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Los Altos Town Crier

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

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Parking plaza planning moves forward

By Julia Baum
TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

Los Altos city officials are bringing five revised conceptual designs for a proposed downtown park to residents this summer after the City Council directed staff to remove underground parking options and focus on above-ground solutions. The outreach process continues the city’s exploration of a downtown park while addressing concerns raised during the initial review.

Speaking at a July 10 meeting hosted by the Los Altos Community Coalition, Anthony Carnesecca, assistant to the city manager, said the project aims to “support our unique and charming downtown” through the creation of a new public gathering space, additional amenities and improved pedestrian connections.

The proposed project



CLARKE CONDÉ/TOWN CRIER

Parking plazas 1, 2 and 3 in downtown Los Altos are the subject of conceptual designs for a proposed downtown park.

would redevelop parking plazas 1, 2 and 3 into a combination of park space and

parking improvements. City staff’s five concepts include flexible lawn areas, shaded

gathering spaces, outdoor dining areas, play spaces, native and drought-tolerant

landscaping, public restrooms and improved pedestrian connections. Carnesecca said the inclusion of a public restroom would fill a gap in downtown, where residents and visitors currently must enter a business to access one.

“This would be a gathering space for folks to actively utilize both on a daily basis and then also on a special event basis,” Carnesecca said.

Carnesecca said all five concepts would provide either net-neutral or net-positive parking. Downtown Los Altos currently has about 1,300 public off-street parking spaces, roughly 400 on-street spaces and approximately 800 private spaces.

Parking has remained a central issue throughout the project’s review, with residents and council members

SEE PARK, PAGE 4

DMV ordering thousands statewide to retake knowledge tests

By Giovanni Albanese Jr.
TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

If you are among those who recently received a letter in the mail from the California Department of Motor Vehicles regarding irregularities in knowledge test results, the DMV has confirmed that these letters are in fact legiti-

mate.

The DMV told the Town Crier that it has sent out 10,159 letters throughout last month, though it would not divulge whether the tests were sent to any residents within our readership area in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View.

According to the DMV, the

tests were reviewed internally using multiple data points and the irregularities may indicate instances of cheating.

“(We) found patterns suggesting that some individuals may have attempted to circumvent the testing process using various cheating methods,” the DMV said in a statement.

The DMV added that those who received a letter regarding the irregularities must retake their knowledge test within 30 days of the receipt of the letter. If they do not complete and pass the retest, those individuals will have their driver’s license cancelled.

The DMV stressed that

though the test results have been pegged as problematic, the receipt of the letter does not indicate cheating definitely occurred.

“Nonetheless, these irregularities are test-taker related and not the result of an internal DMV technical issue,

SEE DMV, PAGE 6

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For more information, see tinyurl.com/vanna-the-dog



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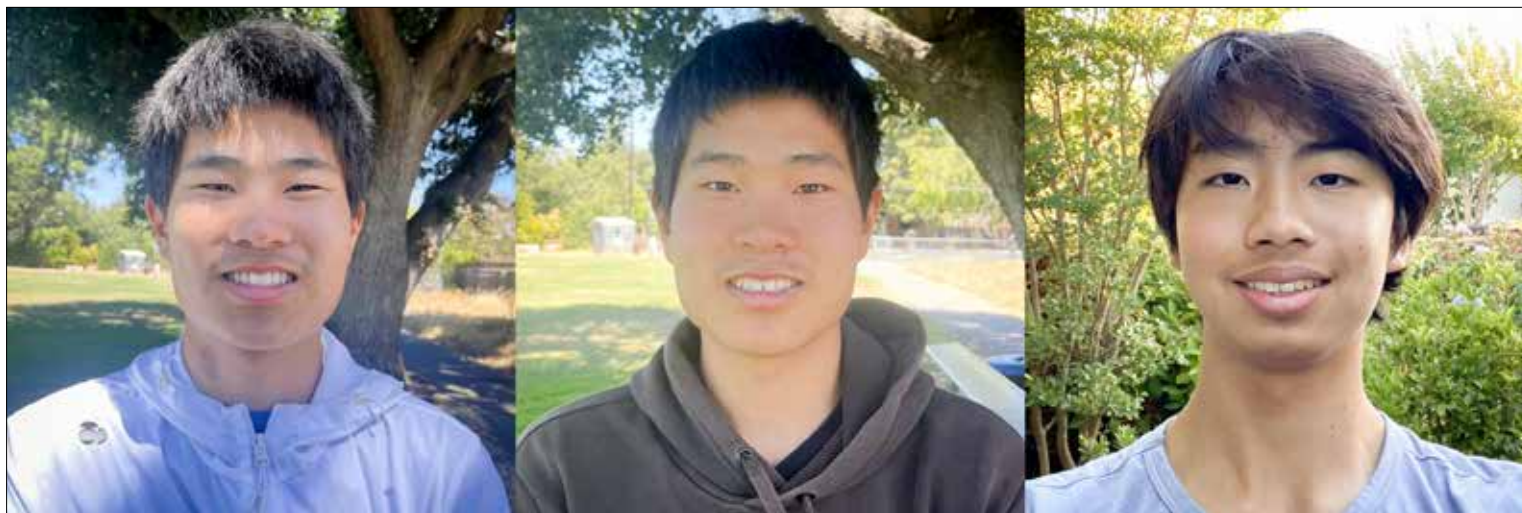
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News

Using AI, students create website that summarizes local government agendas



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ZHANGS

SimpleCity builders from the left, Patrick Zhang, Samuel Zhang and Ruiwen Ge.

By Sana Karkhanis

TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Three Bay Area students, including two from Los Altos, recently launched a website that uses AI to summarize local government meeting agendas and decisions.

Twin brothers Patrick Zhang and Samuel Zhang of Los Altos High School, along with fellow senior Ruiwen Ge of Aragon High School, are the creators of SimpleCity. The founders said their goal is to make meeting-related information provided by local governments more understandable and accessible to residents.

SimpleCity summarizes

agendas and decisions for government meetings for the cities of Los Altos, Mountain View, Menlo Park, San Mateo, Foster City and San Francisco, as well as the counties of Santa Clara and San Mateo.

Ge said they hope to expand to other jurisdictions in the Bay Area and beyond.

The three founders said they came up with the idea for SimpleCity in May after deciding they wanted to build something together in the summer to put their free time to good use. Their website went up by the end of that month.

“One of the lessons that we learned is something that might look so simple can actually be beneficial to the com-

munity,” Samuel said. “We can use all these free resources that are available to us and I just think that it’s very important to use that to your advantage and try to make change in your community or in the world.”

Ge said the site is automatically updated every day, collecting agenda documents from official government sites and then breaking them down into pieces so that the AI tool can summarize it. To increase transparency, Patrick said these AI summaries always include a link back to the original source and the tool removes information flagged as potentially unreliable.

When the three first started

building the site, Ge said their primary focus was making sure the backend worked well and could complete the site’s main goals of parsing the city council agendas and then summarizing them. However, they also wanted a visually appealing interface.

“We really care about the user experience because we want this to be a platform that people constantly access,” Patrick said. “So, if we didn’t have the right user interface for that, the platform wouldn’t have caught their attention or kept them on the site.”

Currently, SimpleCity has analyzed more than 200

SEE AI, PAGE 6

Los Altos general plan report looks to balance small-town charm

By Giovanni Albanese Jr.

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

During the July 14 Los Altos City Council meeting, staff provided council with a report on the general plan vision and guiding principles, providing a long-term vision of the city with an outlook to 2050.

The creation of the plan, led by the city’s planning division in partnership with the consultant team of Dyett & Bhatia, gives a vision of future growth, development, conservation, infrastructure and public investment, and aims to help guide

decisions on land use, housing, transportation and quality of life. It outlines the small-town charm of Los Altos and the evolution of the city throughout the ever-changing California context, with guiding principles revolving around environmental sustainability, walking, biking and a sense of community.

Staff said in the report the vision was built on 18 more specific guiding principles that were cataloged into four categories: community and place, people and culture, mobility and connectivity, and gover-

nance and infrastructure.

The community input revealed its priorities for the next 25 years, with key themes being maintaining the city’s small-town feel, strengthening downtown vitality and business health, fostering neighborhood gathering places, preserving local history and heritage and ensuring a balance of housing types, the staff report said.

The report was put together through broad-based community input collected from January through July of this year. The previous general plan vision was adopted in 2002.

“The General Plan update does not discard the foundation established by the existing plan,” staff said in the report. “Rather, it builds upon that foundation by refreshing the community’s long-term vision, incorporating new information and emerging trends, addressing evolving state requirements and engaging the community in shaping the city’s future.”

Councilman Pete Dailey questioned staff about the input, wondering why the key principles for the vision of the

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PARK

FROM PAGE 1

raising questions about how any new park space would affect downtown access and the character of existing parking areas.

The current concepts differ from those presented to the City Council in February, when staff shared four park themes inspired by local history, including the Redwood Grove and orchard concepts. After reviewing the preliminary options, council directed staff to remove underground parking from consideration and focus on designs featuring above-ground parking solutions.

Staff said the change followed community feedback gathered during last summer’s outreach, when residents raised concerns about safety and whether they would feel comfortable using underground parking.

The project builds on the city’s 2018 Downtown Vision, which identified the potential for new public gathering spaces and parking improvements in the downtown area.

The five current concepts vary primarily in the location and layout of the park. Four options pair the park with a three-level parking structure, while a fifth option would improve the existing parking plazas without adding a dedicated park space.

City staff are seeking feedback on elements residents would like to prioritize, including landscaping, gathering spaces, play areas and how the park space would interact with downtown parking and nearby businesses.

The city has identified park impact fees and a potential state park grant as possible funding sources for the project. Carnesecca said the project remains in the conceptual stage, with additional design work needed before moving forward.

Staff plans to continue collecting feedback through September before returning to the City Council to discuss next steps.

News

Cal Water to work in south Los Altos through July



CLARKE CONDÉ/TOWN CRIER

Cal Water sets up Monday on Grant Road to begin installing a mile of water main

By Giovanni Albanese Jr.

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

Cal Water crews are continuing to work on improvements to the water infrastructure in south Los Altos throughout the duration of this month.

The company said in a news release that work in Los Altos along Grant Road from Portland Avenue to Foothill Expressway, just east of Oak Avenue Elementary and Mountain View High School will install 5,200 feet of water main, 49 new services and 10 new fire hydrants. The work replaces 10-inch main with 12-inch main to increase water flow and enhance firefighting capabilities

ties in drier months.

The construction in Los Altos is part of a bigger project that includes simultaneous water infrastructure construction work in Sunnyvale, according to Cal Water Services. Both upgrades to water supply reliability and fire protection for customers are expected to be completed by the end of July.

“Upgrades like these are what help strengthen our water system and have kept us serving our customers everyday and emergency needs for 100 years,” Cal Water Los Altos Suburban District Manager Dawn Smithson said in a statement. “Our proactive efforts to modernize our infrastructure help us continue

to evolve and improve the way in which we serve, so that we can continue delivering safe, clean, and reliable water – both now and for future generations.”

Crews in Los Altos will work Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with traffic control in place to assist motorists and reduce delays, a news release said.

According to the news release, temporary asphalt will be applied until permanent paving is completed – up to 30 days after project completion – which allows the trench to become fully compacted so the road surface is smooth after permanent paving is completed.

One Warm Scarf founder honored by county, community

By Ava Acharya

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

For her years of compassion and community service, Sandy Goldstein was awarded a Certificate of Commendation by Santa Clara County.

Goldstein started the One Warm Scarf project more than 15 years ago with the goal of clothing local unhoused people. The project

has since grown to include over 80 volunteers.

On Wednesday, Goldstein was surprised in her Los Altos home by a handful of those volunteers. They presented her with the county certificate in a show of appreciation and admiration.

“I am just so touched emotionally by everything that is happening,” Goldstein said, both surprised and honored

by the gathering.

Andrea Wald, a One Warm Scarf volunteer and driving force behind the surprise, said that the honor is well deserved.

“I’m so in awe of what she does and I’m thankful,” Wald said. “She gives me something to do that I love, and I know that it’s going to places that

SEE SCARF, PAGE 7



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AI
FROM PAGE 4

meetings throughout seven jurisdictions, according to Ge. Since the platform is always seeking points of growth from its users, he said even those who do not live in the reported jurisdictions are encouraged to try the website and share

their feedback. Ge added that he and his fellow founders have reached out to Bay Area residents through online platforms Nextdoor and Reddit for suggestions to better serve SimpleCity users.

“We’ve reached out to a lot of communities, we’ve made several posts, and thankfully we’ve gotten a lot of encourag-

ing comments and also some feedback,” Ge said. “Some of the feedback we’ve received was really helpful, so I think it’s really amazing how the community’s been reaching out and we’ve been listening to their advice.”

For more information, see [simplicity.app](#).

Santa Clara County students eligible for CalKIDS scholarships

TOWN CRIER REPORT

Nearly 38% of public high school students in Santa Clara County are eligible for CalKIDS scholarships worth up to \$1,500, with more than \$51 million available to help students pay for higher education and career training programs.

The California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program (CalKIDS), administered by the California State Treasurer’s Office, helps expand access to postsecondary education and career training by helping families cover qualified educational expenses. Awards can be used at accredited colleges, universities, community colleges, trade schools and vocational programs.

CalKIDS is also partnering with the California Student

Aid Commission to increase outreach. Through the WebGrants 4 Students portal, school counselors can identify qualifying students in grades 9-12 and connect them with available scholarships.

Students, parents and guardians must claim a CalKIDS Scholarship Account before awards can be used. Eligibility can be checked in minutes using a student’s Statewide Student Identifier, or SSID, available through school records or counselors.

The CalKIDS team will host a live online webinar from 6-7 p.m. Aug. 27 with information about the program. RSVP is required.

To determine eligibility, RSVP for the webinar or claim a scholarship account, see [CalKIDS.org](#).

DMV

FROM PAGE 1

or involvement of artificial intelligence,” the DMV said. “Ensuring the integrity of the knowledge testing process is essential to public safety and to confirm that drivers understand California’s rules of the road.”

Many cases have been referred to county district attorneys across the state for further investigation, and the DMV said it will continue sharing updates as more information becomes available.

State Sen. Dave Cortese of District 15, which represents the heart of Silicon Valley, including San Jose and other cities in the South Bay, serves as the chair of the Senate Transportation Committee. Cortese wrote to California DMV Director Steve Gordon seeking clarity on the issuance of the irregularity letters.

In the letter dated July 10, Cortese wrote to Gordon asking 12 pointed questions, including the methodology used to identify the 10,000-plus recipients, what type of irregularities were there, why the people were selected and whether the results were lim-

ited to a certain timeframe or field office, among others.

“We don’t know why and how they are projecting these anomalies,” Cortese told the Town Crier. “We’re trying to get this baseline to decide (whether we need to write a bill to create legislation).”

Cortese said he expects to hear back from the DMV within 10 days, and if not, he intends to contact them again to demand more answers.

“We’ll keep pushing on our end,” Cortese said. “We know if we don’t do anything, people are going to take the test and not know why they had to. No one will know why they had to do retests except the DMV.”

Cortese said the ball is in the DMV’s court. It’s the department’s opportunity to choose its response. But it needs to do so in a timely manner.

“If they choose to drag their feet, the questions still remain and may become more acute in nature,” Cortese said. “They need to be extremely transparent. A person walking into a DMV today should have some certainty and lack of fear of what’s going to happen with their test.”

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PLAN

FROM PAGE 4

future didn't mention diversity and inclusion.

"What you did capture (in this report) unequivocally were the loudest voices in town, the same six voices we hear over and over again that say that they want to protect the character of the village," Dailey said. "I've knocked on every door in this town and that is not what the majority of people who answer those doors will tell you. It is what those six people will tell you."

Dailey asked about the community members struggling to juggle family and work life, as well as financially being able to pay their bills, and how it is possible to get their thoughts on the vision.

"What I see is the missing

middle of the respondents," Dailey said.

Vice Mayor Larry Lang mirrored concerns of Dailey that the responses from the community were heavily focused on North Los Altos.

"We always want to make sure that we are doing everything we can to ensure that we are hearing the voices of everyone in the city," Lang said.

Staff responded that the data they obtained was purely from surveys, and didn't include pop-ups that were in other parts of the city to get all voices heard. Staff added that part of the plan in subsequent months is to focus their outreach efforts on refining strategies and getting the voice of the community at large.

The project planning itself is expected to run through the fall of 2027 in four phases with

community input integral in each phase, ultimately ending with the finalization and adoption of the plan. The July 14 council meeting wraps up phase one of the project timeline, which covered issues, opportunities and visioning.

"Essentially it's a way of establishing a common ground that we can build from," staff said in the report.

Heading out of phase one and into phase two, the plan is to work with the community, through its input, to establish strategies to achieve the vision, staff said. Phase three, which will commence in early 2027, will take the strategies from phase two and begin crafting the goals, policies and actions of the plan.

Read the report at tinyurl.com/LosAltos2050.



AVA ACHARYA/TOWN CRIER

Sandy Goldstein and Andrea Wald (center) alongside other volunteers in Goldstein's garage. They gathered to present Goldstein with her certificate of commendation.

SCARF

FROM PAGE 5

need it."

One Warm Scarf volunteers use collected or donated yarn to knit clothing, which is then distributed to local homeless shelters.

Shortly before receiving the certificate, Goldstein collected a bag of knit baby clothing that will be donated to the

Homeless Prenatal Program located in San Francisco.

Surrounded by volunteers and homemade knitware, Goldstein stressed the importance of warm and comfortable clothing.

"It's not always easy, but we keep going because there is a need," Goldstein said.

For more information, see onewarmscarf.com.

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Letters to the Editor

Dogs the source of smell downtown

I recently attended the Arts and Wine festival with some of my friends. We had a wonderful time viewing all the booths and meeting the artists. Towards the end of the street, I wanted to sit and rest. I found a bench located near the office of the Village Association.

Within a few minutes of finding my spot on the said bench, I began to notice a strange smell all around me. I have had a tendency to shop downtown but leave right away, so sitting on the bench downtown was a less frequent luxury. But the smell was quite strong.

It was obvious from the start what that smell was. It was dog pee smell. Our pretty downtown, with its Stanford Mall-like flowers and beautiful window displays, pales in comparison when the disagreeable smell wafts straight to your nose. You want to move away from the footpath or even from near any of the benches. The dogs have been merry in every corner, and in a straight line on every wall.

The dogs and puppies are adorable, please do not misunderstand. I love dogs and frequently ask to meet those that are walking downtown with their owners. But it is quite bad that all the footpaths have this odor and every wall has a discoloration from pee puddles.

Can we please do something about washing out the downtown area? Spraying with detergent, maybe? AI had helped me to create what I consider an accurate illustration of this issue. I hope you will post that as well as my letter, so people who walk their dogs downtown know that picking up doggy poo, is not enough.

Dr. Sharvari Dixit

LOS ALTOS HILLS

Editor's Note: It is our policy not to publish AI-generated content.

You can't have it both ways

In November, there will appear on the Los Altos ballot a new ordinance: "Los Altos Downtown Parking Plaza Ordinance." If passed, the ordinance would protect most of the downtown parking plazas from being sold, redeveloped or repurposed without the consent of the voters of Los Altos.

Opponents of the ordinance would have us believe the ordinance will open Pandora's Box, releasing a litany of ghastly horrors. Yet, the Los Altos City Council has reserved three of the ten plazas for construction projects unrelated to housing. Apparently, this will not open Pandora's Box. But it is asserted that if the ordinance passes and these very same parking plaza construction projects have to be put to a vote of the people, it will open Pandora's Box. Huh? You can't have it both ways.

Also, if the ordinance pass-

es, the three plazas encumbered for non-housing-related construction will de facto return to the inventory of parking plazas that could, theoretically, be used for housing in the future. How can that possibly undercut the city's housing element and state housing laws?

John Fennell

LOS ALTOS

The village under siege

Our beautiful, small downtown village in Los Altos is under siege. A healthy downtown needs customers, and customers are attracted to places that offer products, services and activities. Those community gathering places are created through a dynamic partnership between private property owners, city government, merchants and citizens.

A citizen initiative on our ballot will disrupt that partnership and prevent investment downtown in a quest to

protect acres of asphalt and cost Los Altos millions in lawsuits. We will be sued if enough people vote to pass this initiative, and we will be obligated to spend more taxpayer funds to defend it forever.

The city has spent years working with the community building a downtown vision (2018) and has recently attended more than 70 events for public input on designs. Our council members listen to our citizens and have heard the majority ask for more gathering places and more parking and more people downtown. Now, when we're close to making an investment, a minority is attempting to suffocate our village because they don't want change.

Ultimately, our investment in our village downtown will protect our very own property values. Your city council has our best interests in mind every day.

Curtis Cole

LOS ALTOS

Peek into the Past: 1965



COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

Do you recognize anyone or the car? The photo was published by The Palo Alto Times in 1965 and was taken at the Los Altos Lutheran Church on the corner of El Monte and Cuesta.

Community

New mural in downtown Los Altos filled with shoreline birds

By Ginny Strock and
Maddy McBirney

ARTS LOS ALTOS

A new public art mural, “Baylands Sunrise,” commissioned by Arts Los Altos, has been installed at 140 Third St. on the side wall of the Los Altos Dance Academy. The inspiration for this mural comes from the graceful movement of shoreline birds at the Baylands Nature Preserve and Shoreline Park from photos taken by Arts Los Altos’ photographer, Joel Bartlett. The artists’ hope is to bring observers into a space of color, harmony and movement, symbolic of dance.

Oakland-based artist team Elaine Chu and Marina Perez Wong of Twin Walls Mural Company were chosen to design and paint this new mural. The artists met while attending the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts. Both art-

ists received formal art school training before establishing Twin Walls Mural Company in 2013. Chu went to Maryland Institute College of Art, and Wong went to California College of the Arts in Oakland.

Chu grew up in San Francisco – exposed to murals everywhere – and was inspired by Miranda Bergman’s mural work in the Mission District. At the age of 14, Chu started working as an intern with Precita Eyes which was founded by Susan Cervantes, a renowned San Francisco muralist and pioneer of the San Francisco community mural movement.

Wong was born and raised in the Mission District of San Francisco. She spent the first five years of her life in and out of hospitals due to a Wilms tumor, making the colorful Mission murals particularly meaningful after sterile hospital environments. Initially, she



PHOTO BY KAREN ZUCKER

Oakland-based artist team Marina Perez Wong, left, and Elaine Chu at work in downtown Los Altos.

didn’t think she could paint murals until a friend encouraged her to volunteer. Hired by Precita Eyes for a mural project

with 200-400 volunteers, she discovered she could also be an effective teacher and mentor. She eventually became an

instructor at Oakland School for the Arts, where she juggled

SEE MURAL, PAGE 11



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Community

Town Torchbearers: Pharmacist Sam Kahn's legacy of community service

By Skye Dean

TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

A prolific community serviceman and the founder of Kahn's Corner Pharmacy, Sam Kahn's Los Altos legacy remains strong nearly 30 years after his passing.

A San Francisco native, Sam and his wife Annette moved to Los Altos in 1939, when the town was home to roughly 1,900 residents. That same year, he opened Kahn's Corner Pharmacy on the corner of First and Main streets – the beginning of a 61-year family business.

Sam's son, Mel Kahn, said he spent his childhood as the pharmacy's stock boy. In 1955, when Mel was an underclassman at Los Altos High School, Kahn's relocated to the corner of Third and Main streets. Mel later took over the business upon the introduction of a digital prescription-filling system.

The now 84-year-old Los Altos resident remembers the charming backdrop of the pharmacy's early days.

"We were a sleepy little town," he said. "When my dad first got here, he would tell people there were hitching posts on Main Street because most of



Sammy and Mel Kahn are celebrating Kahn's Corner Pharmacy's four decades in downtown Los Altos. Photo by Amy Huntoon

PHOTO BY AMY HUNTOON

Sam and Mel Kahn at Kahn's Corner Pharmacy from a Dec. 12, 1979 piece in the Town Crier.

the farmers who were up in the hill(s) would ride their horses in... In fact, when I worked for my father, we would always make sure we parked the car

out (front) because we were a pharmacy and we were open on Sundays... We wanted to

SEE KAHN, PAGE 16

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Silicon Valley Community Foundation funds 139 local nonprofits

By Ava Acharya
TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

As issues such as wealth disparity, housing, health-care and informational freedom become more pressing, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) is uplifting local nonprofits through the or-

ganization's Community Action Grants.
In 2026, SVCF awarded \$2.7 million worth of funding to 139 smaller nonprofit organizations across Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.
"Silicon Valley is a place of extraordinary wealth, but also profound need ... Our work fits

at that intersection, helping those with resources support the nonprofits and community leaders that make sure more of our neighbors can thrive," said Moses Zapien, executive vice president for community impact and policy at SVCF.
SVCF is a regional community foundation based in Mountain

View. Its website states its overall mission is to gather and distribute resources in order to address the prevalent issues faced by communities in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.
"We bring together donors, nonprofits, businesses, community leaders and government partners to address the region's

biggest challenges," Zapien said.
These grants are an extension of that core mission, as SVCF's Community Action Grants target organizations working within historically underfunded communities. Additionally, these grants prioritize nonprofits
SEE SVCF, PAGE 17

MURAL

FROM PAGE 9
being a working muralist and teacher.
In the past, their designs were first hand-drawn or painted. Currently, they use Procreate software, which is less time-consuming and more cost-effective for making changes. Of the design process, Wong said, "We always consider architecture and flow of traffic – is it a one-way street, from which angles will people approach, are there trees, windows or signs?" Susan Cervantes taught them that "the energy you put into your work affects people who see it."
Their biggest challenges with mural work are sun, heat, wind and rain. Being outside in the sun all day is blinding and exhausting. Also, these women are busy, new moms. A new material and technique for this mural has been introduced to our community. The artists painted the mural in their studio on polytab mural cloth, a durable, canvas-like product that has been adhered to the wall with a specialized waterproof gel medium, carefully smoothed into place. The parachute cloth is hardier and lasts longer than painting directly

on walls. Using this material, they were able to paint the mural in sections in their studio with more time flexibility, and without the constraints of unpredictable weather conditions and travel.
Chu and Wong have painted over 30 murals since establishing their collaborative company. They recently completed a temporary mural, "Our Ancestors' Wildest Dreams," inside SFMOMA that is painted on wood panels. They are now looking for a new home for the mural. This project pushed them to a different level. Their future aspirations include developing their studio work and translating their large-scale work to a smaller-scale body of work with personal themes they would like to explore.
This new and colorful public art installation mixes both a stylized and realistic perspective, filling the space with the morning light and the graceful flight of birds at Shoreline Park and Baylands Nature Preserve. A Meet the Artists Art Opening will take place at 6:15 p.m. on Friday, August 7, following the public art walking tour. There will be light refreshments and beverages, music, time to chat with the artists, and an opportunity to learn



PHOTO BY KAREN ZUCKER

The new mural "Baylands Sunrise" by Marina Perez Wong and Elaine Chu in downtown Los Altos.

more about current and future Arts Los Altos installations.
Join the First Friday Arts Los Altos public art walking tour at 5 p.m. Meet your walk-

ing guide Maddy McBirney at 169 State St., in front of the "Mandahlia" sculpture. The tour will last a little over an hour and will finish at the Meet

the Artists Art Opening for "Baylands Sunrise."
For more information, see artslosaltos.org.

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Community

Linden Tree and Access Books Bay Area join forces to support underfunded schools



PHOTO BY STEVEN SHPALL

Access Books board member Victoria Salas Salcedo and her kids at Linden Tree Books.

By Ava Acharya

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

Reading skills are essential to childhood development, yet many schools lack the funding to properly stock and maintain libraries.

Access Books Bay Area and Linden Tree Children's Books want to address this issue. This July, they are partnering for a book drive in order to support these underfunded communities.

"There's an equity gap in what kids can access, and we want to make sure that all kids, no matter where they live or whatever zip code they're in, have access to great books," said Cathy Cheng, director of fundraising at Access Books.

This is the third consecutive summer that Access Books has partnered with Linden Tree. Linden Tree owner Chris Saccheri said that this partnership is a perfect fit for both of their goals.

"The work that Access Books Bay Area does to refurbish these school libraries and make and build a rich and diverse catalog of books for these libraries is just essential for kids," Saccheri said. "That goes part and

parcel with our own mission to get more kids reading and loving books."

Linden Tree is a locally owned and operated bookstore in Los Altos that specializes in children's literature.

Saccheri said that he is very familiar with the budgetary restrictions many school librarians and teachers face.

"We have teachers and librarians coming into our stores all the time," Saccheri said. "One thing we both hear and see frequently is, even librarians in the most affluent districts, are always talking about budget limitations that they run up against."

Most children primarily experience books through their school libraries, so it is important that those libraries are well stocked, Saccheri added.

Access Books' foundational goal is to ensure that children have access to books, regardless of their school's funding.

"(We are) a local nonprofit whose mission is to bridge the literacy gap for our underfunded school districts," Cheng said. "The more books

that we can get donated from the public, from bookstores and from publishers, the less it will cost to be able to stock schools."

Cheng said that books and reading have a profound impact on children.

"Reading skills improve life-long outcomes," Cheng said. "Whether you're looking at test scores or outcomes like going to college and future success in your career and life, there are lots of studies that show that."

But reading is more than careers and test scores. Cheng and Saccheri both stressed the importance of seeing oneself and one's interests reflected in the materials that one is reading.

Cheng added that it is important that kids have access to a diverse selection of books, so they are able to see both their own experiences reflected alongside that of unfamiliar groups.

"We want to give every kid the opportunity to find the book that's going to be interesting to them and just spark their interest in reading," Cheng said. "We want reading to be fun and we want them to find something that inspires them."

Community

Volunteer profile: Baby goats bring in a volunteer



PHOTO BY KATIE KEESHEN

Seri Nakazawa Quarton leading a farm tour and peeking through a fence to see the farm's rams.

By Laurie Schutters

SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

With the mere mention of baby goats, Seri Nakazawa Quarton, 48, was hooked on the idea of volunteering at Hidden Villa.

While Bradley Quarton, Nakazawa Quarton's husband, approached Hidden Villa staff at a farmers' market in 2024 about volunteer trail maintenance work, former staff member Nina Vuoso said to Nakazawa Quarton, "Do you want to hold baby goats?"

"How did you know!" Nakazawa Quarton said.

A nonprofit, Hidden Villa is a 1,600-acre outdoor classroom filled with farm animals, organic gardens and wilderness in Los Altos Hills, which schoolchildren throughout the Bay Area visit on school field trips to fulfill science standards requirements.

Nakazawa Quarton began by volunteering for the Animal Husbandry's Animal Chore Team.

"It's quiet and it's beautiful and all the animals are so excited to see you," Nakaza-

wa Quarton said of her early morning shift.

It's solitary work, except when her two teenage daughters (who both attended Hidden Villa's Summer Camp) accompany her. So Nakazawa Quarton decided to also become a Hidden Villa Farm tour guide.

While Nakazawa Quarton introduces young schoolchildren to their food sources on farm tours, they experience the farm's reciprocal relationships and science in action.

(Some volunteers become farm and wilderness guides who work with older schoolchildren to introduce them to nature as well as the farm.)

"Just getting to witness these kids encountering things for the first time, like their first piece of rhubarb or having them make the connection of oat groats taste like a Triscuit, those little connections are really delightful," Nakazawa Quarton said.

And she appreciates the community.

"A lot of the volunteers are older, they're empty nesters, and it's a kind of demo-

graphic I don't naturally encounter. It's been very sweet and helpful for me to develop relationships with folks who are just a couple steps ahead of me," Nakazawa Quarton said.

Nakazawa Quarton had no prior farm experience and found the training "fantastic."

"I just think as a volunteer," Nakazawa Quarton said, "I feel so appreciated and supported and cared for and prepared."

When not volunteering at Hidden Villa, Nakazawa Quarton likes to make things. She's learning how to paint and sew, she runs ("I don't love to run, but I run.") and volunteers with her husband for a hospice organization.

"My other hobby is shutting my kids around," Nakazawa Quarton said.

Interested in becoming a volunteer guide? Hidden Villa is hosting an open house 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 8 at Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. For more information, see hiddenvilla.org/programs/catalog/357-open-house.

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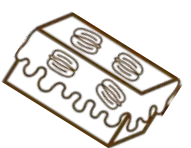
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LUNA Mexican Kitchen to open Los Altos location early Sept.

By Niaz Alasti
TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

After more than two years of construction, LUNA Mexican Kitchen is expected to open in downtown Los Altos in early September. The restaurant's third location, it will be at 145 First St.

The restaurant was initially expected to open early 2025, but construction challenges delayed the opening date, according to Jo Lerma-Lopez, chef and co-owner of LUNA.

"I think we had a bumpy start navigating through the challenges," Lerma-Lopez said. "We've had a great rapport with the city, and they've been helpful. Some things just take time."

Lerma-Lopez, along with her

husband and co-founder John Lopez, opened LUNA's first location in the Alameda neighborhood of San Jose in June 2017. LUNA stands for Local, Unrefined, Natural, Authentic, a philosophy Lerma-Lopez said has guided the restaurants. They opened another location in Campbell's Pruneyard Shopping Center in 2019.

They decided on Los Altos for their next location after Lerma-Lopez saw the property years ago.

"There was something really calming and beautiful about walking around the downtown area," Lerma-Lopez said. "I walked by that space and noticed these big redwood trees and the white picket fence and the 1920s Craftsman home. I



ALEXANDRA DONGNGUYEN/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

LUNA Mexican Kitchen undergoing renovations in downtown Los Altos.

took pictures of it ... then forgot about it."

When the property became available for lease following the closure of House on First, previously Bumble, in 2022, Lerma-Lopez was confident it was the perfect space for LUNA's newest location.

"I pictured that patio bringing the energy of Valle de Guadalupe or Napa Valley," she said. "Outdoor, California living – there's just such warmth in that space."

A major draw of LUNA's menu is that there are no additives or preservatives, and Lerma-Lopez said she and her husband believe food is medicine. Lerma-Lopez prides herself on being a natural chef, someone who aims to heal through food.

The owners got into the res-

taurant business after years of running a record label and retail store in San Jose. Lerma-Lopez said it was a longtime dream to "bring the food that we love" to the area.

"The foundation has been to honor our ancestors and to honor Mexican food," she said. "We really have never been about reinventing the wheel, we just want to serve dishes that our grandmothers made."

Kim Mosley, president and CEO of the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce, in a statement, welcomed LUNA to Los Altos and commended the restaurant's approach to Mexican food.

"Jo Lerma-Lopez has built something truly special: a Michelin-recognized, farm-to-table approach to elevated Mexi-

can cuisine," she wrote. "Their new outdoor space on First Street is among the finest in all of Los Altos, a spectacular place for neighbors to gather over an exceptional meal."

Lerma-Lopez said she hopes that this new restaurant will cultivate the same feeling of community and togetherness as the previous locations.

"We have felt such warmth from people coming to our San Jose and Campbell locations, where they have been so gracious," Lerma-Lopez said. "They're really excited for us to come to Los Altos and that really feels good to know that there's people that want to support us. I hope we make Los Altos proud."

For more information, see lunamexicankitchen.com.



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Pinewood student launches teen-led mental health nonprofit

By Julia Baum
TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

After experiencing severe bullying as a freshman and feeling her concerns went unheard, 17-year-old Pinewood High School student Aanya Mukherjee decided to create the kind of support she wished had existed.

Now a rising senior, Mukherjee is the founder of Buy Yourself Flowers (BYF), a nonprofit dedicated to providing mental health resources developed "by teens, for teens." The organization works with local schools and community partners to offer

peer-centered resources, presentations and conversations about student well-being.

Mukherjee said the idea grew beyond her own experiences when she began attending meetings with educators and community leaders focused on youth mental health.

"I realized I was the only teenager present," she said. "They weren't talking to their target audience about the issues that affect them."

That experience convinced her that while adult professionals provide valuable expertise, students should play a meaning-

ful role in shaping mental health programs.

"Teens are the ones experiencing the issues around youth mental health. They have a real understanding of it," Mukherjee said. "Adults have really good input, but that's not the same as experiencing the issues firsthand."

BYF's student-led philosophy also shapes how the organization addresses the issues students face most. So far, BYF has partnered with more than five local schools, including Pinewood,

SEE FLOWERS, PAGE 17

Community

Los Altos teen wins international guitar competition



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Preston Hong playing guitar.

By Ava Acharya

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

At 3 years old, Preston Hong found a love for music – he loved the way that it made him feel. And, as Hong got older, that appreciation grew.

Now, at 17 years old, Preston Hong is an international music champion.

In June, Hong won the 2026 Guitar Foundation of America International Youth Competition in the Senior Division, playing classical guitar.

“I’m really happy about it. I worked for a whole year practicing these pieces in order to compete,” Hong said. “It’s definitely an achievement milestone for me.”

He started studying guitar at the California Conservatory of Music in Sunnyvale at age 3. He said that his parents noticed an interest in music, and acted on it.

“I would go around the house just singing ... and pretending to strum random things like it’s a guitar,” Hong said.

As Hong grew up, guitar became more than an interest. It became an extension of

himself.

“It’s like a way I can express myself without using my words,” Hong said. “It makes me feel really happy to play, and I love sharing with others when I perform.”

In the past, Hong has gained national recognition of his talents. Hong was featured on NPR’s “From the Top” at 11 years old.

And through the acclaim, Hong has remained dedicated to growth and greatness. He said that his repertoire for the 2026 GFA competition took roughly a year of practice.

“Even though I’ve done a ton of competitions in the past, I always feel really, really nervous,” Hong said. “But I just did my best and played with my heart and tried to convey that to the audience.”

Hong plans on expanding his skills into guitar duos, alongside his friend and fellow CCM student Micah Montgomery. Montgomery placed third in the GFA Youth Competition.

“I want to learn as much music as possible,” Hong said. “I am really looking forward to that.”

Have a comment or idea? Reach out

If you have an idea for **Community** or would like to comment on its content, email section editor **Clarke Condé** at clarkec@latc.com.

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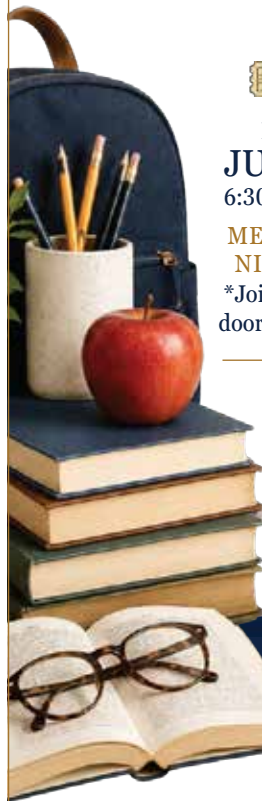
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Community

Foothill College launches therapeutic school for Bay Area teens

By Julia Baum

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

A new therapeutic high school opening this fall at Foothill College aims to provide a local option for Bay Area students whose mental health challenges have made traditional school settings difficult.

The Actias School, opening in August in Los Altos Hills, will serve grades nine through 12 with an integrated model combining academics, therapy and experiential learning for students struggling with anxiety, school avoidance or other mental health challenges.

The idea for Actias grew from founder Bridget McCormick's two decades of work with adolescents and families. A Palo Alto native, McCormick said she has seen many

students leave the Bay Area to access intensive mental health and educational support.

"A lot of families are having to send kids out of state in order to get effective treatment because we don't have enough day treatment options here," McCormick said.

Actias was created to fill that gap by offering a community-based program where students can continue learning while receiving intensive care.

Heather Johanson, an educational consultant with more than 20 years of experience in public education and special education, said many students Actias hopes to serve are "no longer really able to engage in their life" because their anxiety has become so profound.

The school's approach differs from traditional models in which counseling is separate

from classroom instruction. At Actias, teachers, therapists and occupational therapists will work together throughout the school day, helping students practice coping strategies while completing academic tasks.

McCormick said the goal is to help students build confidence and independence rather than avoid challenges that cause anxiety.

"We're going to be partnering with the kids to show them this is the way through to reducing fear," she said.

Students will have individualized academic schedules based on their needs and progress. Through partnerships with Foothill College and Lydian Academy, students will have access to college-preparatory

SEE ACTIAS, PAGE 17

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KAHN

FROM PAGE 10

let them know that we were open."

The slow pace of the surrounding area was reflected in the intimacy of customer interactions.

"It was a very homey pharmacy," Mel said, "and we'd see some of the customers four or five times a week."

However, Sam's commitment to the community extended beyond the aisles of the drug store.

According to Bart Nelson, whose father, Larry Nelson, owned a neighboring pharmacy to Kahn's, Sam was one of the founding members of the Los Altos Village Association (LAVA). Nelson said the group formed in response to the construction of a new Stanford Shopping Center that the community feared would detract from independently owned downtown businesses.

"The wise policies embraced by the Kahns, the Nelsons, the Russells, the Hustons and the like," Nelson said of the LAVA founders, "actually provided a basis for the parking plazas, which provided a basis for Los Altos to wake up and become a quaint, highly popular vicinity to visit and shop."



ALEXANDRA DONGNGUYEN/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

The mural of Sam and Mel Kahn on the building that was once Kahn's Corner Pharmacy on the corner of Main and Third Streets in Los Altos.

Sam was also an original member of the Rotary Club of Los Altos, Mel said. His 48-year tenure with the organization earned him Rotary Man of the Year in 1979, according to his Town Crier eulogy.

"In Rotary, there's a point in time in which we all sing a song," Nelson said, "and Sam was known for, as I understand it, his fun and vocal songs that he would bring to Rotarians throughout all the meetings."

Mel, a longtime Rotary Club member and former Rotary president, said he joined the group at his father's insistence. Similarly, Mel noted that his father urged him to join LAVA, of which he is still a member.

Mel's wife Mady Kahn observed the generational component of her husband's service

work.

"It's his family who's always been involved in this city," she said.

According to a Town Crier tribute, Sam was also a supporter of the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce and a founding member of Congregation Beth Am.

In 2000, three years after Sam's passing, Kahn's Corner Pharmacy closed its doors, pushed out of business by chain drugstores, Mel told the Town Crier at the time.

Nevertheless, Sam's role as a pioneer in the community helped pave the way – literally and figuratively – for modern-day Los Altos.

This is the second in a series of articles about people who have shaped Los Altos.

BPA+D

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1% FOR THE PLANET

FLOWERS

FROM PAGE 14

Los Altos and Alta Vista high schools, as well as organizations such as the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation, Los Altos Village Association and Together We Can MVLA.

That perspective also shapes how BYF addresses the issues students face most. Mukherjee believes academic pressure remains one of the biggest mental health challenges facing local students.

"Anxiety, depression – a lot of that happens because of burn-out," she said. "There's a lot of high expectations around academic performance."

The nonprofit's peer-led approach has resonated with students like Derrick Harris, a rising senior at Pinewood who first discovered BYF through social media. Harris said BYF appealed to him because it was created by students for students.

"I feel like a lot of mental health spaces are dominated by adults," Harris said. "(BYF) makes it a lot more relatable."

He recalled attending one of Mukherjee's presentations at school, where practical time management strategies helped him manage his responsibilities

more intentionally.

"I approached Aanya very differently than I would approach a school counselor," Harris said. "I'd definitely recommend BYF because of the positive messaging around mental health."

One of Mukherjee's most memorable experiences since starting BYF came after speaking at Alta Vista. She said some students initially expected another routine assembly, but afterward one student told her it was the first presentation they hadn't slept through.

"That was more than enough for me," she said. "I was happy to have made some sort of impact."

Balancing a nonprofit while attending high school has presented challenges of its own. Mukherjee often schedules meetings during free periods, with weekends becoming dedicated work time.

Looking ahead, Mukherjee hopes to expand BYF by launching chapters at more schools while encouraging schools to "destigmatize mental health" by making support more accessible and giving students a voice in conversations about their well-being.

For more information, see buyyourselfflowers.org.

SVCF

FROM PAGE 11

with an annual budget less than \$3 million, Zapien said.

"The program aligns very closely with our mission because it allows us to support organizations that are close to community needs," Zapien said.

Zapien feels that it is essential to work with grassroots and community-based organizations because they have more direct experience with the issues.

"These nonprofits don't have large development teams or fundraising infrastructure of larger institutions, but often have the trust, relationships and credibility in the community," Zapien said.

By boosting smaller organizations, SVCF is boosting local voices, Zapien added.

"Often these organizations do not have the same level of access to large philanthropic institutions, even though they're doing some of the most important work in our region," Zapien said.

Zapien added that the program had a record 375 applicants

this past year. Many of the organizations that received grants were impacted by recent public funding cuts, meaning that they had to cut their own budget.

"That tells us a lot about the pressures that nonprofits are facing right now," Zapien said. "These grants matter a lot to these organizations and to the entire nonprofit ecosystem."

Grant funding can range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 depending on need. Community Action Grant recipients cover a wide range of issues, including housing insecurity, arts and culture, healthcare and local journalism.

"These are trusted and community-rooted organizations responding to real needs on the ground," Zapien said. "These organizations that receive funding for the Community Action Grants Program are doing some of the most important work in the region, and often with the least resources."

A full list of Community Action Grant recipients can be found at svcf.org/impact/grants-catalog/grantees-list.

ACTIAS

FROM PAGE 16

coursework, with some able to dual-enroll in Foothill classes while receiving Actias support.

The program will also include outdoor and experiential learning opportunities through partnerships with local farms and nature spaces, with the goal of helping students reconnect with learning.

Actias plans to begin with approximately 10 to 12 students and remain intentionally small as it grows. The school

is also partnering with local school districts and raising funds for financial aid.

"One of our goals is to be accessible to all students who would benefit from our program," said co-founder Evelyn Semenza. She said district partnerships could provide a more local and cost-effective alternative to sending students out of state for treatment programs.

"We're hoping to provide more benefit for less money, in terms of the district, and help the districts out that way," Semenza said.

As Actias grows, Semenza said the school will continue fundraising to support expansion and financial aid for families who may not have district support available.

The founders hope Actias can eventually serve as a model for similar programs elsewhere, but their immediate goal is helping local students reconnect with education and their communities.

"If we can help them heal and re-access their lives and launch into this successful future for themselves, that would be amazing," Johanson said.

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Los Altos Town Crier

Puzzles Page

Town Crier Crossword

By Myles Mellor

Across

1. Medicinal plant

5. Renown

9. Three, as a prefix

12. N.Y. neighbor, abbr.

13. Harvest

14. Mason's burden

15. Excessively cute

16. Mystery writer Ambler

17. Had dinner

18. Hospital scanner, for short

20. "Not a chance!", 2 words

22. Roberts of "Charlie's Angels"

25. Quote as evidence

26. "...man ____ mouse?"- 2 words

27. Outdated portable music player

29. Online journal

33. Joseph ____, founder of the New York Shakespeare Festival

35. Frozen water

36. "Buona ____" (Italian greeting)

37. Spread

38. Chomsky's first name

40. Always, poetically

41. Puts to work

43. **LASD's new board member, Brandon _____**

45. Legal holding account

48. Letter holder, abbr.

49. Org. concerned with emissions

50. Medicinal plant

52. Aug. follower

56. Sound of irritation

57. Ages and ages

58. Bombeck of humor columns

59. "Danny and the Dinosaur" author Hoff

60. June 6, 1944, 2 words

61. Kitchen measure, abbr.

Down

1. Mouthwash brand

2. Fan setting

3. It's the loneliest number

4. Hostile opponent

5. Free, in German

6. Aviation prefix

7. Central theme of a passage, 2 words

8. Walt Disney World theme park

9. Bangkok native

10. Campus military program, abbr.

11. ____ fixe

19. Bollywood actress Aishwarya

21. Young socialites

22. Terrain map, briefly

23. ____ Sea, shrinking Central Asian body of water

24. Back of the neck

25. Palm trees that bear coconuts

28. **Los Altos school founded by the Riches**

30. Salacious glance

31. Sandwich cookie with a creamy filling

32. Top golfer, ____ Player

34. Serve drinks

39. Microsoft's internet portal, abbr.

42. Scattered seeds

44. Living room fixture, 2 words

45. Brain wave readings, abbr.

46. Lively and nimble

47. Christmas greeting

48. Website for crafty sorts

51. Genetic messenger molecule, abbr.

53. Tarzan creator's monogram

54. Afternoons and evenings, briefly

55. Faucet

- Los Altos clues bolded

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
			18	19			20		21			
22	23	24				25						
26				27	28				29	30	31	32
33			34		35				36			
37					38			39		40		
			41	42				43	44			
45	46	47					48					
49				50		51			52	53	54	55
56				57					58			
59				60					61			

Answers on Page 31

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

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

Find A Word

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

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

Beige	Gray	Purple
Black	Green	Scarlet
Blue	Indigo	Violet
Brown	Maroon	White
Emerald	Orange	Yellow

Schools

Local schools ready for new state laws

By Niaz Alasti

TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Three new state laws are expected to shake up schools in many parts of California, but not local institutions. Many of them have already been in compliance and their administrators don't anticipate major changes at their schools.

California passed three school-related bills that went into effect July 1. SB-760 requires all K-12 schools to have at least one all-gender restroom on campus. AB-727 mandates that schools with students in seventh grade and above print the phone number of The Trevor Project, a crisis hotline geared toward LG-BTQ+ youth, on their student IDs. The Phone-Free Schools Act requires all school districts to have a policy limiting cell-phone use during the school day.

Several schools in Los Altos and Mountain View, however, established protocols surrounding cellphone usage and gender-neutral restrooms years before these laws were signed.

Eric Volta, superintendent of the Mountain View Los Altos High School District, said the three high schools in his district include multiple all-gender restrooms, as well as traditional restrooms. Volta attributed the construction of the new bathrooms in part to

the Measure E Bond, passed in 2018.

"I think it's just a respectful thing for all students," Volta said. "It's just an opportunity to treat all students with respect and dignity."

St. Francis High School in Mountain View has single-use restrooms in multiple buildings on the campus that are available to students, families, staff and visitors, according to Jamie Perkins, the private school's director of strategic marketing and communications.

In an email, Perkins added that there are ample all-gender restrooms to meet the needs of the community.

"We focus on making sure we have an all-inclusive environment within our community, so I think this certainly aligns with our mission (and) how we show up for our community," Perkins said in an interview.

St. Francis and schools in both MVLA and the Los Altos School District, which oversees elementary and intermediate schools in the area, have also had policies regarding cellphones that comply with the new law requiring districts to have rules limiting or prohibiting phone use.

St. Francis has maintained a strict no cellphone policy for the entire school day, without exceptions. While students are unable to use a personal device,

they are given a school-issued device they are allowed to use for classwork. Perkins noted that the policy has become "an established part of school culture and student conduct policies for many years."

"By minimizing distractions and promoting engagement, we support our commitment to student learning, meaningful classroom interaction and the overall well-being of our community," she said in an email.

In a similar policy, LASD Superintendent Sandra McGonagle said in a statement that all students are required to have phones and smart-watches put away for the entire school day.

Cellphone policies differ at MVLA, however, where the use of phones in the classroom is at the discretion of the teacher, according to Volta. He added that there haven't been many issues regarding phone use at the schools.

"The policy says no cellphones in class unless allowed by the teacher, and we haven't had a lot of teachers begging for Yondr pouches or anything else like that," Volta said in reference to the magnetically locking sleeve popular in schools throughout the country.

Volta added that he believes that the academic focus of MVLA students leads to more compliance with phone



MAXIM ASMAR/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Gender neutral bathroom at Los Altos High School.

policies.

"To be honest, I don't see students on their phones as much as I've seen at other high schools," Volta said. "Our students are pretty high performing and pretty focused on academics, so some of the challenges that you might see in other places, you don't see here."

Private schools are notably exempt from AB-727; it requires only public and charter schools serving grades 7-12 to issue IDs with The Trevor Project hotline. The bill adds onto the 2018 law that required all California schools to print the

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the National Domestic Violence Hotline on student IDs.

While MVLA has not yet decided whether it will issue electronic or physical IDs, district and St. Francis officials both said they continue to emphasize student mental health and counseling.

"Our counseling department is really focused on providing support to our students from a mental health perspective," Perkins said. "That is a big focus, and that also aligns with our mission – providing the spiritual, emotional and academic support to our families."

Foothill College plans \$35M aquatic center transformation

By Julia Baum

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

As summer temperatures climb and swimmers seek relief from the heat across the Bay Area, Foothill College's pool has sat empty since 2022. That is set to change with a \$35 million renovation, funded through Measure G, that will transform the aging facility into a modern aquatic center anchored by an Olympic-size pool expected to reopen in spring 2028.

The project will replace the existing pool with a 25-by-50-meter (82-by-164-foot) competition pool and create a

larger, more sustainable venue for students and the general public.

Following discovery of an underground leak, the pool was drained and has remained closed since. Rather than repair the leak, the Foothill-De Anza Community College District opted for an overhaul of the aquatic complex, including removing the original concrete shell and constructing a new competition pool.

Visitors will have new locker rooms – including an all-gender locker room – improved accessibility features, energy-efficient heating systems and upgraded spectator

amenities. Renovations will extend beyond the pool to include upgrades to mechanical and electrical systems, a building management system, replacement siding on two buildings and roofing improvements.

"It was always a busy pool," Simon Pennington, spokesman for Foothill College, told the Town Crier. "The new pool will be even busier, as it will be a full Olympic-size pool."

Several upgrades are designed to improve both the user experience and the project's environmental performance. District officials said the new air-source heat pump

system for the pool will serve a dual purpose by heating the pool while providing cooling for nearby campus buildings, reducing the facility's reliance on natural gas as part of the district's broader decarbonization initiative. A modern, high-efficiency natural gas boiler will serve as backup if needed. A retractable cover will also help retain heat overnight and reduce energy consumption.

The redesigned complex will also include ADA-compliant pool deck access, accessible elevated viewing areas for spectators, shaded bleachers and an electronic scoreboard.

For decades, the pool has served students enrolled in swimming and water polo programs while also hosting community education classes, lap swimmers and local swim organizations, including the Los Altos Mountain View Aquatic Club. College officials expect the expanded pool to accommodate even greater community use after it reopens.

Fully funded through the Measure G bond approved by voters in March 2020, the project is expected to begin construction in late 2026 or early 2027, with the renovated pool reopening in spring 2028.

Sports

Former Los Altos High baseball player backflips into Banana Ball

By Curtis Driscoll

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

Welcome to the show.

For Los Altos High graduate Ben Parker, life as a rookie in the newly formed Banana Ball Championship League is fast-paced and exciting, full of packed stadiums, dancing and backflip catches as he follows the Banana Ball motto of “Entertain Always.”

An outfielder with the Loco Beach Coconuts, his team is part of a new version of competitive, professional baseball outside of Major League Baseball, based in Savannah, Georgia, that plays games across the country between the six league teams, balancing competitive baseball with entertaining performances.

“I would say it’s like the Globetrotters, but it’s real,” Parker said. “With the Globetrotters, you got the same product pretty much every single game. With our show, it’s a different show every time we play a game.”

Games are won by points instead of runs, and no new inning can start after 120 minutes, with trick plays and fan-caught foul balls important parts of the game. It includes choreographed dances, routines and skits by the players during the



COURTESY OF THE LOCO BEACH COCONUTS

Ben Parker does push-ups during a scrimmage with the Loco Beach Coconuts.

game to add entertainment and to feed into the contagious energy. One of Parker’s most viral videos on social media is him making a catch in the outfield while doing a backflip.

“It’s kind of life-changing when you go and see it because there’s really nothing else like it. I’ve had multiple friends, they’ve seen clips and seen videos, and they’ve got a good grasp of it, but they came to a game and were amazed by how much fun they had and how

cool it really is,” Parker said. “It’s super special to be a part of, and I wouldn’t want to have any other job.”

His first game against the Firefighters in Tallahassee, Florida, had 10,000 people attending, the most he had played in front of before, full of fan energy and big moments due to the fast pace. He scored the go-ahead run in the ninth inning.

“That was my first taste of ‘Holy crap, I get to do this all

year. This is freakin awesome,” Parker said.

The stages have only gotten bigger as he has played at several Major League Baseball stadiums, like Petco Park, home of the San Diego Padres. One of his best memories was in June at American Family Field, home of the Milwaukee Brewers, where he played in front of an electric, sold-out crowd of 41,000 people.

“It was one of the best nights of my life,” Parker said of play-

ing in Milwaukee. “It was pretty unreal.”

While there is a preconceived notion that many Banana Ball players were performers first and the baseball came second, most played college or minor league baseball and are baseball players first. Parker got on the radar of the Banana Ball Champion League after an All-American season at William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. In his second year at William & Mary, he had a record-breaking 34-game hit streak and was the Coastal Athletic Association co-player of the year, earning NCAA Division I Atlantic All-Region First Team from the American Baseball Coaches Association. He started his college baseball career at Division III Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. When his time in college was disrupted by the pandemic in 2020, he spent time working out with his brother Aaron Parker, who was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays and now plays with its Double-A affiliate. After returning to Whitman, he earned Second Team All-American honors before making the jump for two years to William & Mary.

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 21

Mtn. View residents lead locals at Escape From Alcatraz Triathlon

By Sachin Chandran

TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Mountain View residents Greg Lambert and Jay Fleischer placed highest among the 15 locals who competed in last month’s 46th annual Escape From Alcatraz Triathlon in San Francisco.

Lambert finished 10th in the men’s 35-39 age division and 115th overall with a time of 2 hours, 51 minutes and 28 seconds. Fleischer came in 99th in the men’s 30-34 division and 595th overall by clocking a 3:22:52.

A total of 1,538 people competed in this year’s event, held June 7. The race begins with a 1.5-mile swim in the San Francisco Bay, then an 18-mile bicycle ride through the city before concluding with an 8-mile run

to Baker’s Beach that ends at the Marina Green.

Lambert and Fleischer are both experienced triathletes. They earned their spots in the race like the other participants: through a random drawing held last fall.

This marked Lambert’s second Escape; he placed 20th in his division and 123rd overall in 2019 with a time of 2:42:46.

“I feel like I did quite well, I was pretty happy with my performance,” Lambert said. “Looking at splits and everything, it was pretty close to on par with where I was in 2019. I was pleased with that, especially since I was training more at that time.”

Fleischer, competing at the Escape for the first time, said the swim presented the greatest challenge. Participants

jump from a boat near Alcatraz Island and swim to shore.

“I hadn’t swum in a bit,” Fleischer said. “I had so much water pouring into my goggles, so it was definitely a combination of user error plus not being the most fit swimmer. I’ve always been a runner, so that’s definitely where I’m most comfortable.”

Lambert echoed these sentiments, citing the harsh currents of the bay as the main obstacle. Although this section was difficult, Lambert said he still managed to take in the distinct view of San Francisco while battling the elements.

“I made sure I took a nice few good looks at the Transamerica (Pyramid) building and the rest of the city,” Lambert said. “I think the ability to swim through the bay and go



COURTESY OF FINISHERPIX.COM

Greg Lambert running in the 2026 Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon.

fill waters where you are usually unable to swim (while) also getting a fantastic view of the city is really incredible, and this year especially was fantastic in terms of visibility and weather.”

A source of encouragement for Fleischer came through friendly competition with colleagues who also participated

SEE TRIATHLON, PAGE 21

Sports

BASEBALL

FROM PAGE 20

After not being selected in the 2025 MLB draft despite interest beforehand, he faced a tough decision of grinding as a minor leaguer in the lower leagues or considering other opportunities. As an undrafted 24-year-old outfielder, where age is a huge consideration, he would only have signed for a few thousand dollars and a plane ticket, with fewer opportunities compared to more high-profile minor league signings.

"That's a tough life to jump into just to say you played minor league baseball for one or two years, vs. I could play two or three days a week in front of a sold-out crowd, and everyone is screaming your name," Parker said.

After talking with officials with Banana Ball, he attended tryouts with around 5,000 other hopefuls. His tryout was eventful and included hitting a home run on his first at-bat, backflips and riding a unicycle. Parker credits William &

Mary baseball coach Rob McCoy with helping him his final year in college and putting in a good word for him with Banana Ball officials. McCoy only coached Parker for his last year but learned he loved fun and performing, describing him as a leader and free spirit. McCoy and those he knew in the league were unanimous that Parker fit the league.

"If you would have said what job out of college would Ben Parker love the most, it would be playing baseball with his sleeves cut off, so that he could flex whenever he wanted and take his shirt off and do like crazy tricks on the field, it would literally be that," McCoy said.

Like adjusting your hitting reaction time from the Division III level to Division I, there is a learning curve for the show side of Banana Ball. Walk-up dances, skits and other entertainment are part of the show that Parker and teammates practice before games. While nervous at first, he no longer notices the crowd when performing.

"I always say, people think that we are Broadway stars that get taught baseball, but we are baseball players that got taught how to be Broadway people. It's a really fun learning experience with these guys because we are all in the same boat," Parker said.

Parker also has a robust social media following, with approximately 88,000 followers on Instagram seeing his videos on life as a Banana Ball player and workout routines. Learning how to edit videos, talking to the camera and shooting videos has been a trial-and-error process as he grows his brand, a necessity nowadays to find new audiences and discover opportunities. After his playing career, he wants to continue working with the league in various forms and maybe coach.

"It's a whole new sport, and it's super entertaining and engaging and a lot of untouched strategy in this game because of the different rules that we sit here and talk about for hours. It's awesome to be a part of," Parker said.

TRIATHLON

FROM PAGE 20

in the race, he said.

"I feel like I did about as well as I could have hoped," Fleischer said. "I didn't quite beat my colleagues, but it was still a fun day. I think we had a good time together. "I was pretty happy with my times, especially considering I hadn't been training more leading into it."

Similarly, Lambert said a highlight of the triathlon was the camaraderie that came with it. In fact, he was able to build a new connection through the running portion of the race.

"I finished the race with someone that I'd been running with most of the time and hadn't been talking to," Lambert said. "I found out in the last couple miles that he had been pacing his run on the speed at which I was running, and we ended up chatting (during) the last couple miles. He beat me in the sprint finish, but I was totally happy with that,

because it was just as nice to get to know some of the people you're racing with."

Here's how the other local residents did in this year's Escape:

- Bennett Amodio, Mountain View came in 113th in the men's 30-34 division and 705th overall with a 3:28:21.
- Wen Bo Li of Mountain View placed 136th in the men's 30-34 division and 865th overall with a 3:39:02.
- Robert Fenger of Los Altos Hills took 90th in the men's 25-29 division and 891st overall with a 3:41:09.
- Logan Herrera of Mountain View finished 162nd in the men's 30-34 division and 1,132nd overall with a 3:57:01.
- Chris Coykendall of Mountain View was 111th in the men's 40-44 division and 1,169th overall with a 3:59:32.
- Jingfan Sun of Mountain View came in 169th in the men's 30-34 division and 1,203rd overall with a 4:02:19.
- Ocean Zhang of Mountain

View placed 170th in the men's 30-34 division and 1,209th overall with a 4:02:46.

- Audrey Cole of Los Altos took 49th in the women's 30-34 division and 1,258th overall with a 4:06:34.
- Audrie Naranjo of Mountain View finished 56th in the women's 25-29 division and 1,315th overall and with a 4:14:16.
- Rachel Sewell of Los Altos was 27th in the women's 35-39 division and 1,366th overall with a 4:20:43.
- Takeshi Yamaguchi of Mountain View came in 130th in the men's 40-44 division and 1,399th overall with a 4:25:59.
- Thi Bui of Mountain View placed 116th in the men's 25-29 division and 1,408th overall with a 4:28:14.
- Prabha Viswanathan of Mountain View took 35th in the women's 35-39 division and 1,530th overall with a 5:30:03.

For more information, see escapecatraztri.com.

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Stepping Out

Cascada de Flores to perform children's musical July 22 at library

By Skye Casem

TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

East Bay-based ensemble Cascada de Flores returns to the Los Altos Library July 22 to perform its original children's musical, "El Brujo y la Sirena."

rican patron saint of rivers and waters, and often is portrayed as a mermaid," singer Arwen Lawrence said.

Lawrence and guitarist Jorge Liceaga met 26 years ago over their shared passion for music and storytelling. Based

pervising librarian. "Having the kids be able to participate and get up and be a part of the performance themselves is proven to be great for cultivating the skills they will need when they start reading later on."

The duo performs at the Los Altos Library a few times a year, according to Conour.

The duo said their favorite moments performing for the Los Altos community has been the warm reception they have received from audience members.

Audience participation fulfills their mission to bring the community together through music.

"It used to be that whole communities made music together. That's sort of how music was born," Lawrence said. "It's a really important part of our development, not only to make music to sing, but also to make it together. And you can just tell the way people's eyes (light) up when you walk into a room with a guitar on your back, or when



COURTESY OF CASCADA DE FLORES

Cascada de Flores, featuring Arwen Lawrence and Jorge Liceaga.

they start clapping along."

Shows are set for 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. Due to limited space, Conour said library staff will hand out tickets at the information desk 30 minutes before each performance until tick-

ets run out. Only one adult per family or group of children will receive a ticket to ensure more children will attend.

For more information, see tinyurl.com/MusicalAtLibrary.

"It used to be that whole communities made music together. That's sort of how music was born."

Arwen Lawrence, SINGER

The group will perform two free shows in the afternoon as part of the Santa Clara County Library District's "Plant a Seed, Read" summer reading program.

Cascada de Flores' musical, which translates to "The Wizard and The Mermaid" in English, is about a magical wizard who hears a mermaid's song and sets off on an adventure to find her.

"The melody that the (the Wizard) first hears is inspired by Yamaya, who is an Afro-Cuban, Afro-Brazilian, West Af-

in Richmond, the couple combines Latin American culture with Mexican and Caribbean rhythms to connect entertainment and cultural understanding for young audiences.

There will be songs sung in both Spanish and English, as well as Mayan K'iche' and Portuguese, according to the group.

"Cascada de Flores is very participatory for the kids and adults in the audience. It fits in really well with our early literacy initiatives," said Grant Conour, Los Altos interim children's su-

LAYT's 'Anastasia' opens this weekend at Bus Barn

By Lara Leon

TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Los Altos Youth Theatre's production of "Anastasia: The Musical," opening Friday (July 24) at the Bus Barn Theater, explores themes of identity,

belonging and hope through a coming-of-age story inspired by one of history's greatest mysteries, according to director Britany Harter.

"It's high energy, wistful and yearning," she said. "There's a lot of yearning for connection, for belonging, for togetherness."

Loosely inspired by the disappearance of Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna of Russia more than 100 years ago, this youth edition of the musical follows a young woman searching for her past while discovering where she truly belongs.

For Harter, the production represents an opportunity to introduce a childhood favorite to a new generation. The musical is based on the animated film version of "Anastasia," which came out in 1997.

"As a millennial, 'Anastasia' is one of those movies that I grew up with," Harter said. "The soundtrack, especially songs like 'Once Upon a December,' really stuck with me throughout my childhood. Seeing it become a stage musical was exciting, and bringing it to life became an

opportunity to introduce it to younger generations."

Although Harter grew up with the film, she said many of the young performers are just being introduced to the story, allowing them to approach the characters with fresh perspectives.

"This Gen Z-Gen Alpha cusp of students are learning the story for the first time and really loving the music and the journey," Harter said. "It's been really exciting to direct from that perspective of sharing a beloved story."

The production features 22 student performers and a team of adult designers and crew members. Since early June, the cast has rehearsed four to five evenings each week in preparation for opening night, according to Harter.

One of the production's defining features is its double casting of the title role, Harter said. Charlotte Schoenen, an eighth grader at Jane L. Stanford Middle School, and sophomore Anika Avasara from the Nueva School alternate as

Anastasia.

Rather than creating competition, Harter said the arrangement has encouraged collaboration, with each actress helping the other refine choreography, harmonies and staging throughout rehearsals.

"They've both been so graceful and supportive in making sure the other Anastasia has all of the blocking, the right harmonies, the right choreography," Harter said. "I'm really impressed by how beautifully they've navigated sharing the lead."

Despite rehearsing with different schedules on different nights, both actresses said the experience has strengthened not only their performances but also their friendship.

"We just support each other so much," Schoenen said. "We have this little high-five ritual whenever we trade off, and we've become really good friends because of it."

Avasara said watching another actress interpret the same role gave her new ideas and ultimately strengthened

her own performance.

"It was really cool because we were able to get the best of each other's portrayals and use that to make our portrayals better," she said.

Harter said that message of discovering where one belongs extends beyond the stage.

"Like Anastasia, you grow where you're planted so that we all can design our own destiny and our own fate," Harter said.

She said she hopes audiences leave not only entertained but also reminded of the importance of supporting community theater and the young performers who make productions like "Anastasia" possible.

"Support your community, support local theater and support the youth who are so excited to be out there sharing their stories," Harter said.

Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through Aug. 2 at the Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave. Tickets are \$18-\$28. For more information, see losaltosstage.org.

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Everyday Life

Los Altos Hills artist exhibits at Fine Art in the Park – for the 20th time

By Mary Larsen

TOWN CRIER STAFF WRITER

Los Altos Hills artist Tere-
nia Offenbacher has two pas-
sions related to art: creating it
and nurturing the talent of a
new generation.

Offenbacher, 82, started out
in Poland, where she earned
degrees in art education and
art history. She was particu-
larly drawn to the Old Mas-
ters and Modigliani – whose
influence is shown in her many portraits.

Coming to Santa Cruz for
a study program in the 1970s,
she ended up making Califor-
nia her home.

She worked as a designer
in the computer industry and
then enjoyed a successful car-
eer in marketing and sales be-

fore getting back to her artistic
side.

For 25 years following a
life-threatening car accident,
she found herself unable to
create art. Happily, urged on
by her family, she took a col-
lage class, which got her back
in the game.

“Collage allowed me to ex-
press myself artistically while

“We need art to balance
this world.”

Terenia Offenbacher

simultaneous-
ly rebuilding
my confidence
using brushes
without the
worry of pro-
ducing fine

lines,” she said in the artist’s
statement on her website.

In contrast to her Modigliani-inspired portraits, Of-
fenbacher’s collage and mixed
media work combine varied
textures and salvaged ma-
terials. She enjoys rooting
through her stash of metal,



COURTESY OF KASHA FORD

Terenia Offenbacher and granddaughter Gabby Perry in Offenbacher’s booth at the 2024 Fine Art in the Park show. Look for Offenbacher in this year’s show, accompanied by another granddaughter, Katryna Ford.

fabric, her own handmade pa-
per and other finds and comes
up with ideas: “Oh, this is go-
ing to be this, this is going to
be a bird,” she said.

Today her art is found in

collections throughout the
United States. She has won
many awards for her abstracts,
portraits and landscapes in a
variety of juried art competi-
tions.

Offenbacher’s daughter Ka-
sha Ford said her mother’s sto-
ry extends far beyond her own
artwork.

SEE ARTIST, PAGE 24

Food is life: The power of nutrition in healthy aging

By Duanni Hurd

AGING BY DESIGN

Growing up, my parents
valued fresh, whole foods as
part of a long and healthy life.
My grandfather lived past
100, supported in part by a
balanced diet of vegetables,
fruits, fresh meats and even a
glass of red wine with dinner.
The connection between nu-
trition and longevity stayed
with me throughout my life.

Recently, I attended the
inaugural Food is Life, Food
is Health Summit hosted by
Stanford Medicine and the
Culinary Institute of America
in Napa. One message surfaced
repeatedly: Healthy aging is
shaped long before someone
enters a hospital or doctor’s of-
fice. Nutrition, environment,
daily habits, social connec-
tion, caregiving support and
access to healthy food all influ-
ence long-term well-being.

This deeply connects to my
Aging by Design work. We
often think about longevity
through medical advances and
new treatments, but healthy

aging is also built through ev-
eryday systems:

- What food people can ac-
cess
- Whether meals are nutri-
tious and enjoyable
- How physically active
people remain
- Whether social connection
exists before isolation sets in
- Whether families have
support and structure as needs
change

The summit focused heavily
on practical, sustainable nutri-
tion habits that can support
health as we age. Discussions
ranged from plant-forward di-
ets and regenerative farming
to “blue foods” such as sea-
food, seaweed, shellfish and
aquatic plants that provide im-
portant nutrients with lower
environmental impact.

What I appreciated most
was how practical many of the
recommendations were:

- Eating more lentils, beans
and plant-rich meals
- Batch cooking healthy
recipes ahead of time
- Choosing smaller fish and
shellfish lower on the food chain

• Incorporating nutrient-
rich foods such as seaweed and
fermented foods

• Focusing on realistic meal
habits families can sustain
over time

For older adults, nutri-
tion does not need to become
complicated or trendy to be
effective. Small adjustments
often matter more than dra-
matic diets that are difficult to
maintain. Simple habits such
as eating more vegetables, in-
creasing protein intake, stay-
ing hydrated, reducing heavily
processed foods and maintain-
ing regular mealtimes can sup-
port strength, balance, cogni-
tion and energy as the body
ages.

One particularly important
point discussed at the summit
was that healthy eating must
still bring pleasure and com-
fort. Dr. Christopher Gardner
of Stanford emphasized that
people connect deeply to fa-
miliar foods, shared meals and
cultural traditions. Healthy
eating does not need to feel re-
strictive or disconnected from
joy. In fact, meals often be-

come even more meaningful
as people age because food is
closely tied to memory, family,
celebration and identity.

For many older adults, nu-
trition is also closely tied to
independence. Changes in eat-
ing habits can sometimes sig-
nal larger concerns – difficulty
shopping, cooking, remem-
bering meals, managing medi-
cations or maintaining social
connections. Adult children
may notice a parent losing
weight, skipping meals, rely-
ing heavily on packaged foods
or no longer enjoying cooking
the way they once did. These
changes are sometimes early
signs that additional support
has become necessary.

In home care, we often
learn a great deal about some-
one’s overall well-being simply
by discussing food routines.
Is fresh food available in the
home? Is someone eating
alone every day? Are medica-
tions affecting appetite? Can
they safely prepare meals? Nu-
trition conversations frequen-
tly open the door to broader
discussions about safety, cog-

nition, mobility and quality of
life.

Another idea that stayed
with me is that food can act as
daily protection for the body.
In a world where we are ex-
posed to stress, pollution and
processed ingredients, nutri-
tious foods help support resili-
ence and reduce inflamma-
tion over time. Healthy aging
is rarely about one dramatic
change. More often, it is built
gradually – one meal, one hab-
it, one decision at a time.

The future of healthy aging
may depend not only on medi-
cine, but also on how thought-
fully we support the everyday
routines that sustain people
physically, emotionally and
socially, including the food we
eat every day.

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

Seniors explore strategies for survival

By Allyson Johnson

RESILIENT LOS ALTOS

An attentive audience packed the Terraces' Redwood Hall on last month, to hear Patricia Evans of Resilient Los Altos explain strategies for surviving a major disaster, such as a major earthquake (experts predict a 70% chance of one occurring in the Bay Area in the next 30 years) or a devastating firestorm. Evans focused on how Block Action Teams formed through her organization can save lives in the event of a disaster.

Evans opened her talk with some sobering statistics: 75% of those who died during the recent Paradise and Eaton fires in California were over 70; the median age of the victims was 77. Many of the victims lived alone, had mobility issues and relied on others for transportation.

She also pointed out that Los Altos has limited resources – only two fire stations with two engines and six firefighters regularly on duty and only six police officers. The resources are further limited in that most of these “first responders” do not live in Los Altos and might be prevented by family responsibilities or hazards from reporting for duty. Asking for mutual aid from neighboring cities takes time and assumes those cities are not facing the same limitations. And FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has proved unreliable and slow to act. In a major disaster, the Los Altos Emergency Preparedness Plan

expects that residents should be self-sufficient for at least a week.

Resilient Los Altos is a fairly new volunteer organization promoting preparedness on three levels:

The first level is the creation of Block Action Teams (BATs), which ideally would operate in each neighborhood, fostering connection between neighbors and the creation of reporting networks. Resilient Los Altos has created Block Party Kits as a first step. Neighbors who know each other's names and have interacted are much more likely to look out for each other in case of disaster. Block Action Teams also distribute cards which residents can put in a window in case of disaster, saying “I'm OK” or “I need help.” In case of disaster, the BAT would check on neighbors, assess damage to homes and infrastructure and relay this information to the city.

The second level is Coordinated Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) who are trained to offer aid in life-threatening situations and prioritize action on injuries and infrastructure.

The third level are HAMs – ham radio operators who can provide communication if cell towers and phone lines are not working.

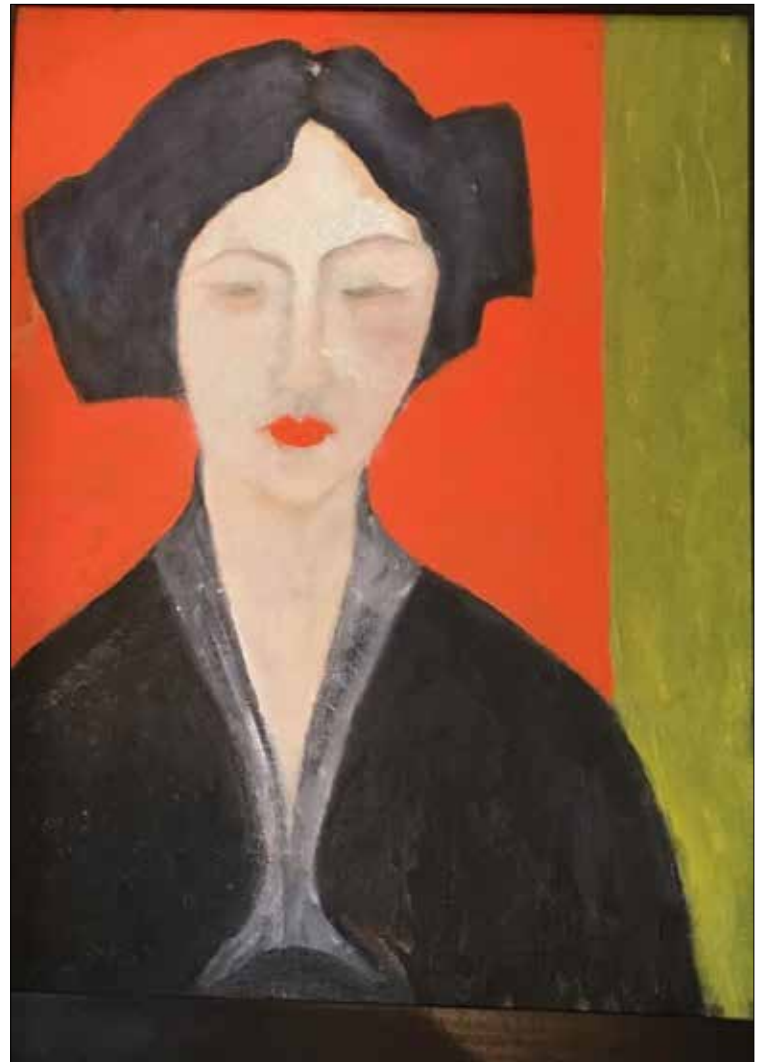
The first goal of Resilient Los Altos is that neighbors should know and feel connected to each other. “The first responder is you,” said Evans. The second goal is that every resident should have acted upon a Personal Preparedness Checklist

available from Resilient Los Altos. Among other things, the checklist asks residents to sign up for alerts (alertssc.org, nixle.com), create a family communication plan, put together a grab-and-go bag with critical medical supplies and personal information in case of evacuation and also put together a stay box with food and water adequate to supply the household for at least several days.

The city has given several grants to Resilient Los Altos to develop a software application which will enable the collection of reports of injuries and hazards from CERTs and HAMs, and will display the information on an electronic map; however, this application is at least a year away from implementation. Resilient Los Altos is also training volunteers to help foster community awareness and neighborhood support. Unfortunately, only 25% of Los Altos neighborhoods have begun to organize with BATs.

In a Q&A after Evans' presentation, it was clear that Terraces residents were concerned about emergency preparedness in their living compound, particularly in the evenings when a skeleton staff is on duty. Several residents had taken CERT training; there are also several HAM radio operators among the residents. Evans had brought a large stack of Emergency Preparedness Checklists with her; after her talk not one was left.

For more information, see resilientlosaltos.org.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KASHA FORD

Terenia Offenbacher's “The Geisha.”

ARTIST

FROM PAGE 23

“Over the years, she has welcomed many local young people into her studio, encouraging their creativity and giving them a place to learn, paint, and feel supported,” Ford said. “Many of them are now adults and still return to visit and paint with her whenever they are in town – usually accompanied by one of the lavish lunches she loves to prepare for them.”

Offenbacher described the joy she receives from mentoring young people, generally between the ages of 14 and 21.

“To see young people coming to my studio, and working with them – I learn so much from them. It's so refreshing. ... They're a shot of fresh energy.”

The students can come and create and share without fear of being judged, Offenbacher said, adding with a laugh, “It's like that expression, ‘What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.’” As a former art teacher in Poland, Offenbacher is more than happy to share her gift.

“(Young people) come to my art shows and ask questions – I tell them to come to

my studio,” she said. “It's nice to see some interest. I hope I still have enough energy for awhile to keep doing it.”

The inspiration that Offenbacher provides has influenced more than the students who visit her studio: Her granddaughter Katryna Ford (one of 11 grandchildren), a recent graduate of Loyola University New Orleans, is also an artist and will be joining her grandmother at this year's Fine Art in the Park.

This August will mark Offenbacher's 20th appearance at the annual festival put on by the Rotary Club of Los Altos.

She had high praise for the show: “They treat artists very well, they take good care of them,” she said. “There's something about Rotarians – when you pay that 10% you know it's going to help somebody.”

And as someone with experience in the worlds of tech and business as well as art, she offered a final thought: “We need art to balance this world.”

For more information on Offenbacher, see tereniaoffenbacher.com. For more information on this year's Fine Art in the Park, see rotaryartshow.com.

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The geography of travel

By Dr. Patricia Rupert

SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Most people look at an older person sitting quietly on a porch and think, “Nothing’s happening.”

Nothing they can see.

But inside, he’s covering 60 years before lunch.

Every morning I pass an older gentleman sitting on his front porch.

Same chair.

Same swing.

Same slow rhythm.

Sometimes he has a book in his hand. Sometimes he doesn’t.

From the sidewalk it doesn’t look as though much is happening. But I’m not so sure that’s true.

While we see an old man sitting idly on a porch, he may be travelling farther than any of us.

He may be standing outside

a delivery room waiting for his first child.

He may be winning his first spelling bee in fourth grade.

He may be giving his first speech in eighth grade.

He may be hearing his mother’s voice again.

He may be dancing with the woman who would become his wife.

He may be walking into his first job.

He may be saying goodbye to someone he loved.

He’s not sitting still. He’s travelling through a landscape of memories filled with random turns, sometimes going north, sometimes west, sometimes doubling back, but always heading toward something.

Then one day he looks back from the ridgeline, and sees a distance crossed so large, that his younger self could hardly imagine the journey.

By Dr. Patricia Rupert

SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Lately, I’ve noticed that people my age sigh a lot. Not dramatic sighs, not disappointed sighs, just little transitional sighs.

Sit down – sigh.

Stand up – sigh.

Open a drawer – sigh.

Remember why you opened the drawer – another sigh.

Walk up the stairs – sigh.

Realize you forgot something downstairs – a considerably larger sigh.

At first, I thought it was just me. Then I started noticing it everywhere – in the grocery store, in libraries, in restaurants, in public restrooms. Especially in public restrooms.

In fact, the other day, I was in the bathroom when a woman approximately my age entered and released a sigh so familiar that I felt an immediate sense of kinship.

A sigh of the times

I found myself saying to her, OMG, I’ve got to write a column about this.

Several hours later, I was sitting in the library when the same woman came up to me and said, “I’ve got a title for your article, ‘A sigh of the times.’” At which point I realized this might be bigger than I thought.

Little did I know that I could be conducting what could be the first-ever informal study of age-related sighing in a public restroom.

The interesting thing is that no one warns you about this. People talk about wrinkles, about grey hair, about retirement. Nobody says that at some point in your 70s, every activity will require a soundtrack.

What fascinates me is that I don’t think the sighs are necessarily a sigh of unhappiness. Most of the time, they seem like punctuation marks. A comma between one activity and the next. An acknowl-

edgement that something is about to happen, has just happened or perhaps should not have happened; a kind of commentary perhaps.

The world is apparently full of people quietly sighing their way through the day and judging from the response I received in a public restroom, I am not the only one who finds that oddly comforting.

So if you happen to hear someone nearby release a long, slow sigh today, don’t assume they’re unhappy. They may simply be standing up.

Dr. Patricia Rupert is a journalist, chiropractor and acupuncturist whose work has always centered on observation. After more than 25 years in clinical practice in Los Altos, she writes about resilience, human behavior and the patterns that become visible when we pause long enough to notice them. (Title courtesy of Eileen of Sarasota, Florida, by way of Illinois.)

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Business & Real Estate

Thinking of downsizing? Pros and cons to consider

By Owen Halliday

SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

I see it every day. You moved to this area 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 years ago and now the time has come that the big house you have is too big, too much to care for, it needs lots of repairs, the yard is overgrown, the neighborhood has changed, you can't do stairs as well as you used to, your kids have moved to a more affordable area: you get the picture.

You've been thinking about it for years. You've been talking it over with your friends and family. You've gone over all the options: Do I stay in this house and "age in place"? Do I leave the area and move near other family? Do I move into a condo downtown so I can walk to coffee? Do I look into facilities that offer staged options (independent living

to assisted living to memory care)? How much will it all cost? What do I do with all my "stuff"? Bottom line, it's a big decision and it is surrounded with emotions. It's not an easy decision. In my practice, I see the most successful transitions happen after many months of thoughtful, rational discussions with the key players in people's lives: their partners and family, their financial planners, trust/estate attorneys, etc. This, combined with thorough research of all the options available, helps take the mystery out of a potential move.

I see three main "buckets" to address:

The What: What is the best downsizing option for me in my current situation and my situation looking forward five to 10 years?

The How: This often boils

down to "What do I do with all the stuff in my 2-3-4,000-square-foot house that won't fit into my new digs?"

The Emotional: This is actually the hardest. It is not rational and it is hard to quantify. It often gets in the way of the What and the How. And, it often takes time to get through to it so that you are in a situation where the move becomes the right thing to do and not the emotional thing NOT to do.

Here are some aspects of downsizing that people often don't recognize until they are in the middle of it:

- Everything in your house has a memory attached to it. Often, throwing things out feels like throwing away people.

- Your children don't want your china, crystal, furniture, their old artwork or Grand-

pa's old tools. That realization hurts.

- Moving to a smaller place often means losing your big garden, your garage and the space that defined your independence.

- The stairs you climbed all those years become a medical risk. That's a tough pill to swallow.

- Smaller spaces mean less space for visitors, family, heirlooms, etc.

- Moving away from your neighborhood means leaving those neighbors who checked in on you without being asked. New friends will need to be made.

- New buyers see square footage, lot size and outdated bathrooms and kitchens that need to be upgraded. You see the family room where you shared your life.

- Realizing that the chapter

of life that filled your house with memories is closed... that's the hardest part.

Getting through these emotional ups and downs is hard. That said, once you work your way through it and don't fight the change, I see that most people are quite happy with their new life. They make new friends. Their wants and needs change. Often whole new worlds of possibilities and opportunities open up. Remember that resiliency that you tried to teach your children about? Now is the time to apply it to YOUR life.

Owen Halliday manages the Christie's International Real Estate Sereno office in downtown Los Altos. If you have a comment or question that you would like to see addressed, he can be reached at Owen@Sereno.com.

The latest numbers on Social Security and Medicare

By Artie Green

NEST EGG BRIEFS

The 2025 Social Security (SS) and Medicare report was recently released. Among other things, the report provided the projected actuarial status of the four trust funds that finance those programs. Bottom line: While their future financial situation has not significantly deteriorated, it remains unsustainable longer-term.

For background, SS (which includes disability benefits as well as retirement benefits) is funded by payroll taxes, income taxes on benefits and interest on two reserve funds: Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI). Employers and employees each contribute 6.2% of earnings up to an annual maximum of \$184.5K (in 2026). The amount of taxation on SS benefits depends on each beneficiary's Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).

Medicare is supported by two trust funds: Hospital Insurance (HI) for Part A (inpatient hospital and post-acute

care) and Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI) covering Parts B and D (physician services, outpatient services and drug coverage). As with SS, most of Medicare's income comes from payroll taxes (1.45% each from employees and employers). Additional funding comes from Part A premiums for those

trust fund is in relatively good shape with about \$168 billion of reserves.)

What is the impact of all this on the future of these programs? Without any changes to funding sources, the OASI fund is expected to be depleted by the end of 2032. That would mean SS retirement benefits would potentially be

costs of these programs is to express them as a percentage of GDP. In 1970 SS represented a little over 3% of GDP, while Medicare was under 1%. In 2025, SS had risen to over 5% of GDP and Medicare had reached 4%. The report anticipates Medicare to exceed the cost of SS starting in 2036.

The source of the problem

"The source of the problem is primarily demographic. The pool of retirees is increasing while the pool of workers providing the bulk of the funding is shrinking."

Artie Green

who haven't met the premium-free qualifications as well as interest from the reserve funds.

In 2025, costs for SS exceeded income by about \$160 billion, reducing the OASDI combined reserves to a little over \$2.5 trillion. Medicare funds did better: HI actually increased its reserves by about \$18 billion, while SMI overspent by only about \$2 billion. (The word "only" when applied to a \$2 billion loss might be construed as an understatement, but the SMI

cut at that time to about 78% of what had been promised. Disability benefits, on the other hand, should last at least through 2100.

For Medicare, the HI trust will potentially be depleted in 2033, reducing future hospital benefits to 89% afterwards. However, SMI is expected to continue indefinitely. The report does not address how this would affect Medigap or Medicare Advantage premiums, but I would guess they'd probably increase sharply.

Another way to look at the

is primarily demographic. The pool of retirees is increasing while the pool of workers providing the bulk of the funding is shrinking. And this is not a partisan political issue. In 2024, the National Institute on Retirement Security commissioned a poll about Americans' views on retirement. The results show that respondents' viewpoints are quite consistent regardless of political affiliation. In response to the question "How concerned are you that you won't be able to achieve a financially secure

retirement," Democrats answered 57% and Republicans followed closely with 54%. And both felt the rising cost of healthcare in retirement is the biggest factor in making retirement harder (72% Democrats and 71% Republicans).

There are still numerous ways to deal with the problem without cutting benefits (e.g. increasing payroll taxes and/or limits, changing reserve trust fund investment policies, increasing benefit taxation, adding other sources of revenue). But the longer policymakers delay, the more painful the solution will become.

Do we have the necessary leadership in Washington right now to take this on, or will politicians continue to kick this can down the road until it becomes a crisis?

To read the report, see ssa.gov/oact/trsum/.

Artie Green is the founder of Cognizant Wealth Advisors dba Perigon Wealth Management, LLC, a registered investment advisor. For more information, see cognizantwealth.com.

Los Altos native launches jewelry brand

By Zoe Friedman

TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

When Los Altos native Emily Rubin could not find fine jewelry that was both personal and professional, she decided to create it herself. In the spring, she launched Wulfsohn Rousso with longtime friend Ariel Kauvar.

Debuting March 28, Wulfsohn Rousso bills itself as offering fine jewelry that is elegant and expressive enough for everyday wear while carrying a deeper sense of meaning.

“We wanted to create a brand that lived at the intersection of all of these things,” Rubin said. “Something that transitioned through occasions and had a specifically feminine quality to it.”

The 2013 graduate of Los Altos High School serves as the creative force behind the company. After earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in fashion design from Washington University in St. Louis, Rubin spent more than a decade in luxury retail – including as a merchant for Neiman Marcus – before moving into the fine jewelry industry.

It was there she found both a creative outlet and a more sustainable alternative to the fast-paced fashion world.

“A lot of the issues I personally had with the fashion industry, in terms of churn and waste, could actually be avoided within fine jewelry,” Rubin said. “It felt like a really good fit.”

Friends since college, Rubin and Kauvar bonded over a shared appreciation for craftsmanship and design, as well as a frustration with the lack of jewelry that felt both professional and personal.

“I constantly looked for pieces that would give me a little bit of self-expression, even in a male-dominated room,” Kauvar said. “It wasn’t something I was able to find easily.”

A fellow Washington University graduate who later earned an MBA with honors from the Wharton School, Kauvar spent nearly a decade in consulting, investment management and private equity before leaving her career in finance to focus on the business full-time.

Those conversations eventually laid the foundation for Wulfsohn Rousso. The company’s name combines the founders’ mothers’ maiden names, reflecting a mission centered on honoring female legacy.

“We want all of our customers to feel that connection as well and be able to extrapolate it in their own lives,” Kauvar said.

Building on that theme of legacy,

sustainability is a cornerstone of the brand. The founders said every piece is handmade in Los Angeles, where the company’s production is based. Rubin and Kauvar said they emphasize close relationships with their manufacturing partners and a domestic supply chain that includes ethically sourced natural diamonds and chains produced in Brooklyn.

“I know the name of the jeweler who works on most of our pieces,” Rubin said. “We have a front-row view of the whole process.”

Central to the collection is a signature harp motif that appears throughout the line. Inspired by the founders’ shared appreciation for art and performance, New York-based Kauvar said the harp serves as a symbol of quiet yet enduring elegance.

“We were trying to thread the needle between having impact without being the loudest in the room,” Kauvar said. “The harp came to us almost immediately, elegant and traditional, but really impactful despite not being the loudest instrument, yet having that presence that carries through over generations and generations.”

That philosophy extends to the collections. Rather than following trends, Rubin and Kauvar said they design pieces they hope can be worn for decades and eventually passed down through families.

“So much jewelry is passed down between grandparents, mothers and daughters,” Rubin said. “The idea that it can live on beyond us is so attractive as a designer.”

Now operating between Los Angeles and New York, the founders said they are growing the brand through trunk shows, pop-up events and retail partnerships while remaining focused on the values that inspired its creation.

For Rubin, the venture also reflects lessons learned growing up in Los Altos.

“Being in the Bay Area and being around people who had varying interests made it okay to pursue whatever it was you were interested in,” she said. “I think that had a really positive impact on me.”

The founders said they hope Wulfsohn Rousso will be “the solution that we were never able to find ourselves,” a celebration of self-expression and the women whose influence endures across generations.

“We want women to feel empowered every time they put on a Wulfsohn Rousso piece,” Kauvar said.

For more information, see wulfsohnrousso.com.



COURTESY OF EMILY RUBIN

Co-founders of Wulfsohn Rousso, Emily Rubin (left) and Ariel Kauvar.



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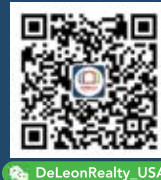
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Public Notices

FRUITY HEARTS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728520

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: FRUITY HEARTS, 712 Los Ninos Way, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Stephanie Fan, 712 Los Ninos Way, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Stephanie Fan / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/15/2026. (07-22,29-26,08-05,12-26)

185-T

CITY OF LOS ALTOS NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Los Altos on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the following offices: ONE CITY COUNCIL SEAT IN DISTRICT 2, FULL TERM OF FOUR YEARS ONE CITY COUNCIL SEAT IN DISTRICT 4, FULL TERM OF FOUR YEARS

If no one or only one person is nominated for an elective office, an appointment to the elective office may be made as prescribed by §10229 of the California Elections Code.

Vote Centers will be open on Election Day between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Melissa Thurman, MMC - City Elections Official
City Clerk, City of Los Altos, CA

Dated July 9, 2026
(07-22-26)

184-T

ADVANCED MOVING COMPANY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN727943

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ADVANCED MOVING COMPANY, 213 E. Maude Ave. #101, Sunnyvale, CA, 94085, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): James Franklin Vaughn, 213 E. Maude Ave. #101, Sunnyvale, CA 94085. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 04/25/1983. /S/ James Franklin Vaughn / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/22/2026. (07-15,22,29-26,08-05-26)

183-T

Rise East Bay FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN727860

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) Rise East Bay, (2) Rise University, (3) Rise International, (4) Rise Institute, (5) Rise Academy, (6) Shine Labs, 4415 Fortran Ct., San Jose, CA, 95134, Santa Clara County. This business is owned

by: a corporation. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Rise Education System Inc., 4415 Fortran Ct., San Jose, CA 95134. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/13/2021. /S/ Agha M Rizvi / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/17/2026. (07-15,22,29-26,08-05-26)

182-T

SABA Global FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN727637

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SABA Global, 4415 Fortran Ct., San Jose, CA, 95134, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a corporation. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Shia Association of Bay Area Inc., 4415 Fortran Ct., San Jose, CA 95134. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/13/2021. /S/ Mustafa Khan / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/10/2026. (07-15,22,29-26,08-05-26)

181-T

Manifesting Abundance Coaching FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728109

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Manifesting Abundance Coaching, 1820 Little Branham Ln, San Jose, CA, 95124, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Brenda McCurley, 1820 Little Branham Ln, San Jose, CA 95124. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/26/2026. /S/ Brenda McCurley / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/26/2026. (07-15,22,29-26,08-05-26)

180-T

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOSEPHINE PATRICIA LI CASE NO. 26PR202470

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of JOSEPHINE PATRICIA LI, SIU YUEN LING PATRICIA. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by KWONG YAN LI in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that KWONG YAN LI be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act . (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions,

however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 07/31/2026 at 9:03AM in Dept. 13 located at 191 NORTH FIRST ST., SAN JOSE, CA 95113 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Petitioner KWONG YAN LI 4388 El Camino Real Apt. 299 Los Altos, CA 94022 PHONE (650) 391-7559 (07-15,22,29-26)

179-T

AK ENTERTAINMENT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728270

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) AK ENTERTAINMENT, (2) SPARTAN METALLURGICAL COMPANY, (3) MUSEUM MAGAZINE, (4) RAILROADER, (5) HILLSURF, (6) STAMP OUT, (7) KABUKIMAN, (8) STAR TOPS, (9) JOKERS WILD; THREE CARD SLOTS, (10) PICK-OFF 21, (11) ALL AMERICAN RECORDINGS, 790 Allen Ct, Palo Alto, CA, 94303-4110, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): APOLLO PRODUCTIONS & AAR DIGITAL LLC, 790 Allen Ct, Palo Alto, CA 94303-4110. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 04/17/2012. /S/ Alexander Dementrios Kanellakos / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/06/2026. (07-15,22,29-26,08-05-26)

178-T

FIRST CHOICE BUSINESS BROKERS #130 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728185

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) FIRST CHOICE BUSINESS BROKERS #130, (2) FIRST CHOICE BUSINESS BROKERS LOS ANGELES, (3) FIRST CHOICE BUSINESS BROKERS #302, (4) FIRST CHOICE BUSINESS BROKERS NORTH BAY, (5) FIRST CHOICE BUSINESS BROKERS #305, (6) FIRST CHOICE BUSINESS BROKERS MONTEREY, (7) FIRST CHOICE BUSINESS BROKERS #304, (8) FIRST CHOICE BUSINESS BROKERS SANTA CRUZ, (9) FIRST CHOICE BUSINESS BROKERS #299, (10) FIRST CHOICE BUSINESS BROKERS SAN FRANCISCO, (11) FIRST CHOICE BUSINESS BROKERS \$303, (12) FIRST CHOICE BUSINESS BROKERS TRI-VALLEY, 100 South Murphy Avenue, Suite 200, Sunnyvale, CA, 94086, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a corporation. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): SF BAY BUSINESS SALES INC, 100 South Murphy Avenue, Suite 200, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Michelle Koblas / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/30/2026. (07-15,22,29-26,08-05-26)

177-T

COOKIE PIE CAFE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728263

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: COOKIE PIE CAFE, 498 Archcove Ct, San Jose, CA, 95111, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Elizabeth Navigato Ramirez, 498 Archcove Ct, San Jose, CA 95111. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Elizabeth Ramirez Navigato / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/06/2026. (07-15,22,29-26,08-05-26)

176-T

VITAL SHIFT COACHING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728201

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: VITAL SHIFT COACHING, 2011 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA, 94306, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): DFITLIFE LLC, 2011 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Danielle Elizabeth Dayoub / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/01/2026. (07-15,22,29-26,08-05-26)

175-T

EASE ROBOTICS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728074

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: EASE ROBOTICS, 68 Roosevelt Cir, Palo Alto, CA, 94306, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Jin Yun, 68 Roosevelt Cir, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/22/2026. /S/ Jin Yun / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/25/2026. (07-15,22,29-26,08-05-26)

174-T

ASTRA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728239

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ASTRA, 3964 Rivermark Plaza Unit 2850, Santa Clara, CA, 95054, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): EX ASTRIS LLC, 67 N Akron Dr 251, Moffett Field, CA 94035. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/24/2026. /S/ Alexandra Cyria Eaton Strange / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/02/2026. (07-15,22,29-26,08-05-26)

173-T

LAS AREPAS DEL SAZON TM LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN727878

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: LAS AREPAS DEL SAZON TM LLC, 585 E. Taylor St, San Jose, CA, 95112, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): LAS AREPAS DEL SAZON TM LLC, 585 E. Taylor St, San Jose, CA 95112. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/10/2026. /S/ Solanyi Martinez Caic / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/17/2026. (07-15,22,29-26,08-05-26)

172-T

Virginia's Garden Beaded Gifts FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN727965

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Virginia's Garden Beaded Gifts, 1200 Arthur Ct, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: an individual. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): Jennifer Venditti-Ramprashad, PO Box 3066, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business

name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Jennifer Venditti-Ramprashad / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/22/2026. (07-15,22,29-26,08-05-26)

171-T

MANAFESTHEALTH FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN727641

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: MANAFESTHEALTH, 3115 Irlanda Way, San Jose, CA, 95124, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): LAL-DE-SIGNS LLC, 455 Market St, Ste 1940, San Francisco, CA 94105. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/07/2026. /S/ Lawrence Lorenzano / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/11/2026. (07-08,15,22,29-26)

169-T

VECTOR PHYSICAL THERAPY: RETURN TO SPORT TESTING FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728104

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: VECTOR PHYSICAL THERAPY: RETURN TO SPORT TESTING, 3536 Lake Front Circle, Stockton, CA, 95209, San Joaquin County. The principal place of business is in San Joaquin County and a current Fictitious Business Name Statement is on file at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office of Said County. This business is owned by: a corporation. The name and mailing address of the registrant(s) is (are): PHYSICAL THERAPY 110, INC., 3536 Lake Front Circle, Stockton, CA 95209. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Alexis Sepulveda / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/26/2026. (07-08,15,22,29-26)

168-T

Virtuous Real Estate FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728124

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Virtuous Real Estate, 662 Mariposa Ave #2, Mountain View, CA, 94041, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Mark Francis Taylor, 662 Mariposa Ave #2, Mountain View, CA 94041. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/08/2011. /S/ Mark Francis Taylor / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/29/2026. (07-08,15,22,29-26)

167-T

KMVT 15 Silicon Valley Community Media FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728098

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: KMVT 15 Silicon Valley Community Media, 2500 Old Middlefield Way Ste F, Mountain View, CA, 94043, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Mountain View Community Television, 2500 Old Middlefield Way Ste F, Mountain View, CA 94043. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/2003. /S/ Alex Doherty / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/26/2026. (07-08,15,22,29-26)

166-T

Conscious Impact FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN727892

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Conscious Impact, 353 Costello Dr., 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): Monica Tran, 353 Costello Dr, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 04/19/2021. /S/ Monica Tran / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/18/2026. (07-08,15,22,29-26)

165-T

FOREST AND WEBSTER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN728084

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: FOREST AND WEBSTER, PO Box 3302, 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): Gregory Eitzmann, PO Box 3302, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Gregory Eitzmann / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/25/2026. (07-08,15,22,29-26)

164-T

NUVOTIDE RESEARCH FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN727230

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: NUVOTIDE RESEARCH, 1177 Branham Ln #1018, San Jose, CA, 95118, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): RYMON VENTURES LLC, 1177 Branham Ln #1018, San Jose, CA 95118.

Public Notices

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/20/2026. /S/ Aremon Habibi / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 05/28/2026. (07-01,08,15,22-26)

162-T

**Selah Therapy
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN727955**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Selah Therapy, 20289 Stevens Creek Blvd, #1127, Cupertino, CA, 95014, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Selah Marriage and Family Therapy, Prof. Corp., 21771 Stevens Creek Blvd Ste 200A, Cupertino, CA 95014. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 06/22/2026. /S/ Ganlin Chen / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/22/2026. (07-01,08,15,22-26)

159-T

**EMBODIED RECOVERY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN727951**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: EMBODIED RECOVERY, 910 Campisi Way, 2C, 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): EMBODIED RECOVERY LLC, 910 Campisi Way, 2C, Campbell, CA 95008. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/10/2019. /S/ Michael Nolan / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/22/2026. (07-01,08,15,22-26)

158-T

**MUSIC WITH ERICA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. FBN727932**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: MUSIC WITH ERICA, 265 Cambridge Avenue Suite 60602, Palo Alto, CA, 94306, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Erica Waxer Steinberger, 265 Cambridge Avenue Suite 60602, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/2014. /S/ Erica Waxer Steinberger / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 06/22/2026. (07-01,08,15,22-26)

157-T

Crossword Answers

1	A	2	L	3	O	4	E		5	F	6	A	7	M	8	E		9	T	10	R	11	I	
12	C	O	N	N					13	R	E	A	P					14	H	O	D			
15	T	W	E	E					16	E	R	I	C					17	A	T	E			
					18	M	19	R	I				20	N	O	21	D	I	C	E				
22	T	23	A	24	N	Y	A			25	C	I	T	E										
26	O	R	A					27	I	28	P	O	D				29	B	30	L	31	O	32	G
33	P	A	P	34	P					35	I	C	E				36	S	E	R	A			
37	O	L	E	O						38	N	O	A	39	M			40	E	E	R			
					41	U	42	S	E	S				43	S	44	T	R	O	Y				
45	E	46	S	47	C	R	O	W			48	E	N	V										
49	E	P	A					50	W	O	51	R	T				52	S	53	E	54	P	55	T
56	G	R	R					57	E	O	N	S					58	E	R	M	A			
59	S	Y	D					60	D	D	A	Y					61	T	B	S	P			

Sudoku Answers

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

Find A Word Answers

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

OBITUARY NOTICE

BASIL RAYMOND FORD



August 16, 1939 - July 1, 2026

The world lost one of the good guys. Basil or “Bas” as he was called by his friends, was born and raised in San Francisco. Growing up, he built the family summer cabin in Boulder Creek with his step-father Bernard Narey. Days at Boulder Creek were filled with swimming in the creek, dances at Forrest Pool and many spaghetti dinners prepared by his mother Margaret Passama Narey. He graduated from Balboa High School where he was a standout football player and a member of the 1957 City Championship team.

After graduating high school, he became an electrician, working on many of the biggest buildings in San Francisco, including the Hilton Hotel. A few years later, he joined the Palo Alto Fire Department where he proudly served for 28 years as an Engineer. He also led the training and mentoring of several next generation firemen. The fire department was his second family. He was grateful to all the great friends he made at the department and for all of those who supported him during the illness and eventual passing of his first wife Joyce Diane Cady.

In 1978, he married Jeanine Ann Grant whom he met while she was a nurse at Stanford Hospital when she had to sign-off on his EMT training. It would be the first of many “collaborations”. Their first date was at a hot tub party hosted by a Palo Alto Fireman. On their wedding day, they were given a piece of the hot tub with a plaque that read “The Family that Bathes Together Stays Together.” They spent 46 love-filled years together before her passing in 2024. They resided in Los Altos all of those years and spent many a summer night in Maine on Little Sebago Lake with their daughter Megan Ford and Jeanine’s nephew Kevin Kaserman, his wife Denise and their children Jojo, Kyle and Julia.

Bas’ prized possession was his black 1957 Chevy Bel Air Convertible that was a staple around Los Altos whether it be in Pet Parades, The Festival of Lights or Los Altos High Homecoming parades. The Chevy was also the centerpiece of over 25 annual trips to Hot August Nights with his son Todd Ford, wife Kathleen and their three boys Taylor, Jordan and Sawyer and daughter Megan, where many cherished family memories were made.

Basil was loved by all of those who knew him. Although he persevered through many tragedies, he maintained a positive attitude that was infectious and inspiring to all of those he touched. Will Rogers famously quipped that he “never met a man he didn’t like”. Similarly, his son Todd always said “I have never met a man who didn’t like my father”.

He is survived by his brother-in-law Michael Cady his wife Randall, brother in law Glenn Cady and nephew Jeff Ford and wife Esther, daughter Megan, Son Todd Ford his wife Kathleen, Grandson Taylor and his wife Alana, Grandson Jordan and his wife Susanna and Grandson Sawyer. He is preceded in death by wives Joyce Diane Cady and Jeanine Ann Grant, daughter Holli Ford, infant son Todd Ford (deceased 1964) parents Margaret Narey and Basil Ford Sr. and stepfather Bernard Narey.

A celebration of life will be held at Basil’s house in Los Altos, Sun, August 16th at 11:00 AM. Dress code is “Basil Casual”, jeans and a t-shirt preferred. In lieu of flowers donations to the Kianos(supporting disabled adults) or your favorite charity preferred. Please view/sign guestbook: limacampagnamortuaries.com

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The two highest residential sales ever recorded in Los Altos/Los Altos Hills have one thing in common.

When the area's most extraordinary homes change hands, Ken DeLeon is often at the center of the story. From the nation's first \$100 million home sale to the recent sale of a \$30 million Los Altos Hills estate, Ken and The DeLeon Team continue to represent many of the region's most exceptional properties and deliver remarkable results for luxury homeowners.

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