other in an emergency.

BATs team up with CERTs and Hams in their neighborhoods to conduct preparedness drills, train neighbors how to assemble a "go-kit," plan for earthquakes or power outages, and check in on each other.

In an emergency, BATs, CERTs, and Hams are crucial "feet on the street." They assess injuries, hazards and structural damage, and relay this crucial information from neighborhoods to the city. BATs also update the neighborhood with official alerts, connect neighbors who can help or who need help with each other and solve

problems with credible guidance (e.g. how to purify water). CERTs provide medical first aid and Hams relay emergency messages when cell phones are out.

Partnership matters

At the same time, being a Foundation-backed project gives RLA credibility, access to networks and the wherewithal to marshal volunteers effectively. It's a partnership that strengthens both sides, and by extension, strengthens the entire community.

If you want to become part of something meaningful, not just in a crisis but in everyday neighborhood life, consider joining or forming a Block Action Team or becoming a CERT or Ham. Your participation matters. LAMVCF staff and RLA volunteers will work with you to help build neighborhoods that are not only connected, but resilient, safe, and ready for whatever comes next.

Contact info@resilient-losaltos.org for information on CERT or Ham training or newsletter@resilientlosaltos.org for information on BAT training. For more information, visit resilientlosaltos.org.

Patricia Evans is a member of Resilient Los Altos.

2025 Town Crier Holiday Fund

MVLA Scholars: College scholarships and mentoring for low-income students

Mission: The mission of MVLA Scholars is to help local, low-income, first-generation students achieve their dreams of earning college degrees and attaining professional positions. MVLA Scholars does this with an approach that starts in the high school classroom and goes through college graduation and beyond:

- High school mentoring: MVLA Scholars guides approximately 150 local high school juniors and seniors through the college, financial aid and scholarship application processes as well as the college selection process.
- Multi-year college scholarships: Every year MVLA Scholars awards approximately 150 scholarships in the amounts of \$2000 - \$8000. Scholars receive scholarship funds every year that they are in college.
- One-on-one college mentoring: MVLA Scholars helps college scholars with academic concerns, setting budgets, managing their time and provides general support and encouragement.
- Career support services: MVLA Scholars assists college scholars with resumes and helps them find internships and full-time professional posi-



COURTESY OF MVLA SCHOLARS

MVLA Scholars offers college scholarships and mentoring for local, low-income, first-generation students to achieve the dream of earning college degrees.

tions. MVLA Scholars awards additional scholarship funds to enable students to take unpaid or low-paying internships in their field of study.

This multi-dimensional approach has proven its success with a graduation rate of more than 90%, compared to nation-

al averages of 60% for the same demographic.

2025 Update: Each March MVLA Scholars employs a rigorous selection process to identify a new class of college scholars. Important criteria are financial need (the average family income is below

\$55,000) and first-generation to college. In addition, MVLA Scholars considers academic achievement, the ability to overcome obstacles and a strong desire to work for success. In total, MVLA Scholars is supporting 145 scholars this year.

MVLA Scholars

Location: 183 Hillview Ave., Los Altos
Founded: 2000
Annual budget: \$700,000
Staff: All volunteers of approximately 150+
Information: mvlascolars.org

MVLA Scholars has now funded more than 200 unpaid internships. Below are just a few examples from this summer:

- Kristin was a law clerk for a Public Defender
- Steven was lab technician for Stanford STaRS Program
- Ashley did policy planning for Indian Health Center of Santa Clara
- Ashley did marketing for Arts Los Altos

Why the Holiday Fund is Needed:

A college education is crucial to help the low-income students in our community attain their goals of rising out of poverty. The cost of college has continued to rise. The need is greater than ever before – for both college scholarships and summer internships.

Since MVLA is 100% volunteer, funds go directly to college scholarships.

Community Services Agency: Serving the community through hard times

Mission: Community Services Agency (CSA) is the community's safety net, providing critical support services that preserve and promote stability, self-reliance and dignity.

CSA provides basic services to those living in poverty in the local community: nutritious groceries, rental assistance to prevent families from losing their housing, homeless case management to move people into shelter or housing, senior services to help seniors stay safely in their own homes and outreach to connect people with assistance and other resources. Services are provided in multiple languages and in multiple locations.

"Many of the people we serve are experiencing more than just financial hardship

– they're living in a constant state of fear and uncertainty," said Amy Kaiser, CSA associate director. "Support from our community not only helps meet basic needs, but sends a message that we care about those in need."

CSA's Homeless Prevention Program provides case management, transportation passes, nutritious groceries, fee waivers for children's activities and emergency financial aid for those at risk of homelessness.

2025 update: In early spring, CSA moved into its newly remodeled building, allowing staff to be reunited under one roof and promoting deeper collaboration and more effective service delivery for local individuals and families in need. CSA has also been faced with unprecedented



COURTESY OF CSA

Community Services Agency (CSA) provides critical support services like groceries, rental assistance and homeless case management for people in the community.

federal funding freezes and cuts, especially impacting the Food & Nutrition Program. Most recently, it has

allocated emergency funds to the food pantry to remain fully stocked in anticipation of increased demand.

CSA

Location: 204 Stierlin Road, Mountain View
Founded: 1957
Annual Budget: \$5.5 million
Staff: 33 full-and part-time staff, more than 500 volunteers
Information: csacares.org

Why the Holiday Fund is needed:

With significant cuts to federal funding, the community's need for services has grown, while financial support has been cut. The Holiday Fund helps CSA continue to provide basic safety net services to all in need in the community.

Community

Stanford historian talks World War II to present day

By Nancy Ginsburg Gill

Pulitzer Prize winner David Kennedy described to the Los Altos Morning Forum Oct. 21 the decisions that led to America's domination at the end of World War II and allowed it to, according to Winston Churchill, "stand at the summit of the world."

Kennedy is a Donald J. McLachlan Professor of History Emeritus at Stanford University. His work integrates economic and cultural analysis with social and political history, and he has received many awards for his teaching and scholarship. He has served as chair of

the Stanford history department and director of Stanford's program in international relations.

He began his talk by describing the blessing of growing up in the 1940s and '50s, a period which Philip Roth described in his novel "American Pastoral" as "the greatest moment of collective inebriation."

A key contributor to America's relative prosperity was how well its civilians fared in the war compared to civilians from other countries. For example, Kennedy said, only six American civilians were casualties of direct enemy action while the Soviet Union incurred

over 16 million civilian deaths.

American consumers also did very well. While other countries' economies declined dramatically during the war years – the British and Soviet economies shrank by a third – America's actually increased by 15%.

Kennedy also described the important ways in which America decided to use this power. "In contrast to the isolationism that took hold in America after World War I that led Congress to refuse to join the League of Nations, 25 years later the government embraced internationalism. After the economic and humanitarian devastation incurred during

World War II, we understood the importance of using our prosperity to bring stability to the world.

Through the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials, the United States established standards of decency and basic human rights, even in times of war. It led in the establishment of the United Nations, The World Bank and the IMF and implemented The Marshall Plan. The support of all of these new institutions allowed countries in Europe and Asia to rebuild their economies, stabilized exchange rates and encouraged beneficial trade agreements.

Furthermore, Kennedy explained, America "midwifed"

the European Union to ensure peace on a continent where war had reigned for centuries.

In response to a question from his audience, Kennedy discussed the negative consequences of ending the draft. Some members of the Gates Commission charged in 1973 with deciding whether to replace universal conscription with a professional military worried that this major change in military policy would diminish civilians' interest in world affairs and encourage adventurism. Some also worried that the make-up of the military

See FORUM, Page 15



City of **LOS ALTOS**

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

November 18, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.
In Person

Note- This is not the Final Agenda

Members of the public are invited to participate in person at the Los Altos Council Chamber at Los Altos City Hall located at 1 N. San Antonio Rd, Los Altos, CA. To attend virtually, please view the final agenda for details.

Public testimony will be taken at the direction of the Mayor, and members of the public may only comment during times allotted for public comments. Public comment will be received in person during the meeting or by written public comment submitted to publiccomment@losaltosca.gov

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Adopt the Proposed 2026 City Council Meeting Schedule
2. Treasurer's Report and Investment Report for the Quarter Ending September 30, 2025
3. Adopt a Resolution to Approve a Successor Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Los Altos and Sanitary Truck Drivers and Helpers Union Local # 350
4. Adopt a Resolution - On-Call Sanitary Sewer Spot Repairs and CCTV Inspection Services FY 2025-2026 Project
5. Adopt a Resolution - Amendment No. 3 with Bear Electrical Solutions, Inc.
6. Adopt a Resolution extending Downtown Performing Arts Center MOU two additional years through November 18, 2027
7. Approve a resolution authorizing application to and receipt of HCD Prohousing Incentive Program Funds, in the amount of \$580,000
8. Acceptance of Residential Electrification Rebate Program
9. Investment Report for the Quarters Ended June 30, 2025, and September 30, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING

10. Vesting Tentative Map for a Multiple-Family Project at 4898 El Camino Real
11. Vesting Tentative Map for a Mixed-Use Project at 996 Loraine Avenue
12. Review and renew Ordinance No. 2023-489 by reintroducing and waiving further reading of the Ordinance approving Los Altos Police Policy 709

DISCUSSION ITEMS

13. Drone as First Responder Program

Agendas, Reports and associated documents for City Council items may be viewed at losaltosca.gov/citycouncil/meetings

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MVHS graduate Kemp launches career as novelist

By Amalia Tormala
Town Crier Editorial Intern

As a child, Los Altos resident Elizabeth Kemp was always interested in mysteries and puzzles. She said she was one of those children who clung onto a set of “Nancy Drew” books, apt at spotting red herrings and constantly attempting to solve the books’ mysteries.

Now, decades later, Kemp does more than just read mysteries – she recently published one of her own. “Tread Lightly,” Kemp’s debut novel, has been out since Oct. 10.

“I always thought it would be really fun to write (a novel),” Kemp said. “And if I was going to write a novel, I wanted it to be a mystery because mystery, suspense, thriller has always been my favorite genre to read. So, I thought, ‘Hey, why not try to write one?’”

Kemp’s love for English literature is broader than solely mysteries; she attended the University of Southern California’s Annenberg School of Communication for her undergraduate degree in journalism, minoring in English to leave a door open for her creative writing passions.

Kemp’s initial inspiration for what would become “Tread

Lightly” came 20 years ago, when an idea for a murder mystery surfaced while on a cruise in Alaska. She kept this idea in the back of her mind, holding onto it for decades. Kemp also clung onto dry cleaning tickets, receipts and grocery lists – anything in her purse was fair game to serve as inspiration for a novel.

During the pandemic, after taking a Stanford Continuing Studies course called “Jumpstart Your Novel,” Kemp began to make use of her allotment of Post-Its and purse items. In April 2021, with self-sufficient children and plenty of time on her hands, Kemp began to write.

One year later, Kemp’s initial draft was complete. To refine her craft and upgrade her writing, Kemp surrounded herself with peers from her Stanford class and other Bay Area writers. She also attended the San Francisco Writers Conference.

“I just tried to kind of immerse myself in opportunities where I could learn more about the writing, the creative writing craft, because I had such a business writing brain that I needed to tap into that other side,” Kemp said.

About a year and a half later, Kemp began working with an editor – Heather Lazare – and polishing the text. According to



Kemp

Lazare, working with Kemp was a fulfilling and successful process.

As the pair worked, Lazare said what was originally a strong manuscript only became stronger, with Kemp’s vision of her novel becoming sharper.

“My favorite writers to work with are the ones who, when you talk to them about their work, they’re able to engage in a discussion with it, and not just go, ‘Oh, I don’t know if that’s going to work,’” Lazare said. “(Kemp) was so good at saying, ‘Oh, I see that. OK, I see how I could make that work.’”

Eventually, in 2024, Kemp started pitching her novel to small publishers that did not require an agent. In December 2024, af-

ter a multi-year process, Kemp received an offer of publication.

“I decided to jump on that offer and I’m super happy that I did,” Kemp said. “Here I am now, 10 months later, and the book is officially in the world, which is just amazing. I still can’t believe it.”

According to Kemp, “Tread Lightly” follows a “stay-at-home mom with a past” who lives in Silicon Valley with her husband. The protagonist and former hostage negotiator, Tierney, moved with the intention to live a calm, domestic life, but Kemp said the plot gets complex and twisty once the dead body of a lifeguard is found in a local pool.

“Everything she has worked so hard to overcome in her life, and the stress of her job, now threatens to overcome her,” Kemp said. “(‘Tread Lightly’) is a little bit of a ‘whodunnit’ meets psychological drama.”

When Kemp began the process of writing her mystery, she said she did so with the intent of creating a well-developed protagonist and other equally-intriguing characters. Kemp’s novel is told from two points of view, juxtaposing two different characters: Tierney and Sutton, a detective.

Given that Kemp grew up in and raised her children in Los Al-

tos, she said the book consciously and subconsciously draws from her personal experiences. However, despite the local tie, Kemp said the affluent community she depicted in her novel could be found throughout the country.

“There are tech centers in Atlanta and Colorado, and so the tech element (of ‘Tread Lightly’) is a little bit more universal than a lot of people would realize,” Kemp said. “But the tech angle that I take in my story, it’s sort of this backdrop of a scandal that did take place in Silicon Valley in 2007. That was my little anchor for telling the story in this area.”

Kemp said her Los Altos background largely contributed to her love of writing. She served as the editor-in-chief of Mountain View High’s yearbook, which was what led her to pursue a major in journalism – she wanted to do something with regard to writing. And at 55 years old, following her successful career in technology and time as a stay-at-home parent, Kemp was able to further this love through Sibylline Press, Kemp’s publisher that only works with women over 50.

“Older people, we have a lot of life experience and we have a lot of fun things to share,” Kemp

See AUTHOR, Page 16

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Community

Wagner's 'Parsifal' nears end

By Duanni Hurd
Special to the Town Crier

San Francisco Opera's new production of Richard Wagner's final opera, "Parsifal," opened Oct. 25. Parsifal tells the story of the Knights of the Holy Grail, whose ruler, Amfortas, suffers from an unhealable wound. According to a prophecy, only a "pure fool" who is enlightened by compassion can heal the wound. The opera follows the spiritual journey of the innocent youth, Parsifal, as he gradually develops from an ignorant wanderer into the compassionate savior the knights need.

Part sacred ritual, part philosophical meditation, this new production, directed by Matthew Ozawa, explores the intersection of Eastern and Western spiritual traditions and elevates the themes of compassion and healing. Recurring visual motifs incorporating a blend of Eastern and Western symbolic themes define this new production of Parsifal's unique vision.

A world of sacred geometry defines the stage design by Robert Innes Hopkins, illuminated by lighting designer Yuki Nakase Link. The sacred drama unfolds

within a triangular vessel of light, a space that feels like a temple of transformation. It starts with a striking triangular stage design with an imposing onyx curtain backdrop featuring a luminous crimson, upward-pointing triangle in clean lines, drawing the audience's eyes sharply upward towards the heavens. Is it the sacred spear that wounded the Grail King Amfortas? Scattered red stains on the curtain are like blood from this wound that symbolizes the theme of his deep and unbearable suffering.

Arts & Culture

Throughout the performance, that triangle becomes a quiet protagonist of its own: at first a vessel of ritual order, later fractured by shadows of desire and finally radiating in calm symmetry as redemption takes form. The triangle's inner lighting acts like a Grail aura; evolving lighting of red, white and gold accompanies the emotional state of the drama and traces an inner pilgrimage undergoing purification. Red initially floods the triangular space in moments of pain, temptation and

suffering. As the opera progresses, red softens to white as transformation into purity and awakening, and eventually to gold, symbolizing illumination and grace.

In the opera, the character development unfolds within the same sacred geometry. For example, Kundry, one of the most significant figures who appears in different forms throughout the opera – as a wild, ragged woman delivering a healing balm to Amfortas in Act I, a beautiful seductress in Act II and a recipient of baptism and redemption in Act III – is often positioned within or near the triangle in transforming lights. Kundry's journey unfolds within the same sacred geometry that defines the Grail knights with the red light reflecting her past transgression and shared humanity with Amfortas as both are wounded and yearning for peace. Once cursed, but eventually becoming the vessel of grace, Kundry is the Grail bearer who completes the circle of redemption. The light softens around her in a golden glow, signaling forgiveness, union and birth of compassion from suffering.

See WAGNER, Page 17



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FORUM

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would no longer be representative of the country's population. As the make-up of the current military demonstrates, at least some of these concerns were well founded. And, according to Kennedy, even George Bush admitted in the middle of the Iraq War that he would have been impeached if we still had the draft.

As a historian, Kennedy explained, he wasn't going to try to predict how the actions of the current administration will affect our standing in the world. However, he admitted that through his description of America's generosity and instrumental role in achieving international stability during the post war years, "I've suggested how I feel about some of the current policies." He also conceded that the 2024 Supreme Court ruling on presidential immunity is "a really worrying decision."

The Morning Forum of Los Altos is a lecture series held at the Los Altos United Methodist Church. A live-stream option is available.

To join or for more information, visit morningforum.org.



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Peninsula Career Collective coming to State Street Market

Town Crier Report

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

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

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

Irish tenor Emmet Cahill returns to Los Altos

By Cathy Kordsmeier
Special to the Town Crier

Internationally acclaimed Irish tenor Emmet Cahill will bring his new solo show, "A Broadway Christmas," to St. William Church in Los Altos Nov. 29. The show will be a mix of Christmas, Broadway, Irish and religious music. He has performed as a lead singer with Celtic Thunder for 15 years and just finished a 40-city tour with the band's new show. Its new album has received more than 20 million views on Instagram.

Cahill is from Mullingar, Ireland, and embodies a passion for vocal performance. He draws from over a decade of solo touring experience and a personal quest for musical excellence. He said he likes to perform songs and hymns that have a story of humanity in them.

"People want to feel connected to what I am doing with my songs and stories," he said. "I talk about my life in Ireland and life on tour. I want to see people going away feeling like they really know me. I am excited to be



Cahill

returning to Los Altos for the fourth year in a row. I have had such a warm welcome here."

The pre-show, a performance by the Irish dancers from the Greene Academy of Irish Step Dance, starts at noon. The main show starts at 1 p.m. St. William Church is located at 611 South El Monte Ave. in Los Altos. Tickets are \$45 general admission and include a champagne reception afterward in the parish hall and the opportunity to meet Cahill. For tickets and more information visit EmmetCahill.com. Tickets are also available at St. Nicholas Church at 473 Lincoln Ave., Los Altos.

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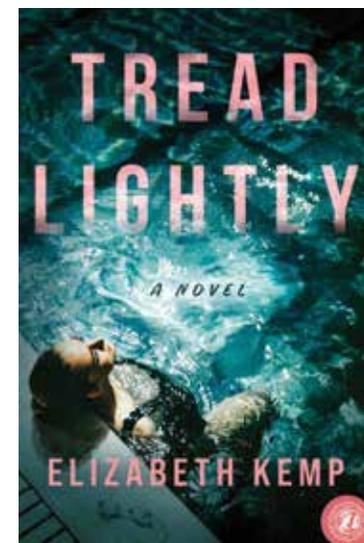
AUTHOR

From Page 11

said. "Sometimes, it's harder for older people, whether you're a man or a woman, to break into publishing, because I think publishers are looking for more 'career' authors. So, I really respected the fact that this publisher was focusing on that (publishing older authors), and I'm really happy to be part of their team."

To publicize her novel, Kemp attended a book launch Oct. 24 at Books Inc. in Campbell, which drew over 100 attendees, according to Kemp's daughter, Kathryn. The author said Silicon Valley book clubs have also been requesting her presence, which she, of course, has been attending.

In the future, aside from hosting larger "Tread Lightly" events in December, Kemp is considering the idea of turning "Tread Lightly" into a series. As a standalone written with "series potential," Kemp sees an opportunity for a "link book," which takes a non-protagonist from "Tread Lightly" and expands on their story. At the moment, Kemp said she is still exploring



"Tread Lightly"

her options, thus the presence of a sequel is to be determined.

"It's never too late to try something new, whether or not you want to be a novelist or not," Kemp said. "You just need to make time for the things that are important to you. I really do believe that, and I made a conscious decision. 'I'm going to do this book, and I'm going to write this mystery, and somebody's going to like it.'"

To purchase "Tread Lightly," visit Barnes & Noble, Google Books or amazon.com.

Community

Los Altos DAR celebrates America

By Ann Hepenstal

In celebration of America's 250th birthday, the Los Altos Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, invites community members to attend a free presentation by professor Michael Wilcox entitled "Los Altos in 1775-76: What it looked like, and who lived on this land?" The talk is Nov. 21 at noon in the Sequoia Room of the Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave.

As celebrations begin of America's 250th birthday, many are reminded of events that happened along the Atlantic seaboard. In 2026, we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and hold commemorations remembering events leading up to America's independence. But what was happening here in Los Altos in 1775-1776? What was the area like? Who lived here? How did these people interact with the communities around them? Speaker Michael Wilcox will discuss the people, culture and activities in the Los Altos area at that time.

Dr. Michael Wilcox is an Indigenous/Native American scholar (Yuman descent) who has taught at Stanford University since 2001. His dissertation, entitled "The Pueblo Revolt of 1680: Communities of Resistance, Ethnic Conflict and Alliance Formation Among Upper Rio Grande Pueblos," articulates the social consequences of subordination and explores the processes of boundary maintenance at both regional and communal levels. During his graduate studies at Harvard, he was very

involved in strengthening the Harvard University Native American Program and in designing and teaching award-winning courses in Native American Studies. The author of numerous publications, Professor Wilcox's main research interests include Native American ethnohistory in the American Southwest; the history of Pueblo Peoples in New Mexico; Indigenous Archaeology; ethnic identity and conflict; DNA, race and cultural identity in archaeology and popular culture; and the political and historical relationships between Native Americans, anthropologists and archaeologists.

The Los Altos Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, founded in 1950, focuses on education, local historic preservation projects, genealogy research, a Foothill College scholarship fund, environmental conservation, service to veterans, and other community projects. The chapter has planned multiple programs to celebrate America's 250th birthday in 2026. The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a nonprofit, non-political, volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, education, and historic preservation. Any woman 18 years or older is eligible to join if she can prove lineal descent from a supporter of the American Revolution (through military service, financial donations such as donativos at the California presidios, food supply, government service, or other support).

Visit losaltos.californiadar.org to learn more. Register at bit.ly/Nov21DAR.

WAGNER

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Circular staging and concentric circular set designs are utilized to emphasize the theme of eternal cycles of suffering and the journey toward redemption. This visual motif reinforces the opera's central exploration of sin, spiritual stasis and the quest for release through compassion. Characters walk these labyrinth-like concentric paths in ritualistic, circular patterns, representing the knights of the Holy Grail being stuck in their cycle of sin and suffering, Parsifal learning to navigate and eventually disrupting the cycle and leading the knights toward renewal, and Kundry breaking her repeated, cyclical entrances and exits

in the staging embodying spiritual burden to achieve redemption.

San Francisco Opera's new production of Wagner's "Parsifal" unfolds not merely as an opera, but as a spiritual architecture of spectacular sound and light. Conceived as a synthesis of art, religion and philosophy, Parsifal invites reflection on redemption, compassion and the human condition.

The opera runs through Nov. 13 at the War Memorial Opera House in San Francisco. For tickets and more information, visit sfopera.com.

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



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Stepping Out

What's on this week

• **Stanford Symphony Orchestra: A Premiere, An Anniversary and Spanish Favorites**, 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14 and 2:30 p.m. Nov. 16. The Stanford Symphony Orchestra presents its 2025 Fall Concert program featuring guitarist Eric Wang ('26), Concerto Competition winner.

General admission tickets are \$37. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. For tickets and more information, visit tinyurl.com/SSO-Fall25.

• **A Driving Beat**, through Nov. 23. This mother-son cross-country road trip set to the teen's hip-hop beat is a voyage of discovery, identity, understanding and love.

Ticket prices vary. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts SecondStage, 500 Castro St. For tickets and more information, visit tinyurl.com/MVCPA-Driving.

• **Shrek the Musical**, through Nov. 16. The Peninsula Youth Theatre production tells the story of an unlikely hero who finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside a wisecracking donkey and a feisty princess. Tickets are \$32. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts Main Stage, 500 Castro St. For tickets, visit tinyurl.com/MVCPA-Shrek.

PA Players' 'Annie' continues run at Lucie Stern Theater



PHOTO BY SCOTT LASKY

Annie (Julie Li) and Sandy (Jinkua) star in PA Players' "Annie."

Town Crier Report

Palo Alto Players continues its 95th season with the Broadway classic "Annie," which opened last week and runs through Nov. 23 at the Lucie Stern Theater.

Based on Harold Gray's long-running comic strip, the musical by Thomas Meehan includes music by Charles Strouse and lyrics by Martin Charnin.

"Annie" has garnered seven Tony awards, including Best Musical. It features such well-known songs such as "Tomorrow," "It's A Hard Knock Life" and "Maybe."

The show is a tale of aspiration, resilience and family. Determined to find the parents who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of a New York City orphanage, plucky little Annie escapes to New York City for an adventure of a lifetime. While there, she strikes up an unexpected friendship with billionaire Oliver Warbucks.

"I'm overjoyed to return

'Annie' to the Lucie Stern Theater – a show that captures the boundless optimism we all need right now," Palo Alto Players Artistic Director Patrick Klein said in a press release. "With a spectacular cast and an incredibly gifted creative team, this production shines with heart, humor and an infectious spirit of hope and possibility – the perfect way to kick off the holiday season."

Joey Dippel directs and choreographs the production, which features a cast of 26 actors and a dog. Pamela Serano provides vocal direction. Julie Li plays the title role and Joey McDaniel portrays Oliver Warbucks.

Remaining performances are scheduled 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 2 and/or 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays at Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

The show is recommended for ages 4 and up; children under age 3 will not be admitted. For tickets (\$20-\$63), call (650) 329-0891 or visit paplayers.org.

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Schools

Cuts expected at Cupertino Union School District

By Giuseppe Ricapito
Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

Cuts are expected at the Cupertino Union School District in order to lift the district out of its financial doldrums.

The board of trustees heard a presentation at a meeting on Oct. 30 regarding the district's deficit spending and the plan to make cuts in middle school electives, transitional kindergarten hours and high-paid employees to make up about \$8 million in deficit spending.

"This really is a roadmap to restore our fiscal solvency," said Stacy Yao, superintendent.

The Cupertino School District includes 17 elementary schools and five middle schools for grades TK-8; they include Montclair Elementary School in Los Altos and Cupertino Middle School in Sunnyvale, which has students from Los Altos.

The district has been mired in deficit spending and estimates this year about \$248 million in revenues. Expenditures are estimated at about \$259 million.

The primary cuts to middle school electives, to the transi-

tional kindergarten program and an increase in early retirements are intended to bring the district back into fiscal solvency.

The board has not taken action on the plan at this time. It plans to return on Nov. 13 to continue discussion of the plan and may vote on the institution of these changes as early as its meeting on Nov. 20. The district spends about \$9,000 per student in the TK group. It serves 720 students, has 36 teachers and has a total cost of about \$6.48 million.

The board is considering cutting TK to a half-day class, a savings of about \$2.59 million. Other options include a full-day TK class which would be capped at 360 students, resulting in a saving of \$3.24 million, and a split-day with classes either in the morning or the evening, resulting in \$2.56 million in savings.

Sara Brown, the district's director of instruction, said one of the plans would be to give seventh and eighth grade students the option of taking a second elective. Sixth grade students would only take one elective. It would result in a decrease of 18 full-time middle school staff and



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT SLATE

Cuts at the Cupertino Union School District could impact Montclair Elementary School.

about \$2.1 million in savings. She also posed an option regarding changes in start times and taking electives which would result in less savings.

"This has really been a multiple year journey," she said.

The district is also proposing early retirement as a method of

cost savings. If 475 eligible employees retire across all the employee groups by June 30, 2026, it would amount to \$1.1 million in savings.

Mike Ghelber, associate superintendent of human resources, said the savings would amount from accelerating the

rate of natural retirement attrition, replacing some departing employees with lower salaried employees and eliminating higher salaried employees to reduce the number of positions needed to achieve savings.

"It's over a \$5 million dollar savings over five years," he said.

Los Altos, Mountain View educators honored at county ceremony

By Giuseppe Ricapito
Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

Liz Parry of the Mountain View Whisman School District and Diane Sasaki of the Los Altos School District were among 30 teachers honored at an annual Santa Clara County Office of Education gala on Oct. 27.

More than 300 people attended the Santa Clara County Teacher Recognition Celebration in San Jose for the event's 50th anniversary, according to a county education press release.

"Each teacher recognized at the celebration made one thing very clear, they care for their students and for their well-being as humans," said Dr. David M. Toston, senior county superintendent. "They all emphasized that the connections made with students are how they make learning engaging and meaningful."

The winners are selected by district administrators for their unique educational efforts and accolades.

Parry, a fifth-grade teacher at Landels Elementary School, said in a phone interview that she had been an educator for

20 years at Landels Elementary, teaching first, third and fifth grades. She taught for six years previously in the U.K.

"It was an honor to be recognized and it's a reflection on how much work I've done as a teacher, but also the amount of work that's required to be a teacher," she said.

The ceremony also featured recorded interviews with the teachers in their classroom settings.

Sasaki, a special education teacher at Blach Junior High, is seen conversing with a classroom filled with students. She said her most memorable classroom moment was inspiring a student who at first didn't enjoy science. Sasaki said she worked to make the subject more accessible and enjoyable, and eventually the student not only embraced the work, but even imagined a career in it.

"I think it's for all my students, but it's that moment where you see them struggling – then that lightbulb goes on and there's that 'aha' moment," she said in the recording.

In Parry's featured clip, she acknowledges that it's "tricky" to engage students



COURTESY OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Landels Elementary School teacher Liz Parry, above, was recently one of 30 teachers honored at a recent Santa Clara County Office of Education gala.

in complicated content like William Shakespeare.

"I hope they remember my enthusiasm and excitement for teaching," Parry said.

"I hope they remember that they were

able to take risks in my classroom and that they had fun doing something new."

Jeffrey Baier, superintendent of the

See TEACHERS, Page 20

Schools

TEACHERS

From Page 19

Mountain View Whisman School District, said in an email that Parry had made a commitment to joyful and innovative learning.

“Ms. Parry takes thoughtful risks in her instruction and because of that courage, her students don’t just learn; they discover,” he said. “Her enthusiasm is contagious, and she creates an environment where curiosity thrives and children feel inspired to try something new.”

Sandra McGonagle, superintendent of the Los Altos School District, said Sasaki was caring, collaborative, flexible and an exceptional teacher.

“She builds trusting relationships with students and parents, goes above and beyond in her preparation for her classes, in-

formally mentors new teachers and is active in creating an inclusive and welcoming culture for students and teachers at the Blach campus,” McGonagle said.

The first teacher recognition celebration was held in 1970 and founded by Frank and Pauline Lowe, San Jose residents who felt teachers deserved more recognition.

According to the county education website, the first ceremony even featured a keepsake program with official commendations.

“The shaping of young lives and the building of responsible citizens by our educational system depend upon the interest and abilities of those who have dedicated themselves to the teaching profession,” wrote then-Governor Ronald Reagan in the award pamphlet.



COURTESY OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Diane Sasaki, a special education teacher at Blach Junior High, has been recognized by the Santa Clara County Office of Education for her work in caring for her students.

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Sports

Mitty overwhelms St. Francis in CCS Open final

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

The combined might of Archbishop Mitty, led by outside hitters Makenna Crosson and Chayse Courtney, proved too much for St. Francis in a CCS Open championship sweep Saturday. The outside hitting duo for the Monarchs forced constant defensive rotations from the Lancers and showed why the Monarchs (31-3) went undefeated in league and CCS playoff play.

“To stop them, you have to be doing something really right, and if not, they’re going to put the ball away,” St. Francis coach Lake Merchen said of the pair. “I think they put a lot of pressure on other teams to be perfect, because if you’re not perfect, you’re going to get punished for it.”

St. Francis (19-11) did not back down from the challenge despite the circumstances, blocking incredibly well and

servicing tough. Merchen was happy with much of what the Lancers did throughout the game, particularly given that the young team started several underclassmen.

“I think for where we have been during the season and where we are today, I think it’s a significant improvement to be putting ourselves in a position where we feel like we can legitimately win that match,” Merchen said.

Outside hitter Josie Daniel, a freshman for St. Francis, agreed, noting the team played hard and did its best.

“They’ve been a consistently good team throughout the season, and we gave it our all, and I’m proud of what our team did,” Daniel said.

Although Mitty won 3-0 (25-19, 25-18 and 25-17), St. Francis kept it close in the first two sets until late, down 22-19 in the first and 19-18 in the second set. However, Mitty took control when it mattered the

most with a 3-0 run at the end of the first and a 6-0 run in the second to take both sets and momentum in the game.

“You can play great volleyball for basically the entire match, and it always comes down to a couple of points,” Merchen said. “There were some opportunities that we had to be a little bit tougher at the end of sets, but I think we were right there, trying to do the right thing and execute, and they did a good job putting pressure on.”

The game was a rematch of the 2023 CCS Open Division final, which Mitty won 3-1, while St. Francis was the defending champion after beating St. Ignatius in last year’s final, 3-1. The Lancers have made the CCS Open Division final the last four years under Merchen, setting a standard and consistency he hopes the younger players will continue

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 23



ALAN HWANG/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

St. Francis’ Josie Daniel during the CCS Open Division championship game Saturday, which Archbishop Mitty won 3-0.

Local teen golfers make PGA Junior League nationals

By Lara Leon

Town Crier Editorial Intern

Two youth golf teams with local players qualified for their respective PGA Junior League national championship tournaments this fall.

The Milpitas-based Bayview Elite Yard 17U All-Stars, featuring three Los Altos High students, placed fifth at the national event held Oct. 23-25 at Twin Warriors Golf Club in New Mexico. Local players included senior Jack Wang, junior Oscar Seem and freshman Alan Tang.

The Daly City-based Lake Merced 13U All-Stars, including Los Altos eighth-grader Colin MacDonald (Cupertino Middle School), are headed to the national tourney later this month; the event is set for Nov. 16-20 at Fields Ranch West in Frisco, Texas.

The Bay Area teams made it to their national events by winning their respective PGA Junior League Regional tournaments Sept. 5-7 in Palm Desert. The Lake Merced All-Stars did so by edging a squad from San Diego on a tie-breaker (better score the previous day).

The Bayview Elite Yard 17U All-Stars, guided by Bayview Golf Club head coach Jacob Malone, took the lead



COURTESY OF BAYVIEW ELITE YARD

Members of the Bayview Elite Yard 17U All-Stars, from left, Grace Gao, Sunny Wang, Tiffany Chang, Annie Lu, coach Jacob Malone, PGA Associate Jack Wang, Jason Lee, Alan Tang and Oscar Seem.

the first day and never relinquished it.

“We posted a really good score and I think we went into first place after the first half of the first day,” Malone said. “By the end of the day, we were in first place by five (points).”

Like Lake Merced, Bayview Elite Yard had to defeat teams from not only California, but also Hawaii, Arizona and Nevada to advance.

The competition only got tougher at the national level for Bayview Elite

Yard.

“Some teams, like Texas, are coached by a former Masters champion and have access to three golf courses,” Seem said. “Just the fact that a golf course from Milpitas can compete with some of the best golfers in the country says a lot about our team.”

Seem added that his team’s second-day loss to Texas’s 17U team ended their championship hopes. Although the team didn’t bring home the first-place trophy, Seem was proud of how Bayview Elite Yard performed throughout the competition.

“Even though, on paper, we got fifth place, I would still say it was successful because this is actually the best finish California has ever had,” Seem said.

Now, it’s Lake Merced’s turn to go after a national title. The team demonstrated its own combination of skill and teamwork leading to its success at the regional, MacDonald said.

“Even if some of us are really good individually, working well together is what made the difference,” he said. “Some putts didn’t drop, and it was nerve-wracking, but my partner and I stayed calm and encouraged each other.”

See GOLF, Page 23



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Prep Sports Summary

Football

The Mountain View football team beat Los Altos 35-7 in the season finale for both teams. Mountain View went up early, leading 28-7 at halftime. Mountain View and Los Altos finish the season 3-7 overall.

St. Francis emerged over Valley Christian 35-28 in its last regular season game of the season. St. Francis (5-5) finished third in WCAL league play at 5-2 and will be in the CCS Open/Division I playoff bracket as the No. 6 seed. St. Francis will visit No. 3 seed Los Gatos Friday at 7 p.m.

Boys water polo

The No. 6 seed St. Francis boys water polo team took down No. 3 seed Valley Christian 15-11 in the CCS Open quarterfinals Saturday, advancing on to the semifinals against Menlo School.

Los Altos lost to Menlo School in the CCS Open quarterfinals Saturday 11-10. No. 7 seed Los Altos (19-9) hosted the game against No. 2 seed Menlo (20-6).

Girls water polo

The Los Altos girls water polo team beat Aragon 16-3

in the opening round of the CCS Division I playoffs. No. 1 seed Los Altos will play No. 5 seed Leigh at 5:30 p.m. today at the Sacred Heart Prep campus.

St. Francis lost to Soquel 20-3 in the CCS Open quarterfinals.

Flag football

The Los Altos flag football team lost 30-6 against No. 1 seed Menlo in the CCS Open Division playoff quarterfinals Nov. 3. The No. 8 seed Eagles (14-9) were participating in the first ever CCS playoffs for flag football.

St. Francis won the CCS Division I championship 13-6 over No. 1 seed Branham Saturday. No. 3 seed St. Francis beat Santa Clara and Aragon to reach the finals.

Field hockey

The No. 1 seed Los Altos field hockey team lost 2-1 to No. 4 seed Valley Christian in the CCS Division II playoff semifinals Saturday. Los Altos made the semifinals by beating No. 8 seed Monterey 5-1.

St. Francis beat No. 1 seed St. Ignatius 1-0 in the semifinals of the CCS Division I playoffs Saturday. No. 4 seed St. Francis will now play No. 2 seed Los Gatos in the finals today at 4 p.m.

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



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Sports

VOLLEYBALL From Page 21

in future years.

“For our younger players, it’s great for them to see that they can continue to get to that level, even if it wasn’t a smooth ride,” Merchen said. “Our season was very up and down, a lot of injuries, a lot of learning, a lot of change. I think it was a grind to get to this point, so for the younger kids, it’s great. They expect to have to work hard.”

The path to the finals saw St. Francis beat Los Altos at home

and away to No. 2 seed St. Ignatius, a small surprise after losing to St. Ignatius twice during the regular season.

“If you look at where we started this year versus where we are now, we look like a completely different team,” Merchen said.

St. Francis will now play in the CIF State Open Division volleyball playoffs. St. Francis is the No. 6 seed and opens on the road against No. 3 seed Rocklin Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. Archbishop Mitty is the No. 1 seed in the Open Division and hosts Redwood Nov. 12 at 6 p.m.

GOLF From Page 21

We ended up making critical shots when it mattered.”

Jeff Allen, Lake Merced’s assistant coach, recalled the dramatic finish that earned the team a spot in the national tourney.

“I was in shock when I first heard we’d advanced,” he said. “The Lake Merced team stayed composed the entire time and just played their game.”

Looking ahead, MacDonald said the team is focused on preparing for nationals.

“I’m trying to win, but also have as much fun as I can,” MacDonald said. “It’s almost high school, and I want to enjoy the tournament.”



COURTESY OF BAYVIEW ELITE YARD

Members of the Daly City-based Lake Merced 13U All-Stars, from left, coach Jeff Allen, Jay Hsu, Inho Park, Ryder Lin, Colin MacDonald, Isabelle Duan, Hazel Hooper, Isabella Zhou, Myla Havarangsi and assistant coach Brian Hooper. The group are headed to Frisco, Texas for a national tournament Nov. 16-20.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Los Altos floodplain management and storm drain maintenance contact information:

- Floodplain Management webpage: <https://www.losaltosca.gov/422/Floodplain-Management-Information> or call the Planning Division at 650-947-2750
- Storm drain maintenance & flooding, Street Maintenance 650-947-2785 or 650-947-2770 (after hours)
- Flood emergencies, Police and Fire Departments, during emergencies, dial 911

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100 and counting – Longtime Los Altos resident celebrates the century mark

Town Crier Staff Report

Elizabeth “Betsy” Reeves, a resident of Los Altos since 1958, now living at a senior residence in Santa Cruz, crossed the century mark Oct. 22. Reeves celebrated her big birthday with family, including granddaughters visiting from Los Angeles.

Born in Berkeley, she graduated from UC Berkeley and notes that her grandfather was among Cal’s first graduating class in 1873.

Reeves’ husband A. Robert DeHart was the founding president at De Anza College in 1967 until 1992; he died in 1993.

The couple had three sons, Dave, Rob, and Don – who grew up in Los Altos – and five grandchildren.

Reeves had a long career as a schoolteacher in the Sunny-

vale School District and is still “smart as a whip,” according to son Rob DeHart.

DeHart said she also had many hobbies, including bridge and a book club/swap, and was an avid walker until her early 90s. She also co-founded the Grant Park senior center.

Asked if she ever passed along her tips for successful aging, DeHart said she advised to “keep meeting new people” – especially younger people since at her age, most friends in her generation have passed. Some of those younger Los Altos friends still come to visit her in Santa Cruz.

DeHart’s wife Kathleen added that another thing Reeves recommended was to “always be curious,” about everything from politics to nature.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROB DEHART

Above, longtime Los Altos resident Elizabeth “Betsy” Reeves in days past. Left, Reeves celebrates her 100th birthday Oct. 22. Reeves has been a resident of Los Altos since 1958 and now lives at a senior residence in Santa Cruz.

Portability of the federal gift and estate tax exemption – Not just for modest estates

By Jean Kohler and Victoria Kaempf

In July, we reported that the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), enacted earlier this year, includes a permanent and expanded increase to the federal unified lifetime gift and estate tax exemption. This exemption represents the amount an individual may give away during their lifetime or pass on at death – or a combination of the two – without incurring federal gift or estate taxes. As a result of the OBBBA, starting Jan. 1, 2026, the exemption will rise from the current \$13,990,000 per person to \$15,000,000 per person.

Without this new law, the exemption would have been cut in half (to about \$7.5 million per person). This increase gives married couples – even those with significant assets – a chance to simplify older estate plans that relied on complicated structures designed to avoid estate taxes. A key to that simplification is known as “portability.”

What is portability?

Estate Planning

“Portability” refers to a federal tax rule that allows a surviving spouse to “inherit” the unused portion of their deceased spouse’s estate tax exemption. This means the surviving spouse can apply both their own exemption and the unused amount from their deceased spouse, effectively doubling the amount they can pass on gift and estate tax-free. To take advantage of portability, however, a federal estate tax return must be filed, even if one is not otherwise required.

How we got here

Before 2011, using a deceased spouse’s estate tax exemption required setting up a special kind of irrevocable trust – often called a Bypass Trust, B Trust or Credit Shelter Trust – at the first spouse’s death. When portability was introduced in 2011, this extra step became unnecessary for many families. At

that time, the estate tax exemption was \$5 million per person, so portability allowed married couples with up to \$10 million in combined assets to simplify their plans and avoid the complications of an irrevocable trust. Now, with the exemption permanently increased to \$15 million per person (and indexed for inflation starting in 2027), even very wealthy couple can use portability as a simpler planning tool. Beginning in 2026, a married couple can pass up to \$30 million to heirs or other beneficiaries without paying federal estate taxes – simply by electing portability.

Here are examples of when an irrevocable trust is still beneficial:

- **Generation-Skipping Transfer (GST) Tax:** The GST exemption cannot be ported by a surviving spouse. If it’s not used in an irrevocable trust after the first spouse’s death, it’s lost.
- **Creditor Protection:** Assets left outright to a surviving spouse can be vulnerable to creditors, whereas assets held in an irrevocable trust

generally enjoy stronger protection.

- **Appreciation:** The amount of exemption transferred through portability is frozen at the level in effect when the first spouse dies. If the surviving spouse’s estate grows faster than the exemption, estate tax may be due on the survivor’s death. By comparison, if the assets of a deceased spouse are held in an irrevocable trust, those assets and all appreciation on those assets will be shielded from estate tax on the survivor’s death.
- **Remarriage:** If a surviving spouse remarries and outlives their new spouse, they lose the first spouse’s ported exemption. If the first spouse’s exemption were instead held in an irrevocable trust, no such forfeiture would occur.
- **Control:** Without the irrevocable trust, the surviving spouse controls all inherited assets and could alter the estate plan, potentially disinheriting the deceased spouse’s biological children in favor of the

See Exemptions, Page 27

Senior Lifestyles

Out and about – Local events for seniors (and one for all ages)

Los Altos Adult 50+ Program Luncheons

The Adult 50+ Program hosts monthly no-cost lunches funded by the city to serve local area adults age 50 and older. Advanced registration is required as seats and food are limited. Register online by navigating to the Adult 50+ Program section of the CivicRec online catalog at tinyurl.com/LAParksRec or call (650) 947-2797.

• 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Grand Oak Room

After-lunch activities, noon to 1:45 p.m.: Thankful Fun & Games

• 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, Grant Park Community Center, 1575 Holt Ave., Multipurpose Room

After-lunch activities, Noon to 1:45 p.m.: Winter Holiday Fun & Games

Events at the Mountain View Senior Center

The following events are scheduled at the Moun-

tain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave. To sign-up for an upcoming workshop, call the Senior Center at (650) 903-6330, stop by the front desk or email senior.center@mountainview.gov. Signing up in advance will allow the center to contact you if there is a program change. All workshops will be held in the Social Hall unless stated otherwise.

• Medicare's annual enrollment period and updates for 2026, 1 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 13. Join HICAP for an informative session designed for Santa Clara County residents looking to understand changes to Medicare cost and coverage for 2026. Learn how updates may affect your premiums, deductibles and coverage. HICAP offers unbiased guidance to help you make informed decisions about your Medicare options. 55+ welcome.

• Blood pressure management tips for seniors, 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20. Managing blood pressure is crucial as we get older. Join the Program of All-

Inclusive Care for the Elderly for tips on how to manage your blood pressure. Free blood pressure checks will be provided. 55+ welcome.

• Holiday Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22

Visit Mountain View Senior Center's festive annual Holiday Bazaar for handmade creations from more than 40 vendors. Items include jewelry, ceramics, knitwear, wood carvings and more. In addition to shopping opportunities, the day features live local entertainment, kids' crafts and a raffle. Live entertainment starts at 10:45 a.m. with The Peninsulaires Chorus; Stanford Musical Theater performs at 11:45 a.m.; Izzy and the Dyzzy Lizards play at 12:45 p.m.; and Mountain View Los Altos (MVLA) Adult School Chorus sing at 1:45 p.m.

All ages are welcome to attend this free event. For more information, call (650) 903-6330 or visit MountainView.gov/HolidayBazaar.



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Get some shopping done at the Holiday Bazaar

Find an array of handmade crafts and live entertainment at the Mountain View Senior Center's Holiday Bazaar, set for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22.

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Senior Lifestyles

EXEMPTIONS

From Page 25

surviving spouse's children or new spouse.

The irrevocable trust ensures the deceased spouse's wishes are preserved.

• **Non-Citizen Spouses:** Portability is not available if the surviving spouse is neither a U.S. resident nor a U.S. citizen. In that case, an irrevocable trust is the only way to utilize the deceased spouse's exemption. Even in cases where one spouse is a non-citizen resident and portability is available, complex trust structures using irrevocable trusts are often needed to fully avoid estate tax.

A final word

There's no one-size-fits-all solution in estate planning. Every family's goals, values and financial picture are unique. However, with the new higher exemption, even those with sizable estates may benefit from revisiting older, more complex plans. If you were previously advised that your estate was "too large" for a simpler plan, it may be worth another conversation with your financial or legal advisors. Portability is no longer a tool reserved for modest estates (by Bay Area standards) – it's now a practical option for many more families in our community.

Jean M. Kohler, Esq. and Victoria Kaempf, Esq. are attorneys-at-law with the Kohler Legacy Law Group, PC, in Los Altos. For more information, call (650) 475-0209 or visit kohlerlegacylaw.com.

Marc Berman's Senior Scam Stopper Seminar is now available for viewing

Town Crier Report

Assemblymember Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park) hosted his annual Senior Scam Stopper Seminar Oct. 28 to educate his constituents to help prevent them from falling victim to ever-evolving scams.

"The world has changed a lot since I first hosted my first Senior Scam Stopper Seminar seven years ago, and so have the strategies that bad actors use to scam people out of their hard-earned money," Berman said in a press release. "Whether it is someone showing up at your door offering to fix your house, or AI generated phone calls meant to sound like a grandchild in distress who needs money, it is more critical than ever that we be constantly vigilant and skeptical. Scams can upend peo-

ple's lives, so no matter your age, it is important to have the knowledge and awareness to protect yourself and your loved ones."

In 2023, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reported that seniors lost more than \$1.9 billion to fraud, according to the press release. However, as the vast majority of fraud goes unreported, the FTC estimates that the total amount lost could be as high as \$61.5 billion.

"Seniors are the largest population targeted for scams, and we've learned that it's because many times seniors may have money accumulated – in their homes, their life insurance or retirement savings – and believe it or not there are people in the world that want to steal a piece of our hard-earned savings," said the Cali-

fornia Department of Insurance's Lisa Strange.

More than 750 constituents signed up for the virtual seminar, during which a panel of experts at various relevant state agencies and departments provided resources and information on common on-line scams, real estate fraud and understanding privacy rights.

The panel included representatives from the Contractors State Licensing Board, the California Department of Insurance, the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, the Department of Real Estate, the Bureau of Household Goods and Services and CalPrivacy.

A recorded video of the seminar is available at tinyurl.com/BermanSeniorScamStopper.

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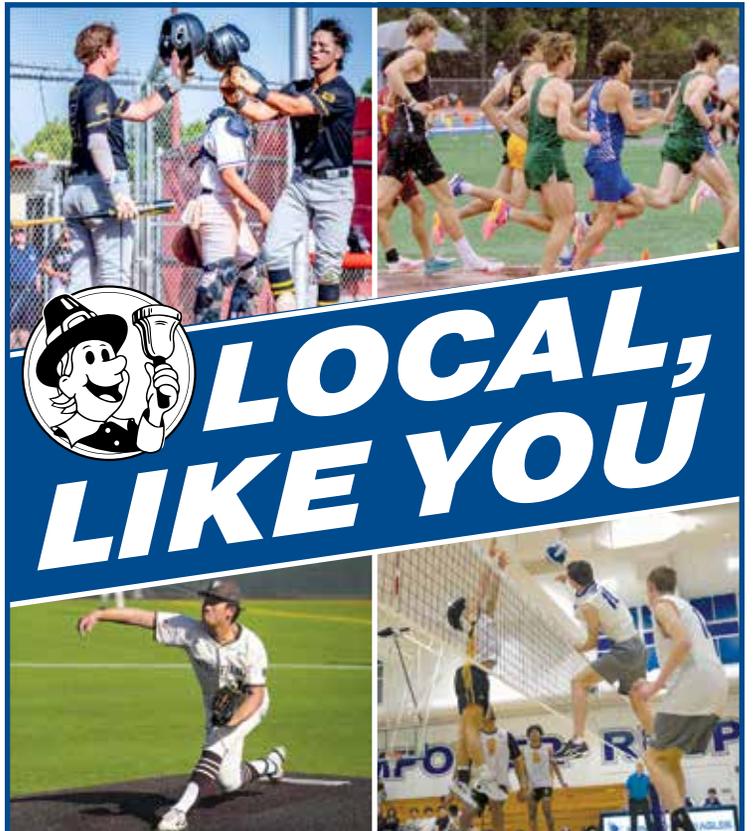
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Puzzles Page

Town Crier Crossword

By Myles Mellor

Across

1. Coffee island
5. Scheme
9. ___ Beta Kappa
12. Iridescent stone
13. Spanish stew pot
14. Blood system
15. Beauties
16. Dodgers great who was the first African American to play in the MLB
- 18. Annual Halloween Town Crier Tradition, goes with 33 across**
20. Allow
21. Edward's nickname
22. Hit the books
25. Rouses to action
29. Timeworn
30. Morality
31. ___ the brakes, 2 words
- 32. Los Altos street, of note**
33. See 18 across
34. Delhi dress

35. Scientist locale
36. Listening device
38. Bear-like
42. Concerning finance
45. Party giver
47. ___ de toilette
48. Field for an engr., abbr.
49. Bismarck's first name
50. World time zone, abbr.
51. Hunted animal
52. Notebooks

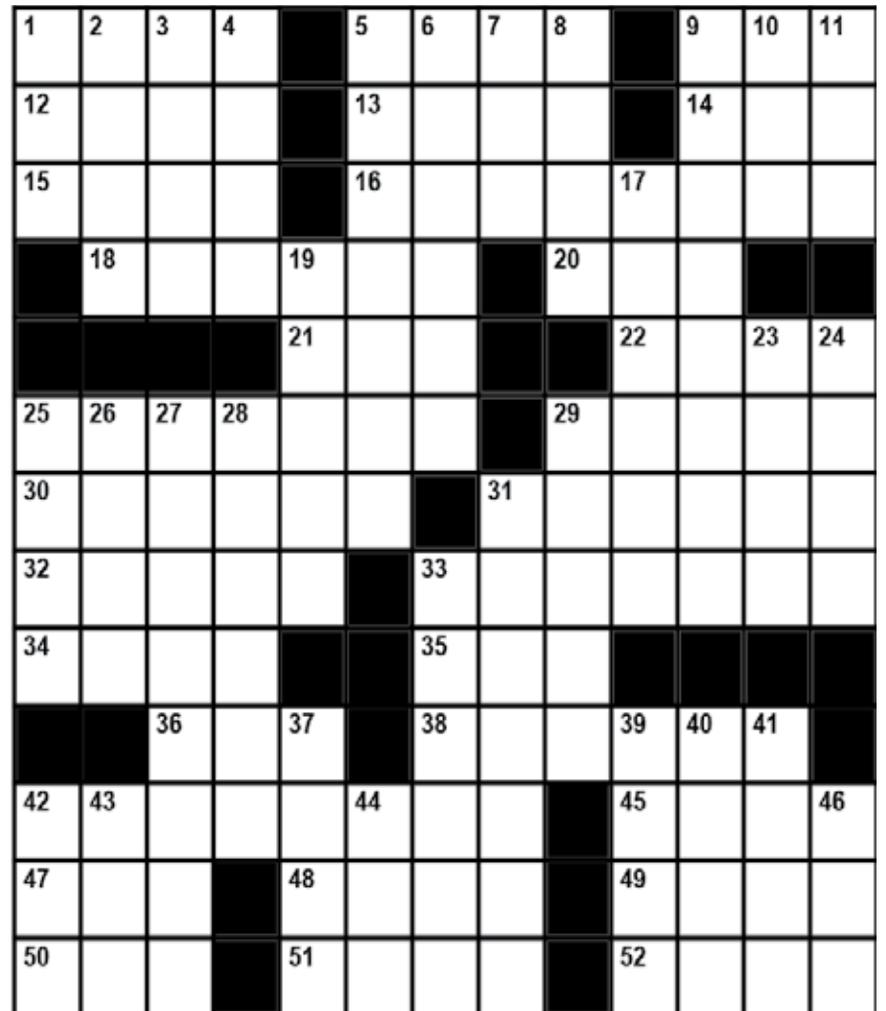
Down

1. Easy exercise
2. Jungles creatures
3. Femme fatale
4. "And another thing ..."
5. Pigs
6. London's business insurer
7. Priest's vestment
8. Hit perfectly
9. Deli order
10. TV network
11. It's charged in physics
17. Sweet stuff
19. Chilled, 2 words

23. Cosmetic additive
24. Store section
25. Porgy's woman
26. Jazz singer ___ James
27. Distribute, 2 words
28. Renaissance painter
29. Messy people
31. Stodgy
33. Floodgate
37. Runaway
39. Pancake maker
40. ___ care in the world, 2 words
41. Tavern sign abbreviation
42. Hosp. readout, abbr.
43. Video maker, for short
44. Debussy's "La ___" (French for sea)
46. Lean-___ (sheds)

- Los Altos clues bolded

Answers on Page 35

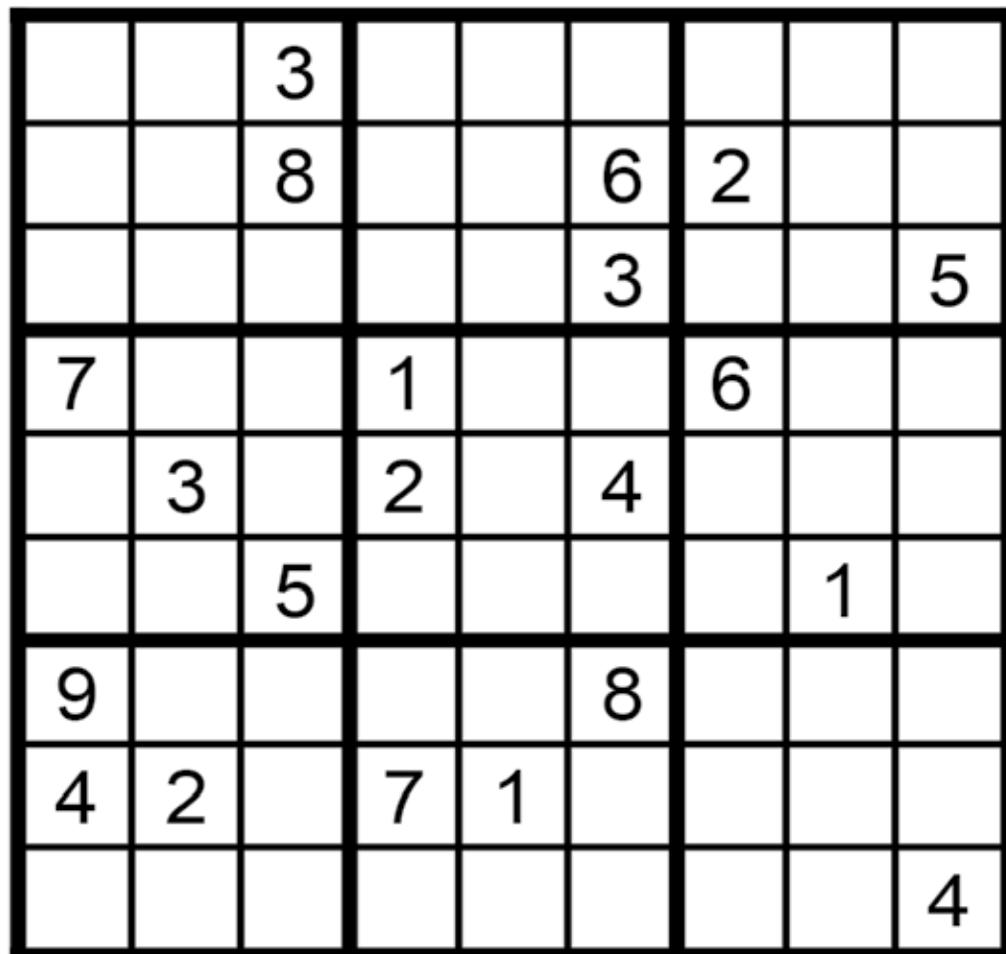


Sudoku

By Myles Mellor and Susan Flanagan

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

Level: Medium



Find A Word



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

- | | | |
|----------|--------------|---------|
| Antelope | Gopher | Opossum |
| Bear | Hippopotamus | Poodle |
| Boxer | Hyena | Raccoon |
| Cats | Leopard | Terrier |
| Elephant | Lion | Zebra |

Business & Real Estate

Cornerstone shop Cranberry Scoop moves from State to Main

By Amalia Tormala
Town Crier Editorial Intern

After residing on State Street for nearly 55 years, the community staple gift shop Cranberry Scoop has made a move to Main Street as of Oct. 10.

According to Ellen Biolsi – who has owned Cranberry Scoop for 25 years – the move was prompted by January’s sale of the building that housed the shop’s original location.

“I spent probably a good six to eight months of soul searching, going back and forth, talking to the new building owner and trying to decide what exactly I was going to do,” Biolsi said. “I ultimately decided that, since (the buyer) will eventually be doing some sort of remodeling to that building, that I would go ahead and find a new location.”

The State Street location officially closed Oct. 4, with the Cranberry Scoop team transporting everything from the initial storefront to the new building in the several weeks that followed. The shop’s space on Main has a larger sales floor, and Biolsi said she has noticed an increase in foot traffic since making the move.

“It has been busy,” she said.

Biolsi expressed gratitude for her team’s aid during the store’s transition.

“I appreciate all the help with the move and the support I’ve received through the whole process,” she said.

Cranberry Scoop is not the only business to move to Main Street



MAX ASMAR/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Above: Ellen Biolsi, left, speaks with visitors at her store. Right: Cranberry Scoop moved to Main from State in October after Biolsi’s previous landlord decided not to extend the lease.



recently. Liz Williams, marketing and events manager for the Los Altos Village Association, said Cranberry Scoop was one of three businesses to relocate from State Street this year. Uncommon Threads, a knitting shop, and Cambric Boutique, a women’s clothing store, are also new to Main.

As for Cranberry Scoop’s former

location, Williams said a new book cafe specializing in romance novels, A Novel Affair, is expected to fill the spot.

“(LAVA is) looking forward to that corner being activated again and not empty,” Williams said. “We hope that they’re up and running in the old Cranberry Scoop space before too long, so

that it is filled for the holiday season.”

Cranberry Scoop’s new location is at 216 Main St. The shop is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays.

For more information, call the shop at (650) 948-2554 or visit thecranberryscoop.com.

Existing home sales, one unintended source of housing unaffordability

By Artie Green

Many cities today face the challenge of increasing the availability of affordable housing. The common approach is to find ways to generate more new housing. That usually involves municipal or state subsidies or tax breaks for land and development. A recent analysis by Moody’s Analytics suggests there may be an additional way to address this problem.

In 2000, according to the Los Angeles Times, a near-record 493,000 existing single-family homes were sold in California. By 2023, the California Association of Realtors reported that existing home sales had dropped to nearly half that amount (258,000). This is even though the mortgage rate back then was over 8% but less than 7% in 2023. Of course, there are many factors other than interest rates that impact existing home sales. Mark Zandi and Cristian deRitis at Moody’s, in a report



ANDY DEAN/ADOBE STOCK

Moving is already hard and housing unaffordability makes it even worse.

titled “Capital Gains Taxes and the Misallocation of Housing” (tinyurl.com/Moodys-capital-gains), assert that one major cause is federal capital gains tax policy. According to the report, the

Census Bureau found that the average square footage (sq. ft.) of a home per capita in the U.S. is 700 sq. ft. Based on that, the average home size for a family of two would be expected to be around

1,400 sq. ft., for a family of three 2,100 sq. ft., and 2,800 sq. ft. for a four-person family. But that’s not how the data breaks down. There are actually 3.5 million homes larger than 2,500 sq. ft. occupied by only one or two seniors aged 65-74 and another 2.3 million owned by seniors aged 75 and older. That’s almost six million houses that could be utilized more efficiently by larger families.

One of the reasons younger homeowners are often reluctant to sell their homes is because they are holding onto mortgages with rates significantly lower than current rates. But most older homeowners have paid off their mortgages or have only small balances remaining.

Why aren’t they downsizing from homes that are not only bigger than they need but frequently require more work to maintain? The report blames

See HOUSING, Page 30

Business & Real Estate

Transactions

Los Altos

4388 El Camino Real #388, Madej Trust to A. Akturin for \$798,000

425 1st Street #24, 425 First Los Altos LLC to Lin Family Trust for \$1,750,000

822 Amber Lane, J. Credit to Cui & Wang Living Trust for \$4,138,000

1220 Payne Drive, Michael & Schelly Trust to C. & C. Wang for \$4,200,000

2008 Crist Drive, Wolverson Living Trust to N. So for \$5,250,000

1098 Muir Way, I. Song to Mukherjee Family Trust for \$5,410,000

721 Raymundo Avenue, Baker Trust to Gsh 721 Raymundo LLC for \$5,500,000

1762 Austin Avenue, Forsythe Family Trust to G. & V. Chen for \$5,610,000

1683 Dalehurst Avenue, Hamel Trust to Mealiffe-Reeves Trust for \$5,750,000

941 Seena Avenue, G. Antonovsky

to Y. & S. Ding for \$6,500,000

130 Garland Way, Bingham Family Trust to S. & M. Tsang for \$6,679,000

Mountain View

505 Cypress Point Drive #161, A. Cheng to S. & S. Seol for \$540,000

1031 Crestview Drive #206, Sarang Trust to F. Uyar for \$695,000

928 Wright Avenue #802, Yang Living Trust to Yim & Lee Family Trust for \$1,100,000

647 Alamo Court, Y. Xu to R. & A. Chan for \$1,290,000

2128 Latham Street, Taylor Morrison of California to Y. & K. Huang for \$1,730,000

767 Calderon Avenue, Kvasov Living Trust to S. & P. Umate for \$1,855,000

792 Bond Way, M. Heffernan to G. & C. Ho for \$2,800,000

1848 Peacock Avenue, P. Reid to D.

Arthur for \$3,550,000

1849 Fordham Way, Schoen Trust to Sangster Living Trust for \$4,511,000

Cupertino

20488 Stevens Creek Boulevard #1118, E. Fuh to P. Chan for \$800,000

20192 Northcove Square, Wu Living Trust to N. & E. Franco for \$1,080,000

22035 McClellan Road, Schlitt 2025 Trust to L. & X. Li for \$1,930,000

10800 West Estates Drive, Loh Family Trust to Y. & Z. Ye for \$3,055,000

19701 Bixby Drive, J. Yuan to J. & H. Zhang for \$3,520,000

11221 Bubb Road, 2. & S. Marlow to E. & S. Eugene for \$3,650,000

1330 Flower Court, Sanjideh Family Trust to X. & D. He for \$3,760,000

21710 Regnart Road, Regnart LLC

to Regnart Homes LLC for \$4,750,000

Total sales

Los Altos

Total sales: 11

Lowest sale: \$798,000

Highest sale: \$6,679,000

Average sale: \$4,689,500

Mountain View

Total sales: 9

Lowest sale: \$540,000

Highest sale: \$4,511,000

Average sale: \$2,007,900

Cupertino

Total sales: 8

Lowest sale: \$800,000

Highest sale: \$4,750,000

Average sale: \$2,818,100

- *Transaction information is obtained from public county records and provided by Cal REsource.*

Have a comment or idea? Reach out

If you have an idea for Business & Real Estate or would like to comment on its content, email section editor Christina Casillas at christinac@latc.com.

Business Brief

Poppy Bank opens in Los Altos

The Los Altos branch of Poppy Bank has officially opened its doors. The newest addition of the bank, located at 400 Main Street, offers deposit products, automated clearing house processing and cash management services among personal and business banking.

Poppy Bank also specializes in business lending including commercial loans,

USDA and US Small Business Administration loans, construction, commercial and real estate loans and lines of credit.

"We believe that the presence of a strong and established community-focused bank like Poppy Bank can add to the appeal of Los Altos and enhance its economic prosperity," said bank president and CEO Khalid Acheckzai in a press release. "We look forward to building relationships and supporting the local businesses and individuals that make up this vibrant city."

HOUSING

From Page 29

the high capital gains taxes associated with senior home sales. The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 established an exclusion of \$250K for single taxpayers or \$500K for married taxpayers from taxes on the gains from home sales by taxpayers over age 55. At the time this was a high enough threshold that few people faced significant taxes. But over the nearly three decades since then, home prices have risen 250% on average across the U.S. but this exclusion amount has not changed at all.

The report suggests that if the capital gains tax exclusion for senior home sales were to be increased to \$885K/\$1.775K, matching average housing price inflation since 1997, more seniors would be open to downsizing or to moving into senior living facilities. They cite research suggesting not only the improvement in housing liquidity from this change but also economic benefits such as reduced regional unemployment.

Zandi and deRitis also identify possible ways to cover the estimated \$6-\$10 billion in lost federal tax revenue from such a change. Whether or not the Trump administration would consider such an attempt to further modify tax revenues is anybody's guess.

The report does not directly address another goal of seniors, namely passing on their homes to their children tax free due to the step-up in basis when they die. It's not clear how much that goal overrides seniors' reluctance to sell homes due to the capital gains tax exclusion.

The cost of housing in many locations in this country is a complex problem that municipalities and states are forced to deal with. Increasing the federal capital gains tax exclusion is certainly one way the federal government could contribute to helping solve the problem.

Los Altos resident Artie Green is founder of Cognizant Wealth Advisors. For more information, visit cognizantwealth.com.

1711 GUINDA STREET, PALO ALTO

OPEN HOUSE Sat. & Sun. 1-4 pm



Welcome to a beautiful Leland Manor home

The expansive living room has a fireplace and sliding glass doors leading to an inviting patio and garden. A wood staircase with a beautiful wall mural leads to a Primary bedroom. There are two bedrooms, and a den or office on the first floor.

A large kitchen with adjoining dining and breakfast areas opens onto the Rose-Azalea garden with tranquil sitting areas. The landscaping is by the late Page Sanders. In moved-in condition, freshly painted, and with gleaming hardwood floors, the house invites you to enjoy Palo Alto's unmatched living.

1711 Guinda Street lies within walking distance of Rinconada Cultural Park, with tennis courts and playgrounds; the Palo Alto Art Center; Lucie Stern Community Center; Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo; and the highly-rated Walter Hays Elementary School.

Listing Price \$3,600,000



Lana Ralston

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Los Altos



How to get a mortgage when you're self-employed

Statepoint

If you're self-employed or own a business, you may be wondering if it's possible to get a mortgage.

The short answer is yes, you can, but the process will look different. You'll need to provide documentation verifying your employment and lenders will be analyzing your financial situation and the financial situation of your business to see how likely you are to pay back your loans in a timely manner.

To help you put your best foot forward, Wells Fargo is offering guidance on navigating the home loan process.

Self-employment

Typically, lenders consider an applicant self-employed if they meet any of the following:

- They own at least 25% of a business
- The ownership of a business is their major source of income
- They complete a 1099 tax form during tax filing instead of a W-2
- They're an entrepreneur or sole proprietor whose income is filed under Schedule C of their tax returns
- They're an independent contractor or service provider

If you fit into these categories, you'll also need to show lenders verified employment records or proof of self-employment during the past two years. Lenders are ideally looking for your business to have been active for at least 12 consecutive months. They review the overall health of the

business, looking at both net income and expenses.

Needed documents

When lenders review your application, they're analyzing items like how stable your income is, if your business has strong finances, and what the future may look like for you and your business. Any of the following forms of documentation can help lenders show proof of your employee verification:

- Business licenses and/or DBA certificates
- Proof of correspondence with CPAs and/or clients
- Proof of business insurance
- Profit/loss statements or balance sheets reflecting your business's performance
- Lenders' requirements vary. Check with yours for what will be required for your situation.

Tax returns

Personal tax returns under IRS Form 1040 include various schedules. Commonly used schedules are:

- Schedule B (Form 1040) Interest and ordinary dividends
- Schedule C (Form 1040) Profit or Loss from Business (Sole proprietorship)
- Schedule D (Form 1040) Capital Gains and Losses
- Schedule E (Form 1040) Supplemental Income and Loss
- Schedule F (Form 1040) – Profit or Loss from Farming

For business tax returns, a business may choose to re-



PEOPLEIMAGES / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

Being a small business owner looking for a loan can be hard – but it's doable.

port taxable income either on a calendar year or fiscal year basis. Commonly used forms include:

- IRS Form 1065, U.S. Return of Partnership Income
- IRS Form 1120S, U.S. Income Tax Return for an S Corporation
- IRS Form 1120, U.S. Corporation Income Tax Return

When looking for loans, there are some factors that show the strength of your borrowing ability.

Having a favorable debt-to-income ratio and credit score. A strong credit history shows lenders your ability to repay debts and utilize credit responsibly.

Staying organized. Keeping expenses separate if you have multiple income sources, and

separate business and personal accounts is beneficial so that lenders can more easily tell which assets are which.

Having additional support, especially for closing can increase the chance of lenders taking a client on. Certain factors may lower your risk for lenders, like utilizing a co-signer or borrower or paying a higher-percentage down payment than what's required.

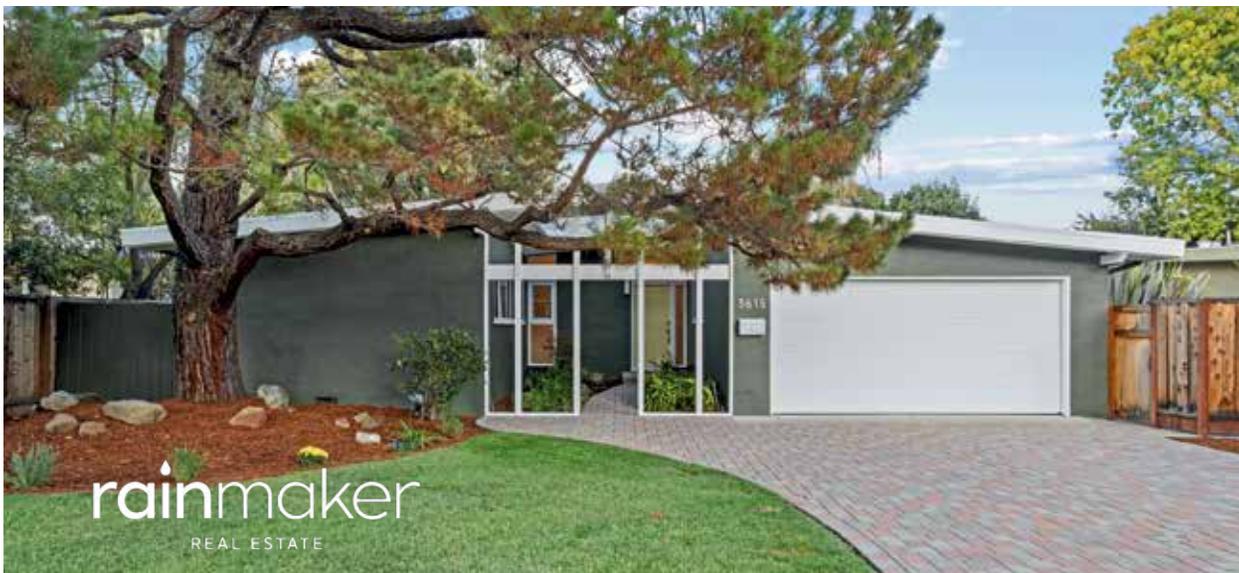
What's next?

If you are self-employed, there are methods available to help make your goal of homeownership a reality. For example, eligible self-employed borrowers with Wells Fargo may have access to a variety of loans, such as VA or FHA loans or Wells Fargo products like

Dream. Plan. Home. and the Homebuyer Access grant. Information can be found online about the eligibility requirements and personal tax implications of these products.

Talk to a home mortgage consultant to learn more about what your mortgage process may look like. Also, check out Wells Fargo's home lending portal for personalized rate quote tools and for its content library featuring helpful articles. These can be found at wellsfargo.com.

"While self-employment makes obtaining a mortgage a bit more complex, your lender will walk you through the process, step by step," says Rulon Washington, Wells Fargo mortgage sustainability director.



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FOUNDING SALES PARTNER

Alex Wang | 650-800-8840

DRE 01351503



Kathy Bridgman's

NEW LISTING
OF THE WEEK



KATHY BRIDGMAN
BROKER ASSOCIATE

Outstanding Opportunity to Build an Estate Property

25310 Elena Road, Los Altos Hills

- Outstanding opportunity for new construction
- Approximately 1.115 acres (48,548 square feet; not verified by Compass)
- MFA: 6,550 square feet; MDA: 16,182 square feet; LUF value: 1.098 (buyer to confirm with the town of Los Altos Hills)
- Circa 1920 3-bedroom, 2-bath home on one level
- Separate multi-room cottage with lower basement and garage/workshop
- Detached 2-car garage with street level access from Elena Road
- Underground utilities
- 2-stall barn and riding ring with potential for equestrian use
- Vast level areas and gently sloped grounds with mature trees
- Less than one mile to Highway 280 access and less than two miles to the Los Altos Village
- Excellent Los Altos schools: Gardner Bullis Elementary, Egan Junior High, and Los Altos High (buyer to confirm)

Price upon request

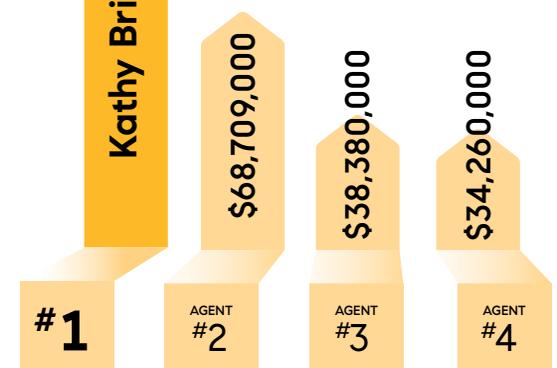


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12008 EMERALD HILL LANE
LOS ALTOS HILLS | **\$6,898,000** | 4 Bd | 3.5 Bth
12008EmeraldHillLn.com



27500 LA VIDA REAL
LOS ALTOS HILLS | **\$39,988,000** | 5 Bd | 12 Bth
27500LaVida.com



927 CONTINENTAL DRIVE
MENLO PARK | **\$4,988,000** | 4 Bd | 4.5 Bth
927Continental.com



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



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



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



40 TAGUS COURT
PORTOLA VALLEY | **\$6,988,000** | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
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Public Notices

KAI HAUS LENDING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN721077

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: KAI HAUS LENDING, 60 E Rosemary Street 329, San Jose, CA, 95112, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Jessica J Na, 60 E Rosemary Street 329, San Jose, CA 95112. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Jessica J Na / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/06/2025. (11-12,19,26-25,12-03-25)

271-T

COMPLETE AUTO SOLUTIONS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN721026

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: COMPLETE AUTO SOLUTIONS, 14000 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos, CA, 95032, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Gharib Nawaz, 14000 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos, CA 95032. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/04/2025. /S/ Gharib Nawaz / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/05/2025. (11-12,19,26-25,12-03-25)

270-T

BAY AREA KOREAN BAPTIST CHURCH FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720941

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) BAY AREA KOREAN BAPTIST CHURCH, (2) HIGH MEADOW BAPTIST CHURCH, 1347 Richardson Ave, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): SANTA CLARA BAPTIST CHURCH, 1347 Richardson Ave, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Jae Mook Kim / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/03/2025. (11-12,19,26-25,12-03-25)

268-T

HUMINGTON CONSTRUCTION FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720551

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: HUMINGTON CONSTRUCTION, 881 Stonehurst Way, Campbell, CA, 95008, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): HUMINGTON LLC, 881 Stone-

hurst Way, Campbell, CA 95008. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 09/15/2025. /S/ Yibo Chang / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 10/17/2025. (11-12,19,26-25,12-03-25)

266-T

FRUITOPIA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720905

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: FRUITOPIA, 2230 Calle Del Mundo Unit 422, Santa Clara, CA, 95054, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): THE MIDNIGHT TRADING INC, 3363 Spectrum St, Irvine, CA 92618. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 02/21/2025. /S/ Yuanliang Lyu / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 10/31/2025. (11-05,12,19,26-25)

265-T

GLOBAL SOURCE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720775

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

264-T

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

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of MAN-WAH WANG YING. AN AMENDED PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by YEJAY W. YING in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE AMENDED PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that YEJAY W. YING be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE AMENDED PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE AMENDED PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before tak-

ing certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 11/21/25 at 9:03AM in Dept. 1 located at 191 NORTH FIRST STREET, SAN JOSE, CA 95113. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner JANET L. BREWER - SBN 74181 LAW OFFICE OF JANET L. BREWER 4 MAIN STREET, SUITE 20 LOS ALTOS CA 94022 Telephone (650) 325-8276 11/5, 11/12, 11/19/25 CNS-3981519# LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER (11-05,12,19-25)

261-T

TESS LABS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720694

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: TESS LABS, 1243 Green Oak Lane, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): John Affaki, 1243 Green Oak Lane, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ John Affaki / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 10/23/2025. (11-05,12,19,26-25)

260-T

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

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

259-T

SOCIAL THINKING CENTER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720167

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SOCIAL THINKING CENTER, 1901 S Bascom Ave Ste 340, Campbell, CA, 95008, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation.

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

258-T

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

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

Proposed Name: a. Robyn Lynn Stein

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

NOTICE OF HEARING 01/13/2026 at 8:45 a.m. Room: Probate (b) The address of the court is: 191 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

3. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Altos Town Crier Date: 10/14/2025

/s/ LE Jacqueline Duong
Judge of the Superior Court (10-29-25,11-05,12,19-25)

257-T

KARBREEZE INC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719677

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

254-T

Datebook

CLUBS/GROUPS

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

EVENTS

Los Altos Main Library. All events held in the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, unless otherwise indicated. **Monday Meditation & Mindfulness,** 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Los Altos Main Library, 7 p.m., Woodland Library, 1975 Grant Road. **Poetry Community Hour Open Mic,** 7 p.m., first Monday of every month. **Native American Song and Dance Celebration,** 7 p.m. Nov. 18. Part of the Santa Clara County Library District's celebration of Native American Heritage Month, featuring Future Generations, a collaboration of Native American singers, dancers and artists from the greater San Francisco Bay Area. **Ten Years, Billions of Galaxies, One Sky: The Rubin Observatory Story,** 7 p.m. Nov. 20. Stanford University's Bernadita Ried Guachalla will explore how Rubin's images will help us tackle some of the biggest questions in cosmology: What is dark matter made of? What is driving the accelerated expansion of the Universe? And how did cosmic structures evolve over billions of years?

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

CLUBS/GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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



262-T

DATEBOOK

From Page 34

735-1552, losaltoskiwanis.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Morning Forum of Los Altos. Celebrating its 75th year, the Morning Forum of Los Altos announces its spring program. Nov. 18, author, speaker and wilderness guide Jim Wilkens will talk about his adventures. Dec. 2, author Alka Joshi will talk about her new murder mystery novel. Jan. 20, Bertrand Patenaude, Stanford University History and International Relations lecturer, will discuss the history and current status of the Baltic States. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave. Email info.morningforum@gmail.com

Crossword Answers

1	J	A	V	A		5	P	L	A	N		9	P	H	I
12	O	P	A	L		13	O	L	L	A		14	A	B	O
15	G	E	M	S		16	R	O	B	I		17	N	S	O
		18	S	P	O		19	O	K	Y		20	L	E	T
							21	N	E	D		22	C	R	A
25	B	E	S	T		28	I	R	S		29	S	T	A	L
30	E	T	H	I	C	S		31	S	L	A	M	O	N	
32	S	T	A	T	E			33	S	T	O	R	I	E	S
34	S	A	R	I				35	L	A	B				
			36	E	A	R		37				38	U	R	S
42	E	C	O	N	O		44	M	I	C		45	H	O	S
47	E	A	U			48	M	E	C	H		49	O	T	T
50	G	M	T			51	P	R	E	Y		52	P	A	D

Sudoku Answers

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

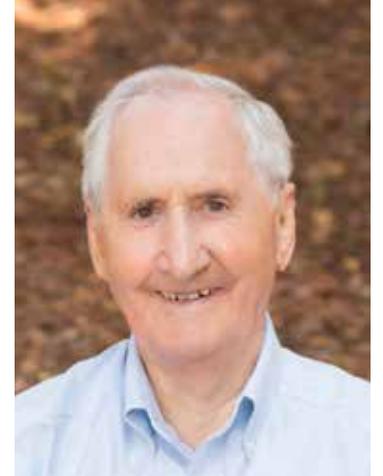
Find A Word Answers

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

OBITUARY NOTICE

ALEESE KOCH

JOHN CHARLES BLACKIE



November 20, 1933 - October 31, 2025

September 2, 1930 - October 30, 2025

Aleese Kay (Boatwright) Koch passed away peacefully at home in Los Altos, CA on October 31, 2025 after several years of declining health. She was 91 years old.

Aleese was born on November 20, 1933 in San Francisco, CA. She was the youngest daughter of Al and Louise Boatwright now deceased. Her older sister Ann Martin passed away in 2015.

Aleese graduated from Sequoia High School in 1951 and married James F. Koch on February 14, 1953 in Carmel, CA. She was a devoted mother to her sons Richard F. Koch (Barbie) and James Koch (Evangeline) and a beloved grandmother to Theodora, Tasso (Abby), Alison (Eric), John, Charlotte, Braden and a great grandmother to Elena. Aleese was also a cherished partner and loyal friend to Lynwood Carter who she knew since high school.

A resident of Los Altos for 65 years, Aleese always made her home and family her priority. Over the years she hosted many memorable swimming parties, backyard BBQs, and holiday gatherings for the extended family.

In addition, Aleese worked as a bank teller, real estate agent and a receptionist for a local pediatrician. She enjoyed singing, dancing and music in general. She was a kind, generous, fun and feisty lady and even though her health and memory were failing at the end, she always smiled and remained grateful for the support of family, good friends, concerned neighbors and compassionate caregivers.

Aleese truly embodied the adage of a life well lived. She will be greatly missed by all who loved her.

Services will be held Thursday, November 20 at Spangler Mortuary Chapel in Los Altos at 1:00 pm. A reception will be held at her home immediately following the memorial.

John Charles Blackie, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, passed away peacefully at home on October 30, 2025, at the age of 95. Born in Richmond, Surrey, England, on September 2, 1930, the youngest of six children to Emma and Walter, John emigrated to the US in 1960 as part of the “brain drain.” He met the love of his life, married, had a family, and a successful career in technology.

After working on radios and communication equipment while serving in the British Army Royal Corps of Signals, John continued his technical career in England. He then joined the burgeoning semiconductor industry in America, first in Massachusetts then relocating to Silicon Valley in 1973. In 1979 John was a co-founder and CTO of Zitel, a start-up computer memory and storage company which he helped build into a public company with over 120 employees. He retired from Zitel in 1991.

John was a true English gentleman as well as a gentle man. He loved to laugh and enjoyed watching British comedies and thrillers along with his daily cuppa and biscuits. He was also an avid history buff shaped by his years of growing up near London during WWII. He had a good innings.

John is survived by his devoted wife of 63 years, Patricia; his loving sons Jeffrey and Peter (Belinda); his cherished grandchildren, Colin and Keeley; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. No services.





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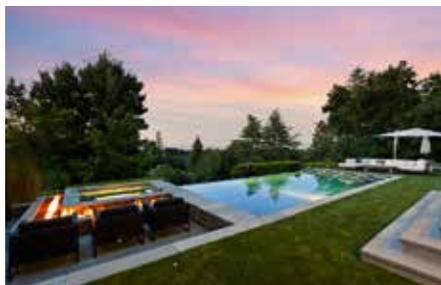
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