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Health program helps women over 35 thrive
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Los Altos Town Crier

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

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WEDNESDAY • October 22, 2025

'No Kings' protest, part 3



SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

More than 1,000 protesters turned out in Mountain View and Los Altos Saturday. The protest is the third installment of a series of nationwide protests against President Donald Trump, his administration and what protesters claim is a dismantling of democracy. Turn to page 4 for the full story.

Los Altos City Council returns Hillview Dog Park to outreach stage

By Christina Casillas
Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

The road to constructing the Hillview Dog Park just got longer.

Los Altos City Council members voted 4-1 last week to return the Hillview Dog Park project to the pre-design and outreach stage after lengthy discussions about the proposed use of synthetic turf in its design – the decision is expected to cost \$75,000. Council previously approved the design work for the Hillview Dog Park.

The decision's \$75,000 price tag – which will be funded from the approved \$1 million for the construction of the Hillview and McKenzie dog parks – will be for the hiring of a consultant to put together a potential new design that incorporates community feedback related to ame-

nities, styles and ground cover options, Los Altos City Manager Gabe Engeland said in an email.

"We had anticipated Hillview would cost more than McKenzie but expected to have them both completed within (the \$1 million) budget amount. This included design and construction of both locations, with Hillview being completed first," Engeland stated. "The council approved the design work for the Hillview Dog Park, but last night declined to move forward with construction of the design. Because construction is not moving forward, we will not be issuing a (request for proposal) and cannot provide an estimated cost at this time."

The construction of McKenzie Dog Park was not affected by city council's decision.

See DOG PARK, Page 5

Poll of the Week results



What should the Los Altos School District do with the San Antonio site being built?

- Delay building the new school – 244 votes
- Move the Bullis Charter School there – 144 votes
- Make it a new elementary school – 80 votes
- Move Egan Intermediate there – 78 votes

Polls are posted online at losaltosonline.com.

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Around Town

LAMVCF hosts Oktoberfest



DENNIS YOUNG/TOWN CRIER

Celebrations at the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation Oktoberfest Saturday. From left (facing the camera in grey), Curtis Cole, Jessica Speiser, Janet Harding and Sam Harding.



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News

Los Altos High removes chalk swastika

By Christina Casillas
Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

Los Altos High administrators reiterated the school's dedication to creating a safe space for everyone after a student found and reported a chalk swastika another student drew Monday afternoon.

In a message to the school community, Principal Tracey Runeare said the swastika, drawn on a ledge on the school campus, was removed by school personnel. Administrators investigated, identified the student responsible for the hate symbol, and took "appropriate action."

"We respond to these matters with the utmost urgency," Runeare stated in the message. "We will not tolerate acts of hate or antisemitism on our campus and are most appreciative to those who report concerning matters to us."

Bullis Charter says it is not moving to MV

By Howard Bischoff
Associate Publisher/howardb@latc.com

Bullis Charter School officials say they have no intention of moving to the Los Altos School District's (LASD) 10th site in Mountain View when it's built.

In a statement to the Los Altos School District Board of Trustees, the charter school said, "BCS has made its home at Egan and Blach schools and intends to remain at those locations."

At its Oct. 13 school board meeting, LASD trustees voted 4-1 to begin the process to allocate the San Antonio site to Bullis Charter when it is scheduled to open in the 2028-2029 school year. Trustee Vladimir Ivanovic voted against the motion.

LASD Superintendent Sandra McGonagle said there are a number of factors that led to the recommendation by the staff. They include overcrowding at the Blach and Egan campuses, moving to a junior high school model of adding sixth graders to those two schools and traffic safety concerns. Adding to that, the district has aging portable class-



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTOS

Bullis Charter School operates out of Egan and Blach schools. The Los Altos School District recently voted to move Bullis to the 10th LASD school site in Mountain View, but the charter school is fighting to stay where it is.

Police Blotter

Commercial burglary

Oct. 16, 7:31 a.m.: 1000 block of El Monte Avenue, Mountain View

Elder abuse

Oct. 16, 11:39 a.m.: 0-100 block of Sierra Vista Avenue, Mountain View

Indecent exposure

Oct. 19, 6:51 a.m.: 600 block of West Evelyn Avenue, Mountain View

Residential burglary

Oct. 17, 3:25 p.m.: 1200 block of Brookdale Avenue, Mountain View

Oct. 19, 1:20 p.m.: 100 block of Ada Avenue, Mountain View

Oct. 19, 1:26 p.m.: 1400 block of Miramonte Avenue, Mountain View

Oct. 19, 9:10 p.m.: 100 block of Pachetti Way, Mountain View

— Christina Casillas

See BULLIS, Page 6

'No Kings' protesters take to local streets for democracy

By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

Mountain View's portion of the "No Kings" protest Saturday was a joyful event that brought close to 1,100 people to the Castro Street intersection and many more throughout the city, organizers said.

IdaRose Sylvester, one of the event organizers, said the protest was a success because it had the feel of a street party thanks to music, dancing and positivity.

"We organizers are extremely pleased with everything, including the turnout, the absolute joy and energy of the crowd," Sylvester said. "It was electric."

Sylvester noted that while exact participation numbers aren't known at this time, the Castro Street intersection had over 1,100 people up and down the street, and more at 16 other intersections in the city, while hundreds of people spontane-

ously gathered at 10 other intersections in the city. Sylvester said there were no incidents of safety issues in Mountain View.

"We work hard to ensure that happens, and it's always great to hear when things go well," Sylvester said.

The "No Kings" protest in Mountain View was part of a larger nationwide protest against President Donald Trump and his administration, with national organizers saying more than 7 million people attended 2,700 events throughout the country.

Moving forward, Sylvester is working to give people more details about what happens now, with a number of people canvassing after the protest in neighborhoods in Mountain View for various things on the upcoming November ballot.

"It was really positive and turned people into activists by the end of it," Sylvester said.

Organizers have also said another important way to par-



SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

A protester dressed as a caricature of President Donald Trump stands in an El Camino Real crosswalk during the national "No Kings" protests.

ticipate is voting in the Nov. 4 election.

"We have a pretty big ballot," Sylvester said of Santa

Clara County. "I can't think of anything more important than to get people involved in that election right now."

News



GABRIELA DE CARVALHO TELES/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Dogs and their humans enjoy the controversial Hillview Dog Park over the weekend.

DOG PARK From Page 1

The topic came back to council after Councilmember Jonathan Weinberg requested at the Aug. 26 city council meeting more discussions about the cover material used at the Hillview Dog Park. He said he was swayed by concerns voiced by members of the public about environmental hazards and sanitation issues with artificial turf and requested more information from staff.

Council had already approved the options and information they received last year related to the dog parks and, prior to last week's meeting, the project was 95% completed.

City staff initially proposed artificial turf as a cheaper and more sanitary option, but complaints about microplastics, contamination and the city's dedication to green initiatives made members of the public speak up.

"Our restaurants can't use plastic, which I thought was a fantastic move made by our city, and I also feel like if we are not allowing that to happen, we should continue to move forward and not cover our ground in plastic either," Los Altos resident Maria Bautista said during the public comment portion of the meeting. "I actually would like to see a no-artificial turf, no-plastic anywhere, at any time, at any open space in Los Altos – it's not in character with our city."

Community pushback

against the 15,000-square-foot Hillview Dog Park has been consistent since its inception – in July of last year, residents spoke out against the park because it would require the removal of 16 parking spaces at the nearby library at the city's civic center.

Weinberg noted the potential smell from the artificial turf city council members were close to approving may have disrupted the quality of life for those who use the civic center's amenities, like the Bus Barn Theater or the Los Altos Main Library.

Councilmember Sally Meadows cast the only dissenting vote, noting that many of the other potential choices for the dog park have their downfalls.

"Here on council, at least how I view the job, we have so many causes – the community is our cause. I try to be absolute for the best value for the community, or the best decisions of the community and so that's how I'm approaching this," Meadows said during the meeting. "I have spent a lot of time on environmental work the past five years, but I approach it from what can we as a city accomplish?"

In an email to the Town Crier, she said she had two major issues with the decision to instruct staff to circle back: that the information shared by members of the public wasn't related to the specific turf the city was going to use and that the project being sent back to the pre-design phase will simply waste city money.

"The data that advocates

claimed showed that artificial turf is the wrong choice was not based on the type of turf we were proposing to use or the maintenance we committed to do in the dog park," Meadows stated. "Their data was based on older turf such as that used for lawns or playing fields. The proposal for our dog park was for an improved turf specifically manufactured for dog parks to be PFAS free, recyclable, heat reflective and require no chemical cleaning products, according to the manufacturer."

Councilmember Neysa Fligor supported the decision because she wanted to be as sure as possible that staff had presented the best possible choices, but at the time of voting, she was not.

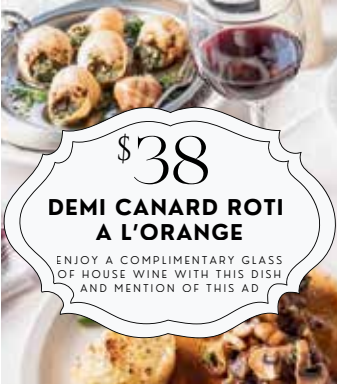
While staff was instructed to return to conducting outreach and pre-design work, council members ensured that, if after staff again conducted their pre-design research and found that artificial turf was again the best option, it could be brought back to council.

"In reality, there is no perfect material for a dog park, but the pros and cons of each choice are the same as they were a year ago," Meadows said. "It seems irresponsible to back off a decision that will cost so much time and money without new data to support the change. I did not want to support an action that reversed a 95% complete, construction-ready design, it's poor governance and sets a terrible precedent for council's reliability in making decisions."

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BULLIS
From Page 4

rooms, some over 25 years old, that have to be dealt with. Maureen Israel, the executive director at Bullis Charter, said BCS families were told “LASD does not have the authority to unilaterally relocate BCS to a new location without our consent. In fact, that would violate the law, and LASD

has already been stopped by a court from doing this in the past.” Trustee Vladimir Ivanovic voted against the motion, telling the Town Crier the move “puts BCS in the best and newest campus before any upgrades to our current facilities.” Among those speaking to the school board before the vote was former LASD Trustee Sangeeth Peruri who

said, “Having studied this issue for over a decade, my recommendation (for the Charter School) is San Antonio and Egan campuses.” Peruri added, “Placing both BCS campuses near each other would simplify logistics for families at multiple sites.” He said San Antonio Road can far better handle that traffic than the currently used Covington Road, a two-lane street.

Know something we don’t? Reach out

If you have a news-related story idea or tip, or if you would like to comment on its content, email section editor Christina Casillas at christinac@latc.com.



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New MV fire chief to be appointed after current announces retirement



Fire Chief Juan Diaz



Deputy Fire Chief Brian Jones

By Christina Casillas
Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

Mountain View Fire Chief Juan Diaz is set to retire Dec. 30 after more than 40 years – 12 of which were spent with the city of Mountain View – in fire services. Diaz’s successor, set to fill the chief position Dec. 31, is current deputy fire chief Brian Jones.

Diaz has served as fire chief since 2015, according to a city of Mountain View press release, but he got his start in the fire services in 1985, when at 19 years old he volunteered as a firefighter/EMT for the city of Santa Clara Fire Department while studying at the Mission College Fire Science program.

Before joining the Mountain View Fire Department, he served the San Jose Fire Department for 25 years; he joined MVFD in 2014 as Deputy Chief of Operations and became fire chief within a year.

Some of his biggest accomplishments include a robust Community Emergency Response Team – which boasts more than 1,000 community members – and emergency sustainability programs, upgrading Mountain View Fire medical services, building a Type I urban search and rescue team and upgrading the city’s hazardous materials response capabilities.

Diaz’s dedication to the community extended across city lines, as he championed mutual aid coordination and served as liaison to County Fire Chiefs Operation Section group and president of the Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association.

“Our mission was never just about responding to emergencies,” Diaz said. “It was about building a fire department that reflects and serves our com-

munity with pride, compassion and excellence. I have enjoyed working closely with city manager (Kimbra) McCarthy and our effective executive team in building a more resilient organization. I am also thankful for our city council, which makes our community’s safety a priority. I leave knowing the city of Mountain View Fire Department is stronger, more diverse, and ready to face any emergency in a more robust way than ever before, and in the very capable hands of Deputy Fire Chief Brian Jones who has been by my side working hard over the last 10 years.”

Jones is taking over with 32 years of experience. He joined MVFD in May 2016 as deputy fire chief; he previously served as battalion chief for the city of Stockton Fire Department.

Like Diaz, Jones began his first responder classes at Mission College, where he took fire technology and emergency medical services classes while still a student at St. Francis High School.

While serving as deputy chief, he’s also an incident commander and has served as the team manager of the South Bay Incident Management Team, which is tasked with managing large-scale incidents and disasters in the Bay Area, since 2017.

“It is a privilege and an honor to be named as the next fire chief for the city of Mountain View, the city where I was born and attended high school,” said Jones. “I am passionate about the fire service and I am so excited to lead this great fire department that provides such exceptional service to the community across all its divisions. ... I look forward to building meaningful connections with the community as fire chief and working collaboratively to serve the evolving needs of Mountain View.”

Coyote encounters escalating in and around Los Altos this fall

By Dorie Xie

Town Crier Editorial Intern

Watch out for more coyotes on the prowl this fall. Coyote sightings and attacks across Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View have increased and spread, according to local animal control authorities.

“Every seven or eight years, we see increased coyote activity like this and we have reports and video surveillance of coyotes in the (Palo Alto) Baylands and in Los Altos neighborhoods they aren’t normally seen in,” Palo Alto lead animal control officer Cody Macartney said.

Palo Alto’s Animal Control Division serves Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, while Mountain View is covered by Santa Clara County’s Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Although fall sightings are typical, this season’s numbers are higher than the norm, according to Macartney.

“Since July, we’ve handled

several coyote-related calls a week, from people seeing them in neighborhoods to hunting activity,” Macartney said. “Now the young coyotes are grown and out learning how to hunt by themselves and that’s all a big cycle.”

Reports this fall have also stretched to areas where coyotes weren’t often seen before.

“Sometimes we see them go down creeks into the flatlands of Los Altos or the Baylands,” Macartney said. “I’ve been doing this job for about 23 years and we haven’t had reports of coyotes all the way in the Baylands that I can remember.”

This spike isn’t random, according to Carolyn Whitesell, human-wildlife interactions advisor for Santa Clara County and a Los Altos native. She said it reflects both growing coyote populations and their increasing ability to adapt to suburban environments.

“Coyotes are incredibly adaptable and have learned to live in major cities like San



S.M. LIEU/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

While coyotes are usually out during pupping season, they’re also being seen as they prepare for winter.

Francisco and Los Angeles, so I’m not surprised they’ve been seen near El Camino (Real),” Whitesell said.

As daylight shortens and the weather gets colder, Whitesell and Macartney both predicted that coyote sightings should taper off.

“We usually see the coyote activity settle down because

they’re getting ready for winter,” Macartney said. “I’m expecting by the next month or so that our calls for service should reduce.”

But when spring rolls around, sightings should increase again, according to Whitesell.

“There tends to be (another) spike in coyote reports in the

spring, during denning season, when coyotes will protect their den against perceived threats, including people and dogs,” Whitesell said.

For now, Whitesell and Macartney encourage residents to scare off coyotes from residential areas and keep dogs on leash and cats indoors if they spot coyotes in the wild.

“Make them feel unwelcome by yelling, making loud noise, spraying a hose or turning on lights just to scare them off or make yourself seem super crazy in the car,” Macartney said.

In busier areas, Macartney advised people to avoid provoking the animals.

“If you’re in a busy area like El Camino Real, you don’t wanna spook that coyote into the traffic,” Macartney said. “Back away and they will find their own place to hide.”

To report a coyote sighting in Mountain View, visit tinyurl.com/MVcoyote; in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, visit tinyurl.com/LAcoyote.

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Community

Community remembers late Children's House founder

By **Amalia Tormala**
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Every evening, even after the students at Children's House of Los Altos had filed out of the door and the sky had darkened, Ella Mayon remained in the building.

Ella spent her nights reorganizing the classrooms to perfection, according to Beth Burton, a two-decade teacher at Children's House.

Burton's own classroom had one bin teeming with stuffed animals, which were often hastily thrown back into the box without much order. But Ella, consistently determined to make her students' experiences the best she could, stayed after hours to adjust the stuffed animals and make them look like they were having a blast at school, according to Burton.

"Those little details did make such a difference, and every time I look at that box of stuffed animals, I'm reminded of her," Bur-

ton said. "That was such a small part of the classroom, but it truly did make a difference."

This winter, following what her widower Mike Mayon called "a beautiful vacation" in Hawaii, Ella suffered a minor stroke. After recovering, Ella, 77 years old, endured a second stroke, which ultimately took her life May 23.

"She taught to the very end," Mike said. "I mean, I don't think we (Ella's family) ever could have stopped her."

Ella's love for teaching began in Hawaii. Or, as Mike surmised, perhaps Ella's love for teaching was in the genes. Ella's mother was also a teacher, obtaining her teaching credentials alongside Ella at San Jose State University.

By the time Ella had married Mike in 1968, she was already teaching at Albertan Elementary School. Following their wedding, they both took a year off and then Mike was drafted into the military. As a Navy pilot, Mike said he and Ella moved regularly, but Ella



COURTESY OF COURTNEY MAYON

Ella Mayon reading to kids.

found a way to continue teaching and giving back to communities every step of the way – from Florida to Texas to Hawaii.

It was in Hawaii, after Ella had been guiding low-income high school students who struggled with English, where she was discovered by the Punahou School – the high school Barack Obama graduated from in 1979. Soon after she started at Punahou,

the Kamehameha School, a native Hawaiian school, asked Ella to teach kindergarten and first grade.

Upon their return to California, Ella went back to San Jose State University, where she was offered a teaching position in their graduate division and taught on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. During her time at San Jose State, Chris Mayon – her eldest son – was two years old.

Mike said Ella, an educator by nature, could not find any local preschools that met the standards of learning she had for Chris. So, when the Los Altos School District's Eastbrook Elementary School was closing, Ella snagged a deal which allowed her to lease classrooms by the hour. Given her San Jose State schedule, Ella began to teach preschool students in the leased classrooms on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"She'd fill up with 12 or so (kids) back in those days, all local kids and young families like we

were and she just took them all in," Mike said. "And, she was just a natural teacher. I mean, it was amazing."

Quickly, Ella's teaching gig became a success. Mike said that as word of the classes spread, so did demand. That led Ella to leave San Jose State and, in 1978, turn her classroom-based preschool program – Children's House – into one that operated five days per week. Most integral to Ella was that all students of all abilities were welcome.

"You wanted to be in Children's House," Mike said. "(It was) the school you wanted to be into."

Soon enough, Children's House became so popular that Ella needed more space. The Los Altos School District began leasing Mike and Ella classrooms, which they did for years until, in 1996, they were offered a grounds lease.

See MAYON, Page 10

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COURTESY OF COURTNEY MAYON

Ella Mayon playing with kids at Children's House.

MAYON

From Page 9

There, Children's House built its first and primary location, followed in 2008 by a Los Altos Hills facility and in 2024 by a third facility at Springer Elementary School. At these facilities, Mike said everything was educational, including the playground's water rock that showed children how to transfer volumes.

According to Ella's son Michael "Mikey" Mayon, Children's House was not intended to create future Harvard University admits – instead, Ella's goal was directing people on the path best suited for them. Her extensive knowledge of the local elementary school scene allowed her to point students to education best suited to their talents and abilities.

"She wanted to create experiences that would get people on the right path for where they should be and help you find that path," Mikey said. "She (dedicated herself) to making the situation such that would allow for you to be successful."

But, despite her commitment to education and expanding the community's access, Mike said Ella made ample time to form genuine relationships with the families she helped.

"(Ella) has just been kind of a community cornerstone," Mike said. "We have children in the school now whose grandparents brought their parents and so we have all of these generational people coming to the school because they just loved Ella so much."

Count Twinkie Lyman among her fans. She sent her son to Children's House and her grandson is currently being taught by Ella's daughter, Courtney Mayon.

"It's hard to imagine what preschool in Los Altos might have looked like without Ella," Lyman said. "... The added sense of community it has given to all attendees and families, with participation in the Pet Parade, really gives Children's House an indelible mark in the town's history – and memorable fun for the generations of kids fortunate enough to be a part of it."

In Mike's estimate, Ella's accessible education impacted more than 1,000 families across Los Altos, Mountain View and Sunnyvale. For Courtney, the most impressive part was that Ella remembered every student's name.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, and

Children's House was forced to temporarily close, Ella was upset – so upset that every night, she would sit down and read two books, which Mike said he recorded. Then, Mike sent the videos to Chris, who also worked at Children's House, and would then send them to all of the parents whose kids were forced to stay home.

"I think she read 100 books for these children, which would give the parents a little bit of time, a little bit of freedom, where they could have a little human conversation for an hour," Mike said. "... Actually, we run into people, you know, (who say) 'We still watch those and we still listen to those books by Ella.'"

Chris and Courtney returned to help with the Children's House as adults, with Courtney focusing on the education side and Chris on the administrative side. Chris said he aimed to slowly transition day-to-day work away from his mother, so she felt free to go do "retired people things."

But, in typical Ella fashion, she found a way to go back to Children's House every day.

"She really genuinely loved the children at the school and the families and watching this little preschool institution she had created do its thing of getting children and families ready to go off to kindergarten," Chris said.

Amid her work educating young students, Ella still managed to find time for her own children – actions Mikey said did not go unnoticed.

"The only things that mattered to her were her family, the families at the school and helping those families," Mikey said.

For Mikey, Courtney and Chris, there was no talk about avoiding college – Mike said Ella made sure that was off the table. Ultimately, Ella's dedication to education was made evident through her children's education: all three have advanced degrees.

And, with their extensive knowledge of education – much of which was picked up from their mother – Courtney and Chris intend to maintain Ella's legacy through continuing to operate Children's House, with no plans of stopping anytime soon.

"We watched it (Children's House) as we grew up," Mike said. "I watched it with her for all the years I was married to her. She was an amazing soul."

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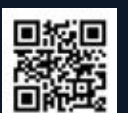
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Manga: An enduring dialogue between print and idea

By Duanni Hurd
Special to the Town Crier

A gleaming row of 80 Gashapon machines stretches along the entrance of the de Young Museum ready for visitors to spin. Each capsule toy dispenser, filled with miniature figures and manga icons, invites visitors to turn a knob and try their luck. What a playful curatorial gesture to capture the manga fandom and Japanese pop-culture.

Manga are Japanese graphic and comic novels, most of which conform to a style that originated in Japan in the late 19th century. Manga has experienced a rapid expansion from Japan to the world in the past two decades and gained significant global fandom. The worldwide manga market was valued at approximately \$14 billion in 2023 and is projected to reach \$50 billion within the next few years. In the U.S. market alone, manga makes up more than three quarters of overall comic and graphic book sales. This is the first major,

large-scale exhibition of manga art in North America, highlighting manga's history and its rise as a global cultural phenomenon. Dr. Nicole Coolidge Rousmaniere, an accomplished scholar of Japanese arts and culture, was commissioned to curate the first major manga exhibition in North America for the Fine Art Museums of San Francisco due to her leadership and experience in a major manga exhibition at the British Museum in 2019.

Arts & Culture

The Art of Manga exhibition at the de Young Museum traces the evolution of Japanese visual storytelling from its woodblock-print roots to today's global graphic culture, featuring 10 extraordinary artists (Akatsuka Fujio, Chiba Tetsuya, Araki Hirohiko, Oda Eiichiro, Tagame Gengoroh, Takahashi Rumiko, Taniguchi Jirō, Yamashita Kazumi, Yamazaki Mari and Yoshinaga Fumi) with rarely displayed origi-

nal drawings from 1970 to today.

Beshi, a manga frog character from the "Catch BESHI!!" Nintendo Switch game, guides museum visitors as the official exhibition mascot. The manga art form encompasses a broad range of genres including action, adventure, business, comedy, drama, history, mystery, romance, science fiction, fantasy, sexuality, etc., in distinctive styles of visual storytelling.

Among the highlights are works by painter and writer Yamazaki Mari, who attended the press preview in person and discussed her award-winning work "Plinivs," the historical manga biography of Pliny the Elder, which reimagines the last days Pliny the Elder experienced before the eruption at Pompeii. Her drawing style echoes Renaissance paintings, particularly in how she renders facial expressions, character features, and the intricately detailed, historically-accurate settings of ancient Rome. She captures human emotions in dramatic



COURTESY OF DUANNI HURD

Duanni Hurd at the Art of Manga press review at the de Young Museum in San Francisco.

moments with sometimes profound thoughts; at other times she delves into

comic absurdity.

In comparison, Araki

See MANGA, Page 12

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Community

MANGA

From Page 11

Hirohiko is known for his flashy coloring and fashion-forward, flamboyant style under the artistic influence of western art, Renaissance sculpture and fashion magazines. Highly stylized characters in fashion art textiles with gravity-defying bold poses in surreal battles and dramas are contrasted by highly detailed and realistic backgrounds, objects and scenery like Mt. Fuji, creating a unique balance between stylization and realism. A dedicated gallery showcases his characters with masculine human forms, big eyes, full lips and exaggerated gazes and postures.

On the museum's upper floor, the accompanying display "How Manga is Made: ONE PIECE ONLY" demonstrates the creative process behind manga from hand drawn sketches to printing production dedicated to Oda Eiichiro's "One Piece," the bestselling

manga series with more than 1,153 chapters and more than 510 million copies in circulation worldwide. A continuous wall displaying chapters 1 through 1,110 of "One Piece" creates an immersive experience for visitors. It has been so successful that it has official English-language YouTube channels and is available on streaming services like Netflix. My 13-year-old son was a huge fan of "One Piece" and regularly followed the Netflix series for more than a year.

From mythic spectacle to intimate comedy, this landmark exhibition sets the tone to celebrate both the artistry and accessibility of manga. Art evolves by crossing boundaries of medium, geography and narrative; the audience is sure to be inspired by their participation in the art of manga, and in the dialogue between print and idea.

Duanni Hurd is a Town Crier columnist covering arts, culture and lifestyle. Find her coverage of arts and performing arts on Instagram @duannihurd9.



COURTESY OF DUANNI HURD

Nicole Coolidge Rousmaniere discussing work by Araki Hirohiko at the de Young Museum.



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City of **LOS ALTOS**

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

October 28, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.

In Person

Note- This is not the Final Agenda

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment No.1 to the Professional Service Agreement with Harris & Associates in the Amount of \$129,811.06 for the Downtown Parking Lot Resurfacing Project
2. Adopt a Resolution regarding fire protection service options in the City of Los Altos
3. Adopt a Resolution approving a Side Letter with the Sanitary Truck Driver and Helper Union Local 350 to Extend the Existing Memorandum of Understanding for Four Years

PUBLIC HEARING

4. 2025 Los Altos Building Code Updates

Two separate actions for Council consideration:

- a. Adopt and waive second reading of an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Los Altos Repealing in its Entirety Title 12 for Buildings and Construction of the Los Altos Municipal Code; and
- b. Adopt and waive second reading of an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Los Altos Adding Title 12 for Buildings and Construction to the Los Altos Municipal Code Including Chapters 12.04, 12.06, 12.08, 12.10, 12.12, 12.14, 12.16, 12.18, 12.20, 12.22, 12.24, 12.26, 12.28, 12.30, 12.32, 12.34, 12.36, 12.38, and 12.40 to Adopt by Reference the 2025 California Building

Codes with Local Amendments; and Find that both actions are exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) and 15308 of the California Environmental Quality

Act (CEQA) Guidelines

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

Community

TACO celebrates its 16th year with concerts this fall

By Gina Atkinson

Under the direction of founder and conductor Cathy Humphers Smith, the Terrible Adult Chamber Orchestra held its first regular session of 2025-2026 – its 16th year – Sept. 28. The next session will be Sunday, Oct. 26, from 2-5 p.m. (Halloween costumes optional) at Los Altos Community Center.

An upcoming special TACO event will be the annual Holiday Sing-Along on Sunday, Nov. 30, from 4-5 p.m. at Los Altos Community Center.

In the spring, TACO celebrated its 15th anniversary with a March 30 concert at De Anza College Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater in Cupertino. Approximately 300 people attended the event, which showcased the music of nationally known, local composer Nancy Bloomer Deussen.

A highlight of the program was the premiere of “Shoreline to Skyline,” a three-movement work commissioned by TACO and composed by Bloomer Deussen before she passed away in November 2019. The world premiere of this orchestral work, which evokes features of our local natural landscapes, had unfortunately been delayed due to the pandemic, and TACO was delighted to finally debut the piece for a live audience in celebration of its 15th anniversary. Previous works of Bloomer Deussen’s were also performed with the participation of several guest musicians for this TACO & Friends concert. The program included two piano solos played by Bob Sunshine; a trio for piano and woodwinds featuring Ron Levy, a professional pianist based in New York; and an orchestral concerto led by local guest conductor Anthony Quar-

tuccio. “Silence to Sound,” a short documentary film in which Bloomer Deussen described her creative process as a composer, was also shown at the event. A reception followed.

Launched in January 2010 with 20 musicians in the founders’ Los Altos living room, TACO has grown to a mailing list of over 1,000 people, from which a robust group of about 85 to 90 musicians attends monthly sessions, most often held at the Los Altos Community Center. The inspiration for using the word “Terrible” in TACO’s name came from the RTO (“Really Terrible Orchestra”) of Scotland, a humorous way to convey inclusiveness.

Conceived as “An orchestra for the rest of us,” TACO’s emphasis is on playing music together in a casual, nonjudgmental, and fun setting; there are no auditions. Musicians of all skill levels, from re-starters to experts, are welcome; more experienced players might work on a second or third instrument; others learn how to play in an ensemble, many for the first time; some practice the monthly music ahead of time and others develop their sight-reading skills.

TACO’s extensive library of full orchestra music includes arrangements from Baroque and classical to pop and show tunes, all accessible to amateurs. Anyone with an orchestral instrument is eligible to register and play at a session, and those who would like to simply listen are welcome to attend for free and observe the group’s process of creating music.

TACO is a project of the Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation’s Local Impact Collective. For more information, visit tacosv.org.

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Los Altos Town Crier

Community

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Community Briefs

CSA celebrates National Estate Planning Week with Mayor Pete Dailey

Community Services Agency (CSA) announced Los Altos Mayor Pete Dailey has joined CSA's Legacy Circle, which means a community member names CSA in their will or trust or as a beneficiary of a retirement plan.

Dailey has been supportive of CSA during his time on the Los Altos City Council and made CSA a beneficiary of his IRA so that the work of CSA continues for years to come and no one in the community goes hungry.

"I grew to love CSA years ago when I began volunteering in CSA's Food & Nutrition Center," Dailey said. "I brought my kids with me and was impressed with how the experience made them comfortable interacting with community members from all walks of life, including the unhoused. It's important to me that as a community, we take care of those in need and teach our children to do so, too."

CSA honors Legacy Circle members, critical to CSA's future, with a luncheon each March.

Those interested in joining CSA's Legacy Circle to protect the local safety net can contact CSA Development Director Simone Berkowitz at sberkowitz@csacares.org.

Watch the magic unfold with Live Painting Art Battle event

Six artists will be painting live, battling to win two cash prizes at the Live Painting Art Battle at the State Street Market 4-7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1.

Arts Los Altos is sponsoring the event, which allows the public to come see the action and vote for their favorite painting based on the theme "Inside Outside." At the end of the art battle, there will be an auction of the paintings as a fundraiser for Arts Los Altos, a nonprofit, all-volunteer group that implements public art downtown.

The six artists participating are Alis Whitman, Mansi, Margaret Luo, Shiva Kintali, Laurus Myth and Lila Gemello. The artists paint with their own styles and materials on a 3-foot-by-4-foot canvas. Bidding begins at 7 p.m.

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Stepping Out

TheatreWorks hits the road with 'A Driving Beat'

By Mia Scott
Town Crier Editorial Intern

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's world premiere of "A Driving Beat" will take audiences on a dramatic mother-son road trip. The play opens Nov. 1 and runs through Nov. 23 in Mountain View.

Written by Jordan Ramirez Puckett, "A Driving Beat" follows a mother and son on a cross-country road trip dominated by the teen's hip-hop music. During their journey, the Filipino adopted son and his white mother attempt to find common ground while exploring their pasts, identities and their love for one another.

The story resonates personally with director Jeffrey Lo.

"Being a brown person in America, I have had to learn how to both love who I am and love where I came from," Lo said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRACY MARTIN

"A Driving Beat" follows a mother and son on a roadtrip.

Lo said he was drawn to the play due to its mix of family dynamics and heartfelt emotion.

"I'm a real sucker for a mother-and-son story, I'm a sucker for a coming-of-age story, and I'm a sucker for a road trip story," Lo said.

Lo added that he first became familiar with "A Driving Beat"

in 2018, the start of the play's journey to reaching the stage. After an overwhelmingly positive audience response at TheatreWorks' 2024 New Works Festival, Lo said he knew "it was a no-brainer" for a full production.

Lee Ann Payne stars as the mother, Diane. The Theatre-

Works veteran described her character as a wonderful, warm and caring mom. She said her connection with co-star Viktor Corpez – who plays her son, Mateo – was instant on stage.

"It took two seconds," Payne said. "We were almost immediately bonded."

Payne added that the most relatable part of the story is the universal "struggle to make a connection" with a teenager from a different background.

Lo noted that music is a central element in the play. Mateo uses hip-hop and spoken word to express himself, allowing the audience to hear his "internal monologue," the director said. Diane, on the other hand, struggles to connect with the music.

"We don't really show her taste in music, but we do show her lack in understanding her son's taste in music," Payne said.

Staging a play mostly set in a moving car presents a challenge,

but Lo has embraced what he called a creative opportunity to "be theatrical" and "use our imagination."

Ultimately, Payne said the audience's own experiences will help them come along for the ride.

"I think everybody's been on a road trip before," Payne said. "We make it interesting by making it familiar."

"A Driving Beat" previews at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 29 and Oct. 30, 8 p.m. Oct. 31 and 2 p.m. Nov. 1. The opening-night show is set for 8 p.m. Nov. 1. Future shows are set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays, through Nov. 23 on the SecondStage at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro St. Tickets are \$49-\$79.

For tickets and more information, visit theatreworks.org.



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Sports

Los Altos girls volleyball team chase league title

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

A 3-1 rivalry win over Mountain View Thursday has the Los Altos girls volleyball team closing in on a league title, needing two league wins out of three to claim at least a share.

The visiting Spartans came out strong on the Eagles' senior night, winning the first set 25-21 and pushing the Eagles to the brink in the third set. Los Altos was up 23-18 when Mountain View went on a 6-0 run to make it 24-23, leading to a timeout from Los Altos head coach Peter Kim, who told the team to calm down.

"I think their emotions were up and down the whole match, but I told them, 'just play our game and we will be OK,' and they've been working on that all year," Kim said.

The team responded, winning the set 27-25 thanks to good serving and hitting from seniors Ella McFarlane, Anastasia Marinopoulos and Aviya Russo. McFarlane said the team has improved at refocusing and not getting too down when another team goes on a run, something that has cost them games earlier in the season.

"I think this season we've gotten a lot better at being able to come back and stay grounded and disciplined in times like that, when they catch up or get a run and so we reminded each other, this is our game, we don't need to stress about what they're doing, let's just do what we can do on our side of the court," McFarlane said.

Los Altos played its game in the fourth set, relying on its technical ability and good connections between the



MATTHEW LEE-ASIONG/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Los Altos senior Ella McFarlane goes up to spike the ball during the Thursday game against Mountain View, which Los Altos won 3-1. The Eagles are now 8-1 in SCVAL De Anza Division play and a game ahead of second-place Palo Alto with three league games remaining.

setters and hitters to pick up points. The Eagles went on a 10-0 run to start the fourth set and didn't let up in a 25-9 set win.

"It's hard to stop us when we serve well, pass well and we can put the ball up to Aviya or any of our other hit-

ters," Kim said of the fourth set. "It's tough to beat us."

Los Altos (19-5) is now on a five-game win streak and has won 12 of its last 13, propelled by a mix of seniors and underclassmen like freshmen right-sided hitter Kat Minkevich, setter Angela

Deng and defensive specialist Katlyn King. Los Altos has several good league wins against Aragon, Sacred Heart Cathedral and Evergreen Valley, and has only one league loss against second-place

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 20

Eagles water polo aims for new heights

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

The Los Altos girls water polo team is having one of its best seasons in years as it strives to earn a CCS Open Division berth, building on last year's breakout season.

Los Altos (14-5) has only one loss in league play and is on a six-game winning streak; Los Altos head coach Katie Tasman credits the team's willingness to make mistakes and grow together, combined with a high commitment level.

"We're fortunate to have many athletes who dedicate themselves to playing year-round and strive to compete at the collegiate level," Tasman said in an email. "That commitment elevates the intensity and quality of our practices and it encourages everyone to hold themselves to that higher standard."

The Eagles have relied on offensive powerhouse Sophia Boschken to lead the attack. Boschken, a senior, has scored approximately three goals a game and been the focal point of the offense, while Kylie Barkovich has been a force at center on offense and

defense, drawing ejections to create opportunities. Defensively, Los Altos has relied on 2-meter defender Kylie Parman to shadow the opponents' top players, while goalie Alison Han proved to be a difference-maker in close games thanks to big saves, Tasman said. Los Altos is a defense-focused team that creates opportunities on offense through counterattacks or in the half-court game. The team is a mix of experienced and new starters, with seniors Maria Selikhanovich and Annie Aliashvili and junior Ava Smith returning to provide experience and game sense while freshman starter Tessa Neilsen and sophomore Zoey Shan have taken advantage of opportunities.

Los Altos reached the CCS Division I finals last year as the No. 3 seed, falling to Leigh 9-8 in a close game and finishing second in league play with a 12-3 record, behind Palo Alto. Just two years ago, the team finished 2-18 overall and a distant seventh place in the league, with a combined 7-25 record overall in the two previous seasons. Tasman credits the turnaround to the growing number



MAX ASMAR/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

The Los Altos girls water polo team playing Harker Thursday.

of players in the sport at the junior varsity level, which has helped build a stronger foundation for the program.

"Just as important are the athletes who have committed to playing year-round and continually pushing themselves to improve," Tasman said. "This is not an easy sport and with

the game constantly evolving, dedication and depth have been essential to our progress. It's that combination of growth, hard work and love for the game that has allowed us to take significant steps forward these past few

See WATER POLO, Page 19

Prep Sports
Summary

Football

Los Altos’ Gavin Wu rushed for 119 yards on 22 carries and scored two touchdowns to lead Los Altos to its second consecutive league win 14-6. The Eagles are 2-5 overall and 2-1 in PAL El Camino league play and in second place. The Eagles got on the board first, thanks to a 41-yard run by Manny Contreras, who finished with six rushes for 70 yards. Wu scored to put the Eagles up 7-0, with several promising Los Altos drives stalled by penalties. Gunn scored its first and only touchdown on a screen pass for 35 yards early in the third quarter, but it would miss the extra point to make it 7-6. Serdinc Engez led a tenacious Los Altos defense with three sacks. Colin Chin’s interception in the fourth quarter set up the Eagles’ final scoring drive, sealed by Wu’s second touchdown, Los Altos head coach Mark Adams said. Los Altos hosts Fremont tomorrow at 7 p.m.

St. Francis lost 41-28 to Serra Saturday, falling to 2-2 in West Catholic Athletic League play.

Serra (4-3) fumbled the ball five times but was able to rush for 218 yards and four touchdowns to seal the win. Serra is now 4-0 in league play, tied with Riordan for first place. The Lancers (2-5) are now in fourth place and play St. Ignatius Friday at 7 p.m.

Girls volleyball

The St. Francis girls volleyball team lost to Archbishop Mitty 3-1 and beat Presentation 3-0 this week, moving to 16-9 overall and 5-4 in WCAL league play. St. Francis is in fourth place with three games remaining as it seeks to solidify its playoff standings.

Boys water polo

The Los Altos boys water polo team lost to Harker 13-7 Thursday in SCVAL De Anza Division play. Los Altos is now in third place in league play at 7-3 behind Harker (9-2) and Los Gatos (10-0).

St. Francis beat Bellarmine and Davis Sr. Saturday to move to 15-7 overall, with St. Francis 3-3 in WCAL play.

Mountain View (3-16) lost 15-6 against Palo Alto Thursday.

Girls water polo

The Los Altos girls water polo team beat Harker 15-3 to move to 15-5 overall and 11-1 in the SCVAL De Anza Division. Los Altos is in second place and a game behind Palo Alto. The two play each other Tuesday (after the Town Crier print deadline).

Mountain View lost to Prospect 7-5 Saturday, falling to 1-12 on the season.

St. Francis lost 22-7 to Sacred Heart Prep Oct. 15 in WCAL play, its first league loss of the season (4-1). Sacred Heart Prep (15-2) remains undefeated in league play (5-0). The Lancers are 10-9 overall.

Flag football

The Los Altos girls flag football team beat Mountain View 24-6 Oct. 13 and lost to Los Gatos 21-18 Oct. 15 in SCVAL De Anza Division league play to move to 13-6 overall and 4-3 in league. Los Altos quarterback Sabrina Neal threw three touchdowns and rushed for 41 yards, while Lily Whiting had two touchdown receptions in the loss against Los Gatos. Neal had three touchdowns against Mountain View, while Chloe D’Amico added two receiving touchdowns. Mountain View is now 6-14 overall and 0-7 in league play.

St. Francis (7-10-1) lost 25-2 against Sacred Heart Prep Oct. 15 to move to 3-4 in the West Bay Foothill league standings.

WATER POLO

From Page 18

seasons.”

The team’s goal is to reach the CCS Open Division playoffs as one of the top eight teams in the section and finish first in league. Standing in its way is Palo Alto, which is undefeated in SCVAL De Anza Division play and the defending champions. Los Altos is 10-1 in league play, and its only league loss has been

to undefeated Palo Alto. Los Altos travels to play Palo Alto Tuesday at 5:15 p.m.

“Our games against Palo Alto are always nail-biters and ones I really look forward to,” Tasman said. “We’re two of the strongest teams in the league and they’re a very well-rounded group that will make you pay for your mistakes. Although we didn’t come away with the win in our first matchup, we played a solid game and fell short defensively in the fourth quarter.”

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VOLLEYBALL
From Page 18

Palo Alto, which is only a game behind Los Altos (8-1) in the SCVAL De Anza Division standings at 7-2.

“Coming into the season, I knew we had a pretty good squad,” Kim said. “Having the freshmen come in and see what they could do really gave us a huge boost, and I think gave us a lot of confidence going into the season, so as soon as they felt that we had a solid team, that kind of took off and got more steam.”

Winning its last three league games will secure an outright league title for the Eagles for the first time since

2022, although winning two out of three will ensure at least a shared title. A league title would also likely earn a Central Coast Section Open Division playoff birth. However, Kim noted the team still has tough league matches against Los Gatos, Milpitas and Monta Vista in the final two weeks of the regular season.

“We just have to play our game and stay focused,” Kim said.

Los Altos visits Monta Vista (18-12) 6:45 p.m. Tuesday (after the Town Crier print deadline). Mountain View (6-13) hosts Gilroy Monday in a non-league game 7 p.m. Monday (after the Town Crier print deadline).



MATTHEW LEE-ASIONG/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

The Los Altos girls volleyball team prepare for an attack during the game Thursday.

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

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Schools

Music For Minors hires new executive director

By Sachin Chandran
Town Crier Editorial Intern

As a nonprofit organization specializing in music education for students, Music For Minors requires strong leadership to carry out its vision, according to its interim executive director Marcy Straw. This is personified in incoming executive director Valerie Meyer.

“Valerie is going to be a really inspiring partner,” Straw said. “She is dynamic, she’s very charismatic, she’s an incredible listener. She’s going to be a great partner to all of (our stakeholders) as we go forward.”

Meyer joined Music For Minors – initially funded by the Los Altos School District – in August, shadowing Straw to learn more about her role. Meyer plans to take over for Straw this month.

Bringing experience from 20 years working in

tech, Meyer said she transitioned to Music For Minors due to the impact she has seen it have on her children.

“It is a really world class program in terms of really building strong music skills,” the San Mateo resident said. “I’ve seen my older student go through the program and learn to read music. She now plays the recorder and really has a strong foundation in many areas of music, including music literacy.”

Meyer added that music enriches a student’s learning in many ways that may not seem evident. This makes it an essential skill to teach students, especially as they develop through their childhood and face social adversity, she said.

“I believe in the power of music to establish connections, both in schools as a student and also within cultures,” Meyer said. “Music

is a universal language that helps people connect, even if you don’t speak the same language or if you’re in a brand-new environment. It allows you to find a community, build a community and do something across culture and language barriers.”

As she takes on the role of executive director, Straw said Meyer will be tasked with directing much of Music For Minors’ operations, as it is the highest role in the organization.

“The team reports to the executive director,” Straw said. “They are the lead, if you will, on individual donor cultivation and relationships. So really, everything about the organization, from programs to finance, to fundraising, to our earned revenue, they are responsible for.”

Although Meyer said she is currently only looking



COURTESY OF MUSIC FOR MINORS

Meyer

to connect with and learn from her co-workers, she has many goals she wants to pursue, especially as the

See MUSIC, Page 23

Ramifications of the White House ‘Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education’

By Hollis Bischoff

On Oct. 1, the White House sent the “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education,” which outlines a proposal and agreement for colleges to adopt in exchange for potential access to “substantial and meaningful federal grants” and “increased overhead payments where feasible,” to a select set of initial educational institutions.

The proposal outlines the administration’s vision for higher education priorities in eight categories: Equality in Admissions, Marketplace of Ideas & Civil Discourse, Nondiscrimination in Faculty and Administrative Hiring, Institutional Neutrality, Student Learning, Student Equality, Financial Responsibility and Foreign Entanglements.

Highlights include the following:

Equality in Admissions

- Banning the use of demographic information, such as gender, race, socioeconomic status, etc., in the admissions process. Potential impact: universities with less diversity.

- Reinstating the use of SAT, ACT and other standardized tests in the admissions process. Potential impact: With the correlation of standardized test scores to higher income, this would create a bias

Road to College

toward students from higher income families.

- Determining admissions on the basis of publicly published objective criteria as to GPA, coursework, etc. Potential impact: Currently most institutions use a holistic approach to reviewing applicants rather than rigid admissions standards. This starts at the student’s local level, allowing for the consideration of opportunities available to students rather than raw numbers. This will skew admissions towards students who attend well funded high schools, allowing them more opportunities.

Marketplace of Ideas & Civil Discourse

- Mandating viewpoint diversity, to ensure no single ideology is taking precedence, not only on the campus level, but down to the individual program/departments level. Potential impact: Specific areas of study will be defunded and removed from curriculum, like gender studies, religious studies, peace studies.

- Committing to the use of “lawful force” to maintain defined conditions of civility, such as preventing demonstra-



ADOBE STOCK/ZACH FRANK

A new White House proposal is forcing colleges into tough choices.

tors/protesters from disrupting activities, classes, public/private spaces and heckling students. Potential impact: suppression of free speech and possible escalating violence with increased police presence.

Institutional Neutrality

- Committing across all university facets to “abstain from actions or speech relating to societal and political events.”

Potential impact: censorship and chilling effect on free speech.

Student Equality

- Accepting the government’s defini-

tion of gender as it relates to bathroom/locker room usage and women’s sports.

Financial Responsibility

- Freezing tuition for five years, allowing for increases for students from “families of exceptional means.” Potential impact: better budget planning for families, potential minimum of extremely wealthy families.

- Waiving tuition for those pursuing “hard science” at institutions with endowments exceeding \$2 million/per

See COLLEGE, Page 23

Schools

COLLEGE

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student. Potential impact: continued flooding of the employment market with computer science and engineering students.

- Providing students with possible earnings by major as determined by historical statistics of prior graduates' earnings. Potential impact: ability to calculate an ROI on particular career fields. Some students may make a career decision based on earning potential rather than career fit.

- Making first-semester tuition refundable. Potential impact: reduction in college revenue as approximately 33% of first year students drop out. Provides a lower barrier to entry, with less consequences for first year students.

Foreign Entanglements

- Capping the percentage of international students at no more than 15% of the total student population and no more than 5% from any single country. Currently there are about 120 higher education institutions exceeding the 15% distribution, including New York University (26%) and Carnegie Mellon (23%). Potential impact: less funding for college institutions, who rely on high tuition received from international students, therefore higher tuition costs for domestic students.

Nine institutions were selected to be included as "initial signatories," according to the letter accompanying the agreement, which invited feedback before the contract language is finalized and have been requested to provide a decision by Nov. 21. The nine institutions are University of Arizona, Brown University, Dartmouth College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Pennsylvania, University of Southern California, University of Texas, University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University.

Governor Newsom responded quickly, warning that any California institution would instantly lose state financial support, including California grants which provide approximately \$2.8 billion in

financial aid to California students. In a strongly worded statement, Newsom also stated, "... (California) will not bankroll schools that sell out their students, professors, researchers and surrender academic freedom."

Responses varied among the nine universities. Dartmouth President Sian Leah Beilock, declared, "We will never compromise our academic freedom and our ability to govern ourselves," while the head of the Texas board of regents was considerably more congenial toward reviewing and participating in the agreement.

On Oct. 10, MIT became the first institution to officially reply, rejecting the compact with a letter to the U.S. Education Secretary, clearly outlining its position that they disagree and that it would "restrict freedom of expression and our independence as an institution. And fundamentally, the premise of the document is inconsistent with our core belief that scientific funding should be based on scientific merit alone." As of Oct. 17, Brown University, University of Southern California and University of Pennsylvania have joined MIT in rejecting the compact.

On Oct. 10, 2025, MIT became the first institution to officially reply, rejecting the compact with a letter to the US Education Secretary, clearly outlining its position that they disagree and that it would: "restrict freedom of expression and our independence as an institution. And fundamentally, the premise of the document is inconsistent with our core belief that scientific funding should be based on scientific merit alone."

On Friday, the Education Secretary and other Trump officials, in response to criticism and the rejections, met with numerous university representatives, and added Arizona State University, The University of Kansas and Washington University of Saint Louis in those meetings.

By Monday, Brown University, Dartmouth University, University of Southern California, University of Virginia, and University of Pennsylvania had joined MIT in rejecting the compact.

MUSIC

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organization reaches an important milestone.

"We are coming up on our 50th year of service in 2026," Meyer said. "That's definitely a milestone that we want to celebrate and use to connect with people that have been associated with us in the past, as well as build upon that momentum for our next 50 years."

Additionally, another goal of hers is to adapt to

students' needs and make sure Music For Minors is evolving with them.

"The program has continually evolved to better meet the needs of our students and our communities," Meyer said. "I want to make sure that we have a culturally responsive curriculum that stays relevant to our schools and educators that are delivering the lessons."

For more information on Music For Minors, visit mfm.org.

If you have an idea for the Schools section or would like to comment on its content, email section editor Brandon Roth at brandonr@latc.com.

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Your Health

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INSIDE
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Los Altos resident recognized for women's healthcare company

By Neel Gupta
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Los Altos resident Joanna Strober's work in the medical field has not gone unnoticed.

She has received national recognition for her work as co-founder and CEO of Midi Health, a virtual clinic providing specialized care for women aged 35 and over. This year, Strober landed on Time magazine's Most Influential People in Health list and CNBC's Changersmakers: Women Transforming Business list. In 2023, she made Forbes' 50 Over 50: Innovation list, which highlights women aged 50 and over for their impact on America.

Midi is a nationwide company focused on treating premenopause and menopause by considering individual symptoms and needs. Midi's aim is to train women health providers and connect them with patients in a highly accessible and efficient way.

"We noticed how women's health care is a significantly underserved market," Strober said. "We are having a lot of success because there is a deep need, and lack of, expert women's health care."

That includes here, in Silicon Valley.

"Even in cities like Los Altos or Palo Alto, it's very hard to get access to really good menopause care; yet we are so privileged. Imagine what it's like for women who don't live near a high quality medical center," Strober said. "That's why our job at Midi is to make sure women across the nation have access to that high quality care."

Providing this service requires evidence-informed care, she added.

"There is research about women's health happening all over the world, but it takes time to translate all that information into tangible care," Strober said. "Information is changing so rapidly, so our aim at Midi is to use technology



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOANNA STROBER

Los Altos resident Joanna Strober co-founded Midi Health, which specializes in healthcare for women 35 and older.

tsynthesize new research, connect providers with it, and give patients the most up-to-date and accurate information and products."

According to Strober, Midi could not have attained its success without the "incredible

women" she works with.

"While I may be the face of Midi, the recognition is not for me," said Strober, who holds degrees from the University of Pennsylvania (bachelor of arts) and UCLA (doctorate). "It's for the team."

Jill Herzig, a longtime colleague of Strober and Midi's chief brand officer, said Strober is a team player.

"It doesn't surprise me that Joanna calls out her colleagues as her friends," she said "I think she sees them as her family in a way, which is exactly how we feel about Joanna in the company."

Unlike many other companies, Midi's leadership team consists almost entirely of women.

"Society often doesn't expect women in midlife to be launching companies," Herzig said. "But Joanna did just that. She embodies the potential of women in midlife, who have peak leadership skills, life experience, and extraordinary professional know-how. And that's the goal of Midi – to empower mid-life women to do whatever they want, achieve whatever they want."

Prior to Midi's launch in 2022, the leadership team ran

See MIDI, Page 26

Teens' lives are already stressful: Be careful not to overschedule them

By Susie Driscoll

Many high schoolers burn out trying to academically excel.

In my work with teens in Menlo Park and at Gunn High School, I witnessed this firsthand. Perfectionism, depression and anxiety were significant. During summer breaks, I could see the pressure slowly releasing from them.

Clients shared their difficulty meeting parents' expectations. It's not enough to be invested in academics, art or sports – the expectation is excellence across all areas.

This pressure to excel can also come from schools. When I was a student at Mountain View High School, during the homecoming parade, the announcer introduced each member of the homecoming court and shared their GPA. I was shocked to learn that multiple homecoming court members had 5.0 GPAs. I didn't realize that was even possible, even with my knowledge of weighted GPAs from taking honors

and AP classes.

Years later, I still remember the sense of inadequacy I felt. I wondered, how could these students get into the homecoming court and maintain perfect grades? What were they doing that I wasn't?

If I were to address my teen-self now, I would tell her that there was nothing wrong with my academic performance. I was a good student and later found a career I loved. I don't know how the homecoming court felt, but I know we can never tell how someone is doing from the outside. Maybe getting perfect grades was easy for them, or maybe they had to pull all-nighters every week to get everything done. Perhaps they doubted themselves, too.

High school juniors and seniors often feel the pressure of looming college applications and wonder if they're good enough or have done enough to get into college. The goal often is not only getting into college, but getting into the best college. Students' sched-

Authentically You

ules then fill with volunteering, sports, internships and more to appeal to universities.

This has merit because extracurriculars can be extremely beneficial. A 2025 study by Lingo and An provided support that being a high school "renaissance student" (having strengths in sports, the arts and academics) predicted academic and social success in college. The researchers noted renaissance students were more likely to get into highly selective universities and graduate with bachelors degrees. This is unsurprising as extracurriculars foster skills like teamwork, self-discipline and creativity.

Yet balancing extracurriculars is tricky. A 2020 study by Gardner et al. found that students who did more than three or four extracurriculars were more likely to get into college

than their peers. However, they also noticed that these students were more likely to take longer to graduate college than peers involved in fewer activities.

These results point to the challenges many students face. Students might get into their intended schools but eventually the momentum runs out. They turn in assignments late or not at all. Or they have to leave class to deescalate panic attacks.

Parental pressure that is excessive or motivated by anxiety can increase stress on adolescents. Parents might fixate on whether or not their teens get accepted into prestigious universities and teens internalize their parents' anxiety. Because of this, I recommend parents carefully monitor their own anxiety, reflect on where it's coming from and adjust their expectations as needed to support their teens. Parents should discuss with teens what they expect for themselves and how they

See WELLBEING, Page 26

Therapies help athletes stay in the game

By Kim Gladfelter

Pickleball, softball, baseball, golf, jogging and tennis aren't just hobbies – they're essential to how many active adults stay fit, social and energized. These sports offer benefits such as cardiovascular health, improved coordination, mental well-being and community connection. But injuries can sideline even the most seasoned players for weeks or even months. That's where regenerative therapy (shockwave and high energy magnetic therapy) comes in. This non-invasive, drug-free treatment is helping athletes and active adults heal faster, reduce pain, and return to the activities they love with fewer setbacks and greater long-term success.

Pickleball and tennis involve quick lateral movements, rapid arm swings and abrupt starts and stops, placing high demand on the shoulders and elbows. This is especially the case in pitchers and infielders.

Racquet sport athletes commonly face rotator cuff strains, labral tears and elbow tendonitis. Swinging, throwing and diving movements also stress the back and knees.

Common injuries include tennis elbow, shoulder impingement, plantar fasciitis

Mindful Movement

and Achilles tendonitis. As one of the fastest-growing sports in the U.S., pickleball is seeing a surge in wrist, elbow and ankle injuries, especially in adults over 40.

Many golfers have shoulder, arm, elbow and back injuries. Rotational movements often lead to lower back strain, golfer's elbow, wrist injuries and hip bursitis. Repetitive swinging can also cause over-use injuries in older adults.

Jogging and running can cause knee issues. Repetitive ground impact can lead to shin splints, Achilles tendinopathy, runner's knee and plantar fasciitis. Improper footwear or imbalanced movement patterns often contribute to these conditions becoming chronic.

While ice, rest and pain relievers may offer short-term relief, they rarely address the root cause. Regenerative therapy helps when moving forward.

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Regenerative therapy is most effective when paired with physical or occupational therapy. This combination enhances posture, mobility, and biomechanics, reducing strain and preventing reinjury.

Kim Gladfelter is owner of PhysioFit Physical Therapy & Wellness in Los Altos. To learn more, call (650) 887-6046 or visit physiofitpt.com.

WELLBEING

From Page 25

feel about their extracurriculars.

If the focus of the extracurriculars becomes solely about getting into college, teens risk burnout and not learning how to monitor their emotional wellbeing. When schedules are too structured, teens also might miss out on important developmental milestones.

For example, teens having unstructured quality time with friends can strengthen social skills and build independence. Teens also need down time to

learn how to entertain themselves, decompress or process their day.

Teens can be brilliant and full of potential but they still need support to be successful. Some thrive doing many extracurriculars while others perform better prioritizing one activity at a time. To set students up for success, let's stop wearing down their strengths and instead bolster them.

Susie Driscoll, LMFT, is a licensed psychotherapist. For information on her practice, email susie@kindwithincounseling.com.

MIDI

From Page 25

a pilot, creating what Herzig described as "a mock company" that connected dozens of women with a doctor who specializes in menopause.

"The learnings we drew out from those women's experiences and the feedback they gave us still form the bones of this company," Herzig said. "Midi's brand is rooted in conversation with patients, prospective patients, research and health care professionals. We never stop listening."

To continue these conversations, Herzig, Strober and the Midi team aim to build an environment that is both bold and nuanced.

"This team values alacrity; there's not a whole lot of hesitation. We recognize the steep hill we are climbing and don't shy away from the challenges. We size them up and get moving," Herzig said. "Every day, I'm learning more and more by energetically facing the unknown. That's the environment Joanna fosters, and that's what makes the company so successful."

Strober looks forward to growing the company.

"We are going to serve millions of women and become the healthcare home for women nationwide," Strober said. "I've been really fortunate to get to start this company and build it with other women – to serve so many more women."

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Business & Real Estate

MVHS grad brings music streaming service to life

By Amalia Tormala
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Russell Gaskins – a co-founder and chief creative officer of the latest music streaming service, Coda Music – could once be found parading down the halls of Mountain View High School with a green duffel bag and a boombox, blasting everything from Elton John to Tupac Shakur.

Even then, before Gaskins knew anything about making streaming services or the world of entrepreneurship, he said he knew that music would always be important in his journey.



Gaskins

“Music has always been a part of my life,” Gaskins said. “It’s my passion. Without it, I don’t know what I would have done.”

Gaskins said living in the Bay Area immersed him into the music industry; known for its underground music scene, the region offered Gaskins glimpses into aspects of the music world often ignored.

In high school, as his love for listening to music and enjoying local entertainment grew, Gaskins said he began to dabble in music production. But it wasn’t until several years after graduating from Mountain View High in 1987 that he started creating what he called “real music.”

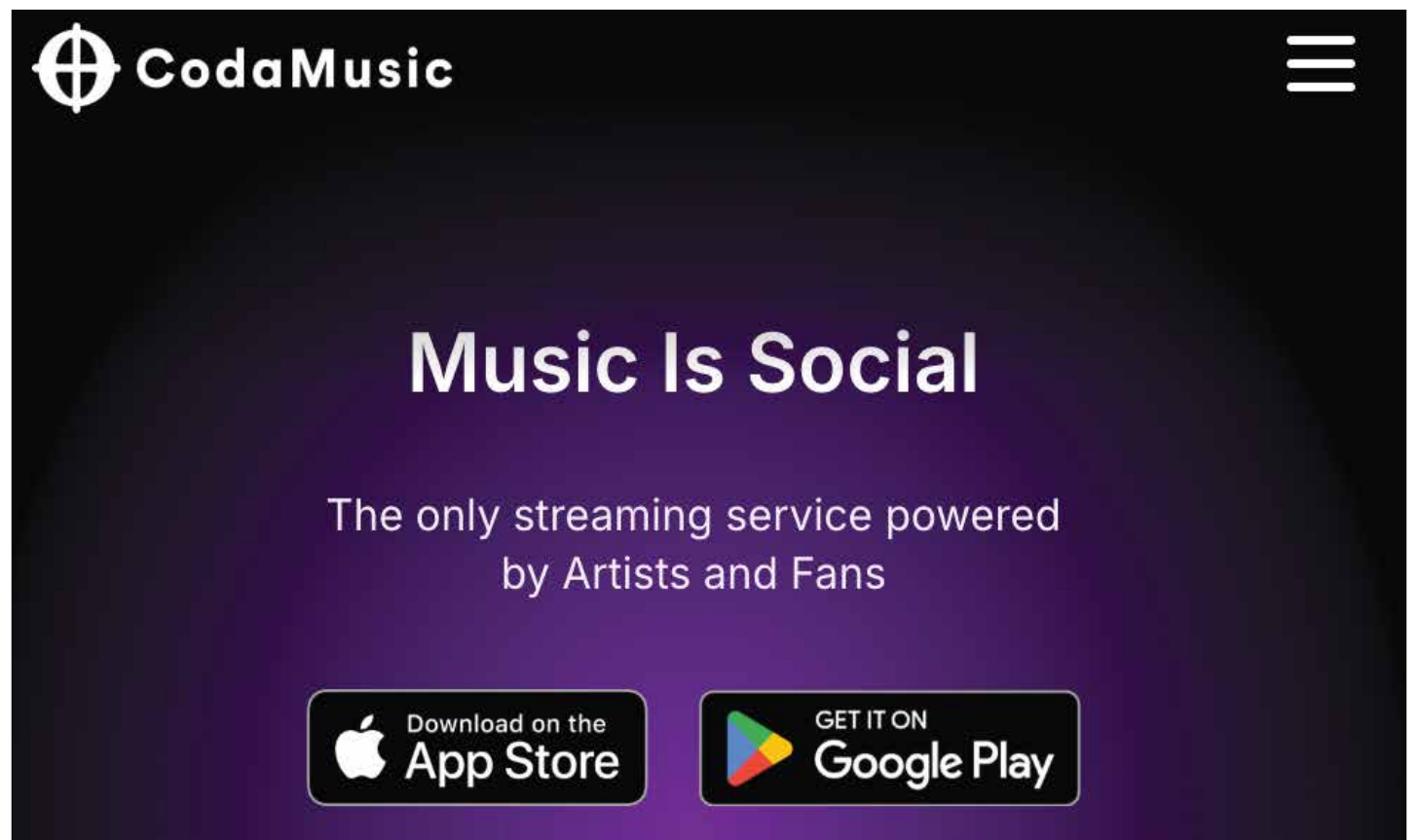
After taking up more serious music production, Gaskins soon connected with several Bay Area-based radio stations, including a Stanford University radio show and Wild 94.9. However, following a brief local stint as an artist, he ultimately decided being an artist was not the career he wanted to pursue.

“I was good enough to fake it to make it, but I wasn’t going to be on the cover of Rolling Stone,” Gaskins said. “So, I realized that producing music was more of my skill set than being an artist. And then that sort of took me on a whole other path.”

Another path

That “other path” kicked off when Gaskins’ aunt gifted him an Ensoniq ASR-10 keyboard, later used by the likes of Pharrell Williams and Timbaland. The former Mountain View resident said he had a run of both producing and creating music, traveling back and forth between the Bay Area and Los Angeles, but decided to make the permanent move to Southern California in 1998, where he lives today.

His entrance into Los Angeles’ mu-



SCREENSHOT FROM THE CODA MUSIC WEBSITE

Coda Music is a distinctive music-streaming app that is focused on benefitting artists while also providing a social component.

sic industry was through Vibe Magazine, an all-encompassing hub for fashion and music. Gaskins said he worked alongside some of the biggest names in Hollywood at the time, including hip hop artist Jay Z and well-known record executive Damon Dash. Gaskins was also mentored by Russell Simmons, the co-founder of Def Jam Records, which he said was the catalyst causing him to join the label RCA Records.

“Those were people who are like me, and I felt like, ‘Wow, I can make it too,’” Gaskins said. “My dream was to always have a big record label.”

Gaskins bounced around labels, ultimately ending up at BMG Music, where he spent 11 years. There, Gaskins said he signed artists and songwriters and worked with numerous “legacy artists,” including one who would later become one of his close friends – composer and record producer Quincy Jones.

Change in career

But, around five years ago, Gaskins said he realized he no longer wanted to have a record label. Just as he felt that things at BMG were slowing down, a good friend of his came to him with the beginnings of an app, which would later evolve into Coda Music.

“It was just sort of a half-working app, but it was, to me, the greatest idea that was a diamond in the rough,” Gaskins said.

The ethos of Coda Music was centered

around helping artists – precisely what Gaskins said he loved and loves, to do.

“I naturally was a mentor for artists, helping them learn the business and navigate the pitfalls, but we could never solve the money issue,” Gaskins said. “And then here comes a streaming platform that gives back to the artist. I was like, ‘Man, this is too good to be true.’”

Ultimately, Gaskins left BMG and devoted the entirety of his time to building Coda Music with three other co-founders – Randy Fusee (CEO), Jeff Teles (CTO) and Ted Andre (COO). Three years after leaving BMG, Coda Music launched.

According to Gaskins, Coda Music is the 12th official music streaming platform available for use, grouped with those including Spotify, Apple Music, Soundcloud and Pandora. With more than 150 million songs on – and Taylor Swift’s recent entrance onto – the platform, Gaskins said the Coda Music team is simply excited.

“There were times where we thought, ‘Oh, it (Coda Music) is never going to happen,’” Gaskins said. “And then there’s some light at the end of the tunnel, and then, ‘Oh, wow, we made it to this step now. Oh, finally, Universal Music Group has signed on with us.’ We started seeing things take shape.”

An artist-focused music app

Gaskins said there are four primary things that set Coda Music apart

from competitors: The platform levels the playing field for small artists, it creates “music personality profiles for users,” it offers a “social music experience” with the ability to share media with friends and interact with artists and it is the first and only music streaming service that pays artists directly.

Paying users of Coda Music can select one “home artist” and that month, \$1 out of Coda Music’s monthly fee will go directly to that artist. Gaskins said this enables smaller artists to earn a decent wage each month, which they can then use to purchase more equipment, upgrade their software or simply pay their bills.

As Coda Music continues to assimilate into the streaming service market, which has been a minor challenge due to the dominance of preexisting streaming services, Gaskins said he still thanks his Bay Area roots for his music industry success.

“The Bay Area is really a consumer market, meaning that the people are there not to do business, but they’re there to really consume the music ...” Gaskins said. “It just allowed me to really submerge myself into the music scene, and really, music just became my breath. It became my heartbeat.”

Coda Music is available to download from the Google Play and Apple app stores. For more information on Coda Music, visit [Coda Music.me](https://codamusic.me).

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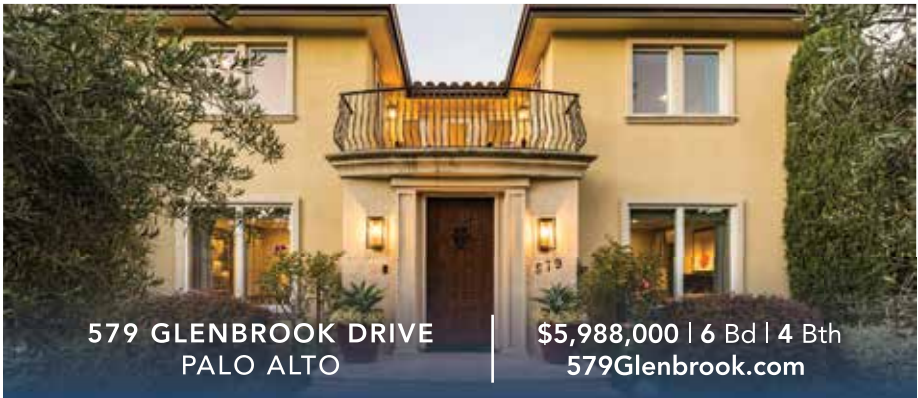
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Public Notices

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

WOODLAND BRANCH LIBRARY PATIO EXPANSION CD-10003

CITY OF LOS ALTOS
SANTA CLARA COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

1. Description of Work: The City of Los Altos, Santa Clara County, California, invites sealed bids for furnishing labor, material and equipment required to complete the project in the particular locations, of the forms, sizes and dimensions and of the materials and to the lines and grades and at the elevations as shown and delineated upon the plans and specifications made therefor. The following information is presented to indicate the size of the project and no warranty is made or intended to final quantities:

The project includes expanding the existing patio with decomposed granite paving, unit pavers, decorative concrete, plantings, and irrigation.

2. Location of Work: 1975 Grant Road, Los Altos, CA.

3. Contract Documents: Bids must be submitted on the City's bid forms. A copy of the plans (half-size) and specifications shall be obtained from the office of the City Engineer, City Hall, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California, 94022 for a non-refundable fee of \$100 or visit the City's bids and vendor management portal hosted by PlanetBids to download the PDF file(s) (<https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/71685/portal-home>). Copies may also be inspected at the office of the City Engineer. To the extent required by Public Contract Code section 20103.7, the City will also make the Contract Documents available for review at one or more plan rooms.

4. Labor Compliance. Pursuant to paragraph 7-1.01A, Labor Code Requirements, of the General Provisions in these specifications, Contractor is required to comply with California Labor Code Section 1770, et seq. Pursuant to Labor Code sections 1725.5 and 1771.1, all contractors or subcontractors bidding on public works projects must be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). No contractor or subcontractor may be listed on a bid proposal for a public works project unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations [with limited exceptions from this requirement for bid purposes only under Labor Code section 1771.1(a)].

No contractor or subcontractor may be awarded a contract for public work on a public works project unless registered with the Department of Industrial Relations. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the contractor registration requirements mandated by Labor Code Sections 1725.5 and 1771.1 shall not apply to work performed on a public works project that is exempt pursuant to the small project exemption specified in Labor Code Sections 1725.5 and 1771.1. This project is subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

5. Pre-bid Site Review: A NON-MANDATORY Pre-Bid Conference and Site Walk will be held at 1975 Grant Road, Los Altos, CA on the following date and time: **November 03, 2025; 11:00am.** Each

and every Bidder should attend the Pre-Bid Conference and Site Walk. Prospective Bidders may also visit the Project Site without making arrangements through the Project Manager. Bids will be accepted from Bidders who did not attend the Pre-Bid Conference and Site Walk.

6. Contractor's License: The Contractor is required to have a **Class A General Engineering** license for this work. All bidders shall be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9, Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California to do the type of work contemplated in the project.

7. Bid Bond: A bid bond that can be verified as authentic pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 995.311 is required.

a. Amount of Bid Bond. The bid bond shall be ten percent (10%) of the submitted Total Bid Price. [MH1] [VW2]

b. Delivery date. The Bid bond shall be submitted to the City before the latest date and time for Bid submittal.

c. Form of Bid Bond. Bid Bonds shall be submitted to the City in cash, a certified or cashier's check, an ORIGINAL paper bid bond, or an Electronic Bid Bond (e-Bond) executed and verified by an admitted surety in favor of the City.

d. E-bond platforms requirements. In the event the Bidder elects to submit an Electronic Bid Bond (e-Bond), a bid will be considered complete only if the applicant:

- Obtains an E-Bonds issued by Surety2000 <http://www.surety2000.com> or Tinubu <https://www.tinubu.com/ebonding> platforms; and
- Uploads the E-Bond in pdf form to the PlanetBids portal as a General Attachment. E-Bonds from other e-Bond platforms will not be accepted. Bidders are solely responsible for completing Surety2000 or Tinubu registration, and payment of associated fees and charges. The City is not responsible to Bidders for (i) Surety2000 or Tinubu acts or omissions; (ii) the completeness or timely verification of the authenticity of the issued e-Bond; or (iii) any other errors by third parties in the issuance of the e-Bond.

e. Purpose of Bid Bond. In the event that the successful Bidder fails or refuses to enter into the Contract awarded to it, the bid bond shall be retained by the City and applied to any damages sustained by the City.

8. Location of Bid Submittal and Date and Time of Opening: The City accepts electronic submittal of bids only. Bids shall be submitted electronically to the City's bids and vendor management portal hosted by PlanetBids at <https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/71685/portal-home> on or before

November 19, 2025; 2:00pm

The PlanetBids contract ID for this project is (CD-10003). The Bidder's PlanetBids vendor identification number may also be necessary for the Bidder's Security. Each Bid received before the Bid submittal due date will be automatically opened and unsealed by PlanetBids at the time of the Bid deadline. Bids received after the Bid submittal due date will be rejected. Bids shall be valid for sixty (60) calendar days after

the Bid opening date. Bid results (not verified) will be published.

9. Payment & Performance Bonds: The successful Bidder will be required to furnish the City with a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each equal to 100% of the successful Bid, prior to execution of the Contract.

All bonds are to be secured from a surety that meets all of the State of California bonding requirements, as defined in Code of Civil Procedure Section 995.120, and is admitted by the State of California. The cost of said bonds shall be included in the Bid amount.

10. Award of Contract: Said bids will be presented to and considered by the City Council at a regularly scheduled meeting. The City shall award the Contract for the Project to the lowest responsive, responsible Bidder on the basis of the Base Bid plus Bid Alternate(s). In the event of any discrepancy between extended and unit prices as set forth in the bidder's bid schedule (i.e., the bidder's extended price does not equal the unit price multiplied by the applicable quantity), the City shall use the unit price to recompute the extended price and bid totals accordingly, and the recomputed amounts shall be used as the basis of determining the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. In the event of a significant discrepancy between unit and extended prices, the City reserves the right in its sole and absolute discretion to reject the bid as nonresponsive.

11. Time of Completion of Work: The work shall be completed and ready for full use within **120 calendar days**, the first day of which shall be the date specified in the City Engineer's "Notice to Proceed".

12. Substitution of Securities: Pursuant to Public Contract Code section 22300, the successful Bidder may substitute certain securities for funds withheld by City to ensure performance under the Contract.

13. Rights of the City: The City reserves the right to cancel the project, and to reject any or all bids if not satisfied as to the price for the work or the responsibility of the bidder. The City also reserves the right to waive any informalities according to law.

14. Project Administration: All questions relative to this project prior to the opening of bids shall be in writing, submitted through the PlanetBids portal no later than seven (7) business days from the bid due date and time.

Special direction is directed to Section 2 of the General Provisions for full directions as to bidding.

Dated: October 22, 2025

/s/ Anthony Carnesecca
Assistant to the City Manager
(10-22,29-25)

255-T

KARBREEZE INC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719677

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: KARBREEZE INC, 830 Steward Dr Ste 276, Sunnyvale, CA,

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

254-T

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: WUN SEN LIN, aka WALLY LIN, WUNSEN LIN, WUN S. LIN, WUN LIN CASE NO. 25PR200975

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of WUN SEN LIN, aka WALLY LIN, WUNSEN LIN, WUN S. LIN, WUN LIN. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by MIAO CHUAN LIN in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MIAO CHUAN LIN 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: 11/19/2025 at 9:01AM in Dept. 1 located at 191 NORTH FIRST ST., SAN JOSE, CA 95113 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A

Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner QUYNH T. TRAN, ESQ. & MARY H. LIN, ESQ. Bay Wealth Legal Group, LLP 909 Laurel Street San Carlos, CA 94070 (650) 779-5525; (650) 779-5524 (10-22,29-25,11-05-25)

253-T

POLARIS ASSOCIATES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720332

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: POLARIS ASSOCIATES, 836 Nash Road, Los Altos, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: married couple. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Charlotte Xiaoshuang Fu, 836 Nash Road, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 10/23/2015. /S/ Charlotte Xiaoshuang Fu / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 10/07/2025. (10-15,22,29-25,11-05-25)

252-T

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOHN ADDISON MESCHKE CASE NO. 25PR200685

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of JOHN ADDISON MESCHKE, aka JOHN A. MESCHKE. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CONNIE J. MESCHKE in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CONNIE J. MESCHKE, aka CONNIE JORDAN MESCHKE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 11/12/2025 at 9:00AM in Dept. 1 located at 191 NORTH FIRST ST., SAN JOSE, CA 95113 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you

must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner RUSSELL L. BOHNE 2479 East Bayshore Road, Suite 180 Palo Alto, CA 94303-3228 (650) 321-3777 (10-15,22,29-25)

248-T

PELICANROV FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720084

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: PELICANROV, 298 Adeline Pl, Unit 5, San Jose, CA, 95136, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): William Ruizhi Wang, 298 Adeline Pl, Unit 5, San Jose, CA 95136. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 09/24/2025. /S/ William Ruizhi Wang / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/08/2025. (10-08,15,22,29-25)

245-T

CALLIGRAPHY WINES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720062

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CALLIGRAPHY WINES, 264 State Street, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): GORTHY-CHALLA VINEYARDS, LLC, 3005 Blucher Valley Rd, Sebastopol, CA 95472. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 09/24/2025. /S/ Srivatsava Gorthy / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/26/2025. (10-08,15,22,29-25)

244-T

JOHAN'S PIZZA LLC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720000

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business

as: JOHAN'S PIZZA LLC, 30 Pickford Ave, San Jose, CA, 95127, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): JOHAN'S PIZZA LLC, 30 Pickford Ave, San Jose, CA 95112. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 09/22/2025. /S/ Johan David Diaz Martinez / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/24/2025. (10-08,15,22,29-25)

243-T

GOLDENLEAF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720043

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: GOLDENLEAF, 780 Teatree Ct, San Jose, CA, 95128, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): QUICKBAR LLC, 738 Cutting Way, Sacramento, CA 95831. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 09/24/2025. /S/ Ricky Ho / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/25/2025. (10-08,15,22,29-25)

241-T

AMENDED NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JAMES R. DOTY CASE NO. 25PR200724

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of JAMES R. DOTY. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by MARIA ZHDANOVICH-DOTY in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MARIA ZHDANOVICH-DOTY be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 10/29/2025 at 9:01AM in Dept. 1 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

Public Notices

hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner SCOTT D. ROSS RIMON, PC 800 Oak Grove Avenue, Suite 250 Menlo Park, CA 94025 (650) 353-3999 (10-08,15,22-25)

240-T

MOMENTUM RAGZ FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719908

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: MOMENTUM RAGZ, 10981 Acacia Way, Cupertino, CA, 95014, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: married couple. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Robert Murray, 10981 Acacia Way, Cupertino, CA 95014, Nicole Murray, 10981 Acacia Way, Cupertino, CA 95014. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 09/19/2025. /S/ Robert Murray / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/19/2025. (10-01,08,15,22-25)

237-T

GAME SET PARTY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719375

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) GAME SET PARTY, (2) ACE AND OLIVE, 701 Vine Street, San Jose, CA, 95110, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Parija Maloo, 4355 Renaissance Dr., Apt 206, San Jose, CA 95134. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 08/01/2025. /S/ Parija Maloo / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/02/2025. (10-01,08,15,22-25)

236-T

JOYROMANCE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719836

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: JOYROMANCE, 316 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): Kimberly Joy Silver, 316 Costello Dr, Los Altos, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Kimberly Joy Silver / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/17/2025. (10-01,08,15,22-25)

235-T

VISTA DEVELOPMENT GROUP FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719873

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: VISTA DEVELOPMENT GROUP, 4546 B10 El Camino Real #304, Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): SOLID STATE HOLDINGS, LLC, 4546 B10 El Camino Real #304, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/12/2017. /S/ Kurt Hetzel / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/18/2025. (10-01,08,15,22-25)

234-T

UTILITY ASSET SOLUTIONS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719887

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: UTILITY ASSET SOLUTIONS, 1185 Audrey Avenue, Campbell, CA, 95008, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): KCCT INC, 1185 Audrey Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Kevin Salazar / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/19/2025. (10-01,08,15,22-25)

233-T

\$40
is usually all it costs
to publish your
Fictitious Business
Name in the
Los Altos
Town Crier

Email
legals@latc.com
by 2pm on Thursday

Datebook

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

EVENTS

Los Altos Main Library. All events held in the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, unless otherwise indicated. **Monday Meditation & Mindfulness**, 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Los Altos Main Library, 7 p.m., Woodland Library, 1975 Grant Road. **Poetry Community Hour Open Mic**, 7 p.m., first Monday of every month. **Art With Drawn2Art**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Oct. 22. Join instructors from Drawn2Art studio at the Los Altos Library for a Halloween/fall-based art program. This program is designed for adults and teens. All materials will be provided. Program will be held in the library's teen room. Registration is not necessary. Seating will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Program is free and open to the public. **Spooky Kanzashi Night**, 6:30 p.m. Oct. 29. A special hands-on workshop in the traditional Japanese art of Kanzashi fabric flowers. Guided by sustainable artists Leila Ghasempour and Gigi Farmer. For adults and teens. Materials will be provided. Visit scld.org/ events to register. Program is free. **Discover Ilocano Traditional Weaving**, 1 p.m. Nov. 5. Introduces the socio-cultural and historical significance of Ilocano traditional weaving within the Filipino American community. Participants explore iconic design patterns, their symbolism and try weaving on small looms. Seating limited to 25 attendees. **Native American Song and Dance Celebration**, 7 p.m. Nov. 18. Part of the Santa Clara County Library District's celebration of Native American Heritage Month, featuring Future Generations, a collaboration of Native American singers, dancers and artists from the greater San Francisco Bay Area. **Ten Years, Billions of Galaxies, One Sky: The Rubin Observatory Story**, 7 p.m. Nov. 20. Stanford University's Bernadita Ried Guachalla will explore how Rubin's images will help us tackle some of the biggest questions in cosmology: What is dark matter made of? What is driving the accelerated expansion of the Universe? And how did cosmic structures evolve over billions of years?

CLUBS/GROUPS

Los Altos History Museum. Love history and working with kids? Become a Los Altos History Museum school tour program education docent. Share local history with 3rd and 4th graders on weekday mornings this spring. Attending an orientation Oct. 23 is strongly recommended. Training begins in November. Must be 18 years old to apply. Information: losaltoshistory.org/education/student-tours.

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

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

OBITUARY NOTICE

ROBIN LYNNE HARIKUL



*December 18, 1954 –
September 8, 2025*

"We are confident, yes, well-pleased rather, to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord." (2 Corinthians 5:8)

Robin Lynne Harikul (née Calvelli), age 70, passed peacefully with loved ones at her side on September 8, 2025.

Born in Stockton, California to Fred and Lynne Calvelli, Robin grew up in Los Altos. She graduated from Awalt High School in 1973 and attended Foothill College before moving south to become among the first graduates of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona's Geological Sciences program. After earning her B.S. in Geology in 1978, she married Terry Harikul, with whom she shared more than 20 years of marriage. Her love of California's natural beauty took the family on regular trips to its desert and mountain landscapes.

Robin was deeply rooted in her faith, which gave her purpose, connection, and comfort throughout every stage of her life. She had an extraordinary gift for service and hospitality, supporting local and global needs and building lifelong friendships through the churches she attended.

She extended that same care into her role as a caregiver, where she made people feel seen, valued, and loved—whether family, longtime friends, or professional clients who soon came to think of her as family.

Robin is survived by her three children, Vanessa Harikul, Ryan Harikul (Connie), and Tabitha Harikul; her granddaughter, Eve; and her brothers, Fred Calvelli (Linda) and Randy Calvelli (Cathy). She was preceded in death by her parents, Fred and Lynne Calvelli, and her sister, Lisa Calvelli.

A celebration of Robin's life will be held on November 8 at Calvary Chapel Golden Valley in Santa Clarita. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in her name to the Caregiver Action Network.



OBITUARY NOTICE

JOSEPH RENATI



August 9, 1929 -
October 6, 2025

Joseph Renati died quietly in the early morning of Monday, Oct. 6, 2025 with his loving wife Sandi at his side. Joe was born in San Francisco shortly after his parents, Carlo and Delfina, arrived in the United States from Genoa, Italy. They settled in the Richmond District where Joe attended Star of the Sea School and St. Ignatius High School. Even as a teenager, he began helping his father on the trucks as a refuse carrier with Golden Gate Disposal.

Joe moved to San Carlos and while there began coaching Pop Warner Football which he loved, both because it was football and working with kids.

In 1970, he was made General Manager of Los Altos Garbage Co. It was here that he became an active participant of the Los Altos community even though the company also serviced Los Altos Hills, Cupertino, Woodside, and Portola Valley. He joined Los Altos Rotary Club, shortly thereafter; Joe was elected president of the club in 1975-1976. He started 2 Interact clubs in the high schools; was responsible for the first "Art in the Park" fine art show and was a member of the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce where he later became President in 1996-1997. Joe was awarded the Walter Singer Award in 1999, as honoring him for all of his years of community service. Los Altos became a better community because of Joe.

Joe was an avid tennis player and played well into his 80's. He also loved horseback riding and golf. Joe would travel whenever he had the chance, to Europe, especially Italy, and a number of cruises throughout the world.

Joe is survived by Sandi, his wife of 35 years. He is also survived by his son, John, of Pilot Hill, CA.; his 2 grandchildren, Jeffrey of Enumclaw, WA. Michele Keehn ("Cary") of Citrus Heights, CA, and his 4 great-grandchildren. Also surviving him are his brothers, Charles, of San

Francisco, and Alfred (Melissa Wong) of San Francisco. Preceding him in death is his daughter-in-law, Claudia.

Funeral services will be held at St. Williams Catholic Church in Los Altos on Friday, October 24th at 10:00 am. Viewing will be at Spangler's Mortuary the day before, October 23, starting at 2:00 pm, with Rosary being said at 4:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Alzheimer's Association.

JEROME LEE STROM



March 30, 1936 -
October 1, 2025

With deepest love and remembrance, the family of Jerome Lee Strom, "Jerry," announce his peaceful passing at his home in Los Altos Hills on the morning of October 1, 2025. Jerry was 89, born in 1936, the son of Victor and Edna Strom.

Jerry was a graduate of North Dakota State University, Dickinson. Prior to college, Jerry served honorably in the United States Army. It was through this military experience that Jerry received the GI bill and was able to attend college. His Army tenure included station stops in Missouri, Paris France, and the San Francisco Presidio. He served as a Sergeant. Upon completing his military service, Jerry returned to North Dakota and enrolled in college. It was through his rural upbringing and military service that Jerry learned his core values of self-sufficiency, hard work and fair dealing; values that served him well and made him known as a man of integrity.

It was in college where Jerry met his first wife, Rosie Ann Ridl. They were married in 1959. Upon completing college, they moved to begin their new life in California. They built their lives first as schoolteachers, and soon after as the

owners of a successful Palo Alto, CA restaurant. They had two children, Roger and Nancy.

The restaurant business was sold and gave way to a new career in multi-residential real estate. This career spanned over 50 years and produced results far beyond anything Jerry & Rosie could imagine.

When Rosie's health declined in the 1990's and early 2000's, Jerry devoted himself to her care with quiet strength and unwavering tenderness. Rosie passed all too soon in 2005.

Jerry was an alumnus of Dickinson State University in North Dakota, and he and his first wife, Rosie Ann (Ridl) Strom, funded a scholarship at DSU for many years. Then in 2010, five years after his wife and fellow DSU alumna had passed away, Jerry realized a dream when he worked with DSU President at that time, Lee Vickers, to establish the Strom Center for Entrepreneurship at DSU. That center was operated from 2010-2016, when the university discontinued it due to budget issues. Jerry and his wife Rosie were strong believers that anyone could learn business skills and were eager to share that vision.

Jerry was also a steady presence for his extended family, his clients, and his community. Whether offering advice, encouragement, or practical help, he took joy in seeing others succeed. He was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church and later of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto. He had been a member of the University Club in Palo Alto for many years where he enjoyed tennis with his friends. Jerry had a wide circle of friends from all walks of life; and counted especially the people in his informal Men's Groups that he met for lunch every week. And he could always be counted on to help raise funds when needed at the churches and helped oversee building renovations at UUCPA.

In his later years, Jerry found love again with his second wife, Marilyn Austin. Marilyn provided Jerry with a life of new friends and intellectual stimulation with her many interests and talents. Eventually, as his health declined, she in turn cared for him with remarkable devotion and love.

Jerry is survived by his children and their spouses, son Roger and his wife Helen, and daughter Nancy and her husband Gavin; his five grandchildren, Erik (Irina), Alec (Stephanie), Zachary (Aimee), Lucy, and Rosie; and step grandson Jason Nam (Avalon). He was predeceased by his daughter-in-law and the grandsons' mom Jane Strom, who died in 2018. His great-granddaughter, Sofia was born in 2024, and brought immense delight in his final year.

His family was his greatest joy. He took pride in their achievements, celebrated their milestones, and never missed a chance to remind them that he was there to help and cheer them on. Many recall his habit of quietly pointing out people's strengths — a small gesture that left a lasting impact.

In his final months, Jerry often reflected on how fortunate he had been — for a life full of opportunity, love, and connection. He expressed gratitude for the care and companionship of Marilyn, his family, his caregivers, and his many friends. He left this world content and proud, his heart full of thanks and hope for those he loved.

Jerry requested a ceremony at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Palo Alto. It will be held on January 10, 2026.

MICHAEL GALLAGHER



December 24, 1942 -
July 29, 2025

Michael Gallagher, beloved husband, father, and friend, passed away on July 29th 2025, at the age of 82.

Mike was born in Concord, California and moved to Antioch when he was 6. He was raised there with his sister, Linda by his loving parents Red and Gen. After graduating from Antioch High School, he attended Cal (where he met his future wife, Genie Deimel), San Francisco State, and later received an MBA from Santa Clara University.

Mike had a long and enjoyable career at Hewlett Packard and then Agilent. He appreciated the HP culture and enjoyed the opportunity to travel the world. He retired from Agilent in 2006, but continued to stay in touch with his HP colleagues and reminisce about the early days of Silicon Valley.

Mike and Genie were married in 1965. They moved to Los Altos

in 1968 where they welcomed a daughter, Stacey and son, Cameron. They spent leisure time playing sports, and enjoyed summer vacations in the Sierras. Mike loved to play tennis and later, golf. He and Genie were long time members of the University Club of Palo Alto, where Mike actively participated in club leadership, and later Los Altos Country Club. He especially enjoyed fly fishing and travelled to Colorado each year with a group of friends to fish for trout.

Mike will be remembered for his commitment to using his skills and experience to make a positive impact in the community. He served on the boards of Goodwill of Silicon Valley and Hope Services. Following his retirement, he served as an Encore Fellow for Civic Ventures, sharing his business expertise with the leadership of rural counties across Northern California. He also served in local government as a member of the Sierra County Economic Development Committee and the Los Altos Traffic Commission.

Mike is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Genie; his daughter Stacey Pinel (Todd), son Cameron, and sister Linda Finch.

Please honor Mike by remembering him as you enjoy sports and the great outdoors.



OBITUARY NOTICE

ALBERT STRATZ



*June 26, 1928 -
September 25, 2025*

Albert Edwin Stratz, passed peacefully in his sleep on September 25, 2025 at the age of 97.

Born June 26, 1928, Al was the 4th of 6 children born to Charles and Agnes Stratz in Big Rapids, Michigan. Life on the dairy farm during the Depression was hard and rising early to milk the cows before school made him a life-long early bird. After graduating from high school, he worked on the farm and was eventually drafted into the U.S. Army where he served for 18 months in the Korean Conflict. Upon returning home and with the help of the G.I. Bill, Al attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he earned both his BA in Business & an MBA. Al remained a life long fan of U of M & followed their football team enthusiastically.

After graduation, Al headed to Chicago to pursue a career in the brokerage industry. While working in Chicago, he met and married Marilyn Schuster. Together they had three children - Ellen, Paul & Neil. The family relocated to Los Altos in 1975 with Al's job at Paine Webber. Working New York hours, Al had his afternoons free to learn how to play tennis, coach Little League and enjoy the California sunshine. He continued to play tennis well into his 80's.

In his later years, Al kept active with his men's group (SIRS) and served as President among other leadership roles. Additionally, he spent over 20 years volunteering for the Los Altos School District, helping 3rd graders improve their reading skills with one-on-one tutoring. He also enjoyed being part of the St. Nicholas Gardening Group who worked hard every Friday to keep the church looking beautiful.

Al leaves behind Marilyn, his wife of 62 years; children Ellen (Tom) Murphy, Paul (Erika) Stratz, Neil (Caroline) Stratz; grandchildren Reilly, Megan, Quinn, Kathryn, Trevor, Jake & Brody. He was preceded in death by his grandson,

Kenneth Albert Stratz along with his 3 brothers and 2 sisters.

A Funeral Mass to celebrate Al's life will be held at St. Nicholas Catholic Church on October 25th at Noon

CHRISTINE HANSEN HERZOG



*March 27, 1946 -
October 7, 2025*

Christine Hansen Herzog passed away on October 7, 2025, at the age of 79 with her family by her side. A kind, compassionate, and graceful woman, her loving spirit impacted the lives of countless friends and family.

Chris was born in the Central California farming town of Corcoran to parents Harriet and Philip, and she was always proud of her valley heritage. Growing up on the family ranch, she looked up to her beloved older brothers Jim and Jess and she loved spending time with her nearby cousins Bill and Nancy Truckell. She had a special bond with her mother and they enjoyed traveling together, including a memorable trip to Japan. In high school, she swam on the team and was a majorette skilled with a baton.

As she entered her late teens and early twenties, she branched out on her own, living in various parts of the Bay Area and Monterey, and forging several lifelong friendships with her roommates and others. She attended a few universities, where she particularly enjoyed art history courses, and ultimately graduated from Notre Dame de Namur. Chris's poodle, Monet (named after her favorite impressionist painter), was just one of many beloved pets over the years, which included dogs, cats, ducks, and even a pig named Hamlet. Her love of pigs in particular was evident to anyone who visited her home!

In 1971, she went on a blind date at the Dutch Goose pub with Richard (Dick) Herzog, the man

who would become her loving husband. The two of them forged an amazing life together and were never apart for more than a week throughout their 53-year marriage. Chris was truly beautiful inside and out—at a party Dick brought her to early on, his friends remarked that she looked like Doris Day. Their honeymoon foreshadowed their love of travel, as they made their way from rain-soaked camping in Minnesota, to living it up at the Waldorf Astoria in New York, to boating in Paris with two other couples who became lifelong friends. They ultimately settled down in Los Altos Hills, where they raised their children, Alison (50) and Ricky (48). With Chris at the center, the family home became a welcoming space where they threw countless dinner parties with close friends; celebrated holidays and events; hosted foreign exchange students and many college athletes; and always had an open door for friends and family.

Family was hugely important to Chris. She was an endlessly devoted and selfless mother immersed in her children's lives—leading her daughter's Girl Scouts troop, taking her son to tennis tournaments throughout Northern California, and always serving as a model for how to carry yourself in the world with composure and kindness. The family loved to travel together—going everywhere from the Olympics in Australia (one of 8 Summer Games that Chris and Dick attended) to a cherished family lake house in Wisconsin—and not a year went by without a family vacation. Chris was also incredibly close with her extended family on both the Hansen and Herzog sides, with many of her fondest memories involving holidays and vacations with them. Even her job was a family affair, as she worked as the office manager at Dick's law firm, Mitchell and Herzog.

Chris developed a strong circle of friends over the course of her life, a testament to a thoughtful and inviting nature that drew people into her orbit. She always looked forward to spending time with her golf and tennis friends, including the annual Almost Great Open golf outings; she valued the book club she took part in for decades; and her bridge group became a trusted, tight-knit community. She also appreciated her downtime, whether tending to her prolific garden, reading an engaging novel, or enjoying a quiet evening in with her husband. In the past few years, her remarkable strength was evident as she battled cancer and Parkinson's—always with a stoic grace and determination.

Chris's celebration of life will be held at 2pm on November 8, 2025, at Los Altos Golf and Country Club.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the charity of your choice in Chris's name.

WILLIAM HUSTACE LANE III



*September 22, 1938 -
September 14, 2025*

William "Bill" Hustace Lane III lived a life big enough to need several passports, two coasts, a world map, and more than one family photo album to capture everyone he loved.

Born on September 22, 1938, in New York City, to William Hustace Lane Jr. and Elizabeth Nesbitt Lane, he died on September 14, 2025, at his home in Menlo Park, California.

His early years were shaped on the East Coast. On the day he was born, his mother wrote a letter putting him on the waiting list for the Kent School in Connecticut. After graduating from Kent, he continued his education at Columbia University where he earned a degree in Economics. Bill also earned an executive MBA from Harvard University.

Bill built his career in corporate finance starting with General Electric and Honeywell Information Systems. In the early 1980s, he headed west to Silicon Valley just as it was starting to buzz. Bill helped steer a collection of start-ups, finishing as CFO of Intuit.

Known for his sharp sense of business strategy and sage advice, upon retirement Bill was invited to serve on numerous boards. Upon learning of his death, a former board member he worked with had these words, "Best Board Member Ever."

Bill married Sharon Campbell Wrightson. They shared three children and 23 years of marriage. In California Bill met his second great love, Kathy Murphy. She brought her two children to their marriage, which spanned 42 years, until his death. Their home was a hub of activity with epic gatherings

that brought the family and their many friends together for great food, conversation, laughter, and raucous games.

Bill's passion for travel was sparked by a Grand European Tour with his grandmother when he was 14 years old. Fascinated by other cultures, he had a deep knowledge and appreciation of world history, music, art, religion and food. Through the years, he explored many parts of the US, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, South America, and Australia. On trips, he was famous for his "Willie Walk"—an hours-long expedition on foot through cities, side streets, and hidden corners. He was an avid reader with a keen mind and a passion for learning.

Bill was also known for driving around California in his red convertible, a cigar in one hand and his cowlicks blowing in the wind. Often clad in bright, bold madras-plaid shorts with white tennis socks and brown loafers that he wore without irony or apology.

Bill loved sports and was a great athlete. He was a member of and served on the Board of the Los Altos Country Club, where his tennis game was known for its formidable serve and where he spent countless hours on the golf course with friends and family. A fantastic bridge player, he and Kathy hosted many card games around their dining room table.

It is not easy to sum up a life. Bill Lane was a devoted family man, a loving, dedicated husband, father and grandfather. He had a wonderful sense of humor, and he was generous with his time and gifts. He was loved by many and will be missed by all.

Bill is survived by his wife of 42 years, Kathleen Lane, children Dawson Lane Urban (Andrew), Allison Lane Simpson (Clark), William H. Lane IV (Therese), Julie Propp (Ron) and Jim Propp (Sandy); six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren; sister Susan Henderlite, and niece Brooke Jewett (Stephen).

Bill is predeceased by his parents, first wife Sharon Wrightson Lane Showley, and grandson William Showley.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, please make a donation to World Central Kitchen, www.wck.org. A Memorial Service will be held at The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew, 1 S El Camino Real, San Mateo, California on Saturday, October 25, 4 p.m.



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