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holiday lights in Los
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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 • December 17, 2025

Horses and holiday lights in the Hills







PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

Top, the Westwind Community Barn was adorned with twinkling lights during the annual Los Altos Hills Barn Lighting, held Dec. 7. Members of the community gathered for the celebration, which included furry friends big and small, costumes and, of course, an abundance of holiday spirit.

Los Altos OKs awaited electrification rebate program for residents

By Christina Casillas Staff Writer/christinac@latc. com

he homes of Los Altos residents with gas appliances looking to renovate may be getting a little greener after Los Altos City Council members voted to implement a residential electrification rebate program.

The program, unanimously approved by city council Tuesday, came at the instruction of the council. Council members directed the Environmental Commission and city staff to establish the incentive program with an initial \$75,000 allocation to encourage residential building electrification and other climate goals – like reducing greenhouse gas emission – according to a staff report.

"It directly helps improve

the local air quality by removing combustion appliances, which means less pollution where we live and work," Tania Katbi, Los Altos Environment Commission liaison, told council at the Dec. 9 meeting. She said that the rebate would further the city's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, of which the ultimate goal is carbon neutrality by 2035

City council initially voted to enact reach codes, local requirements reaching beyond state requirements, in 2022 that required all-electric construction for ADU (accessory dwelling units) and most new construction, Katbi told the Town Crier in 2024. The city was prepared to extend the codes to all new construction and some major remodels, she said, but those hopes were

See REBATE, Page 6

Holiday Fund donations

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Around Town

Cal Water water main project continues near downtown

Town Crier Report

al Water Service completed water quality sampling of its new water mains at the North San Antonio Road and Main Street intersection near downtown Wednesday.

Water gushed into the intersection and the gutters during the morning, with samples being sent to the lab and required to pass inspection before connecting the water mains to the main system, Chris Wilson of Cal Water said. Wilson is the operations manager of the Los Altos Sub-

urban District and said the water must meet domestic use standards for downtown and be safe for drinking and public fire hydrants. Additional work of connecting the new pipes to the existing ones will continue in the coming weeks before a break for the holidays, with paving work expected to be completed after the new year.

The project is part of larger efforts to upgrade water infrastructure in downtown Los Altos that will improve water supply reliability and fire protection in the area by replacing 7,060 feet of aging water main, according to Cal Water.



HOWARD BISCHOFF/TOWN CRIER

The intersection of North San Antonio Road and Main Street Wednesday while Cal Water Service worked on water quality sampling.

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County shutters two Mtn. View massage parlors

By Giuseppe Ricapito Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

he county's human trafficking task force shut down two Mountain View massage parlors in early December accused of involvement in human trafficking.

According to a press release from the city of Mountain View, search warrants were executed at Camino Massage, 1328 W. El Camino Real and Relax Day Spa, 1313 W. El Camino Real, on Dec. 3. The Mountain View Police Department and the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office Human Trafficking Task Force made multiple arrests and also identified victims of trafficking in a network of brothels.

City building inspectors deemed both businesses unsafe for occupancy due to alterations that were made without permits. The businesses will not be allowed to operate unless there are repairs made and an inspection is done of the sites, according to the release.

A release from the District Attorney's Office said a brothel network between multiple businesses was bringing in about a million dollars a year. The effort, called "Operation Family Ties" closed down 10 commercial sex brothels across Gilroy, Morgan Hill, San Jose, Cupertino and Mountain View.

Joseph Bresee, 77, and Binghua Bresee, 52, were identified as a married couple and the leaders of the scheme. One of their adult children, Jiabao Huang, 30, and another codefendant were also charged. More than \$1.25 million of illegal profits were seized or frozen.

The defendants were arraigned on Dec. 5 with a total of 26 felonies that include criminal conspiracy, pimping, money laundering and tax fraud. The three family members have bail set at \$1,000,000.

"The trafficking of human beings has no place in our community, or any other," District Attorney Jeff Rosen said.

For the full story, visit losaltosonline.com.

Los Altos Hills increases traffic enforcement to reduce speeding

By Curtis Driscoll Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

Speeding concerns in Los Altos Hills have led the city council to increase targeted traffic enforcement for the next month, with plans to look at further long-term measures.

Consistent speeding across several major roadways in Los Altos Hills led the city council at its Dec. 9 meeting to ask the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office to increase traffic enforcement in problem areas through Jan. 15 and report back in January on results, according to city staff. A city staff report showed southbound Robleda Road and Dori Lane had some of the highest speeding rates, while southbound Altamont Road and Padre Court had frequent speeds near or above 40 mph in a 25-mph zone. Northbound Elena Road and Josefa Lane also had higher overall speeds compared to other hillside corridors.

Data collected from July through early December showed morning and late afternoon peaks had the highest amount of speeding, with the highest maximum speeds generally seen between 5-7 a.m. Los Altos Hills has used a portable speed feedback sign this year in several locations to try to reduce speeding and to collect data on how fast cars are going.

While the council agreed on a temporary solution, long-term enforcement of larger areas could require more full-time sheriff's deputies and more operating hours, increasing costs, which did not garner full council support.

Several council members expressed concern about the increased costs of adding more officers to patrol Los Altos Hills. Councilmember Stanley Mok did not want to add a full-time position dedicated to speeding, given the cost, but was open to targeted enforcement.

"Before we do anything, we should do some additional research on this," Mok said. "I do know if we have one full-time equivalent for an officer, it's like \$500,000 per year, so if we make decisions on additional law enforcement in those areas, please be cognizant."

The council eventually agreed that targeted enforcement in areas would be a



JITZE COUPERUS/TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

Los Altos Hills, with its winding roads, is currently afflicted with a speeding problem. City officials are seeking to increase traffic enforcement through Jan. 15.

practical and budget-friendly way to send a message that it was prioritizing reducing speeding in Los Altos Hills.

Several people who live on Elena Road spoke at the meeting in favor of increased enforcement to protect pedestrians, bicyclists, kids and animals on the narrow roads of Los Altos Hills, which often lack sidewalks, arguing that speeding would only get worse without increased enforcement. Others noted that their fences had been hit by drivers and that cars had sped past them while they were walking. John O'Connell, a Los Altos Hills resident, noted he can hear speeders near his property.

"The speeding I hear is late at night and early in the morning," O'Connell said. "Sometimes very early in the morning, i.e., late at night."

O'Connell argued that there were solutions that wouldn't cost very much, like having the Los Altos Hills Technology Committee look into solutions being used in the United Kingdom and Europe around camera identification technology. Several speakers supported his idea. The council also instructed staff to work with the Los Altos Hills Technology Committee to evaluate potential traffic calming measures.

Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office looks for local mail theft victims

By Christina Casillas Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

he Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and the Los Altos Police Department are working to identify more local victims after a routine November traffic stop resulted in the discovery of stolen checks and mail, according to the sheriff's office.

As of Dec. 10, the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office has identified 13 victims. Residents from Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View were determined to have been victims of mail theft.

A sheriff's deputy stopped a white Mercedes-Benz at the intersection of Saratoga Avenue and Latimer Avenue in San Jose at 3:15 p.m. Nov. 26. The driver was identified as Los Angeles resident Marvin De Leon, 23: he was discovered to have mul-

tiple felony warrants related to weapons charges, according to Brooks Jarosz, Sheriff's Office senior communications officer. A passenger, Los Angeles resident Luis Casana Martinez, 24, was the registered car owner.

In a consequential search of the vehicle, deputies discovered more than 100 checks and other pieces of mail.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that some of that mail had been stolen from a USPS blue collection box, while additional items and mail were taken from residential mailboxes," Jarosz stated in an email.

According to Los Altos Sgt. Steve Spillman, checks were located from Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Ramon, San Jose and Los Angeles.

De Leon and Casana Martinez were both booked on charges including conspir-

acy, mail theft and identity theft, he said. Spillman said that there has been a spike in stolen mail and checks from the Los Altos Post Office in downtown Los Altos. His advice is to only mail checks when absolutely necessary.

"Certified mail and/or having mail scanned by a postal clerk my help avoid stolen mail. Don't place outgoing mail in mail boxes – walk into the Post Office, especially if mailing checks," he stated. "Mail gets stolen, checks get washed and residents get victimized. Electronic payments, auto payments, or in person payments cut down on check fraud from stolen mail. Nothing is foolproof, but this may help to reduce the amount of check fraud."

Anyone with information related to this case is encouraged to contact the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office at (408) 808-4500.

'Tis the season for porch pirates

Here are some helpful tips to keep them at bay

By Dorie Xie

Town Crier Editorial Intern

his holiday gifting season, keep an eye out for porch pirates attempting to pilfer packages left at the front door.

"During the holiday season, there's definitely a lot more instances of package theft," Los Altos Police Department officer David Lopez said. "We have our target areas, and we know time frames with many burglaries, so we do have individuals assigned to those specific areas to try to prevent crimes from happening."

Lopez said he advises residents to act quickly when packages are delivered to their front doors. For those out of town, he suggested using alternative delivery methods or rescheduling the delivery time.

But in the event of actual package theft, Lopez said to contact law enforcement immediately and provide the time of theft and any additional information about the crime, such as security camera footage.

"If anything is stolen from your residence or vehicle, contact us, so we can take the report, investigate and see if we can develop any leads," Lopez said. "We can't promise to catch everybody or return everybody's product, but the hope is that we can at least identify these individuals and seek prosecution against them for their crimes.'

On the other end, shopping platforms and delivery services also have policies to prevent and deal with stolen packages.

"We definitely understand how important it is for customers to keep their packages safe," Amazon spokesperson Louie Tran said. "We are focused on many best practices to help that out, including different delivery options and tracking technologies."

Tran said he recommends customers take advantage of alternative delivery methods that best suit their needs, such as delivering them to secure Amazon Lockers located inside stores. Customers are also encouraged to track incoming packages on the app or leave special delivery instructions for drivers.



RACHEL ARONSON/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Porch pirates are taking advantage of those ordering holiday gifts. Be vigilant as the season continues.

'We work backwards from our customers to make sure they're getting what they need," Tran said. "Our customers tell us how to protect packages, and we can do that. They can provide instructions to delivery drivers to hide their packages, like behind a planter or a bush, so it's out of sight."

In the event of package theft, Tran said customers should contact local police first. Then, Amazon can work individually with customers to find the best solution for their circumstanc-

"This can be very traumatizing for families, especially if you have a tight budget this year, so we don't wanna take that lightly," Tran said. "We always encourage customers to call police right away because this is a crime. Second, contact our customer service team available 24/7, so we can work with our customers on a case-by-case basis to give a tailored resolution."

New this year, Amazon is partnering with the National Sheriffs' Association to bring awareness to the issues of package theft and how customers can deal with it.

"For the first time, we're working with this organization of more than 3,000 sheriffs across the U.S.," Tran said. "We're trying to get the word out proactively with them, so hopefully this can reduce package theft and allow law enforcement to focus on more critical calls to keep their community safe."

Similarly, for FedEx, customers are encouraged to use different delivery and tracking options, according to a FedEx spokesperson Allie Addams.

"Customers and consumers are encouraged to use our visibility tools to track their packages and/or reroute if needed," Addams said in an email. "FedEx Delivery Manager provides customers with updates on the status of their package(s) via text and/or email, so customers can track their package every step of the way."

Addams also said that drivers aim to ensure they and their packages are safe.

"The safety of our team members is top priority, and we educate our drivers to be aware of their surroundings," Addams



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REBATE From Page 1

thwarted by a 2023 federal court ruling against the city of Berkeley that nullified laws requiring all-electric appliances in new construction or major remodels.

The program focuses on two different appliances: heat pump water heaters and heat pump heating, ventilation and air conditioning units. It's a collaboration between the city of Los Altos and Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) – approving the program was the first step. SVCE will also have to approve the program for it to go into effect (currently, it's set to be implemented sometime in spring 2026).

SVCE is a nonprofit agency that provides clean energy to 96% of residents and businesses across parts of the local and greater community. It's also dedicated to minimizing communities' dependency on fossil fuels and greenhouse gases. Councilmember Sally Meadows currently serves as an SVCE director.

Katbi said the program was

designed to maximize outside funding. SVCE would be administering the city's rebate – \$1,000 per appliance – in addition to its own rebate, \$2,000 for heat pump water heaters and \$2,500 for heat pump heating, ventilation and air conditioning units, per appliance. The total \$3,000 and \$3,500 rebates are set to be provided on a first-

come, first-served basis, Katbi said.

The rebate program will be exclusive to SCVE customers "for administrative streamlining," Katbi said. That includes approximately 95% of Los Altos residents.

Councilmember Neysa Fligor was interested in expanding the \$1,000 Los Altos rebate to Los Altos residents who aren't SVCE customers, and Katbi said city staff are still exploring how to make that happen.

"We're hoping to learn about the administration of the program through SVCE and leveraging what they know," she said. "So we would need to come back on that after we look into it more."

Dave Cain, a volunteer at the Electrification Collaboration – a civic initiative to help Los Altos meet its building emission goals – said he was elated the program was approved. Cain, along with other members of the Electrification Collaboration team, believe incentivizing and showing people why going all-electric is more beneficial than mandates.

"It's really the solution to climate change unfolding before our very eyes," Cain said in a phone call after the council meeting. "And it's informative at a local level, and in the neighboring cities that we live in, we're seeing it at the state level. It's really exciting. It's not mandates, and it's not regulation, it's voluntary action."

Because the rebate is an incentive to encourage residents to transition from gas appliances to electric, eligible appliances must be exclusively gas-powered, Katbi said. The rebate is also exclusive to residential buildings.

"The rebate process is pretty straightforward and simple," Katbi said. "First the applicants will reserve a rebate, hire a qualified contractor, choose an appliance, apply for permits and cap the gas line to the specific appliance before they submit their final request."

After reserving a rebate, the resident will have 120 days to submit the final request or the rebate is no longer reserved, she said. Additionally, gas meter removal is not required for the rebate, she added, and other gas appliances would not be affected.



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Some residents question Mountain View's office rezoning plan

By Giuseppe Ricapito

Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

Mountain View neighborhood community is protesting the rezoning of commercial offices on Miramonte Avenue as a potential housing site.

The Environmental Planning Commission voted unanimously at a meeting Nov. 5 to recommend to the city council passage of zoning updates, which would change zoning at 1702 and 1704 Miramonte Ave. and 777 Cuesta Drive commercial office to neighborhood mixed use, which allows up to 30 units per acre.

The zoning changes, which must be ratified by the city council, are prescribed as part of the city's housing element, a planning document which guides new housing growth. The state-mandated housing target dictates that the city must develop over 11,000 new units through 2031

Kristen Lenart, a nearby neighbor, called the intersection of Miramonte Avenue and Cuesta Drive as a "chokepoint" of traffic, transportation and commerce. She said she lived across the street from the proposed development site in a residential neighborhood.

"We're pro zoning, development and affordable housing, but essentially not all sites are created equal," she said. "This is extraordinarily not viable."

The neighborhood group has garnered 641 petition signatures in support of the effort to void the zoning plan, she said. The organizers said their top concerns are for youth and pedestrian safety; and traffic impacts of new development. They've called for a detailed, spot-specific traffic and safety analysis at the sites.

Prerna Dillon, another nearby resident, said they've been looking at it from a city planning perspective, but safety also needs to be considered.

"This intersection is highly dangerous," she said.

According to the city's housing element, the parcel size at 1702 Miramonte is 0.75 acres. It was not included in the city's prior housing element from 2015 to 2023 and is zoned for 15 units priced for the city's moderate income level. The site currently includes a one-story dental office built in 1955.

A representative for the property owner declined to comment.

The commissioners framed the approval as contingent on meeting the re-

quirements of the housing element. The commissioners emphasized that there would be an added level of city review at the point of a potential development at the site. No housing development has been proposed at this time.

"There's nothing in this that says that they can do away with anything that's part of the normal process. It is still simply saying this land use is permitted but you still have to go about the normal process," commissioner William Cranston said.

Commissioner Joyce Lin said, "I sympathize with those who have taken the time and effort to come speak ... we are required to follow through and unfortunately we are where we are."

Christian Murdock, the city's community development director, said at the meeting the limited discretion to null the zoning changes could be related to small business retention. He also noted that the analysis of the site for housing was "less precise" than a review associated with an actual proposed housing development.

"There are a lot of unknowns because we don't know exactly what projects are going to look like," he said. "We can't know that until a development actually



SCREENSHOT FROM NOV. 5 MOUNTAIN VIEW ENVIRON-MENTAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Prerna Dillon, a Mountain View resident, said she was concerned the city had not done enough studies as to how the rezoning would affect the surrounding neighborhoods.

comes through."

Maximum building height would be 45 feet under the new zoning guidelines, he said. The existing zoning allows for 35 feet.

Not all commenters at the Nov. 5 meeting opposed development at the site.

"I see this change as an extension of, rather than disruption to, the existing neighborhood and I am excited to see a positive change in our city's development happen in a place I know and love," resident Zoe Martin said during the meeting.



Comment

Letters to the Editor

Let the people vote

I read with interest "City cites lots of public feedback on proposed downtown Los Altos park" (Aug. 27). I attended the Aug. 28 meeting at the community center and the majority of the audience was not favor of a park. Residents agreed that this issue should be voted upon.

Speakers said that they would avoid downtown for the three years of construction. Speakers felt that in lieu park fees could be better used, such as creating a shared city pool venture for summertime; building a new park near the recently completed housing on the El Camino where there is a dearth of open space. (Former schools were closed in the 70's, and school playgrounds, quasi parks, like Portola School were lost to housing).

The notion of this project being steamrolled was mentioned. Tens of thousands have been spent in consultants thus far. From two separate city staff employees I was told, "We live in a republic, and thusly we have voted to let council make decisions." Scripted?

A downtown park is an enormous change. In my opinion, the council should have clear support from residents. We need to vote.

> **Cindy Andrews** Los Altos

Peek into the Past



COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

J. Gilbert Smith's wife Margaret plays the piano in their Los Altos home, ca. 1940s. After Margaret's death in 1973, the house and its surrounding apricot orchard became part of the Los Altos Civic Center. The house was designated a local Historical Landmark and a California State Point of Historical Interest in 1987.

A secret look into the lives of those fallen Los Altos leaves along the streets

By Andy Dolich

t's that time of year for walking along forest trails, parks, streets, the backyard or anywhere in the leafy neighborhood that is Los Altos.

Who doesn't enjoy kicking up piles of newly fallen foliage and hear the crunching, crackling sound made by dried leaves or the schhlurpp of the wet ones? Now that the leaves have left their branches, a question comes to mind: Where do they all go?

I assembled a focus group of foliage forensicists.

Dr. Leif Ericsson, PhD in fallen foliage

"At first, the falling leaves, often still bright with color, blanket the ground with a kaleidoscope of color that is as spectacular as when those same leaves were still at the top of the trees," Ericsson said. "Let's look at how the leaves were constructed in the first place. From the leaf formation last May, when unfolding from buds swelled by water and warm days, chlorophyll took carbon dioxide and water, and used carbon, oxygen and hydrogen to build more complex substances."

"Leaves from the trees are decomposed on the ground by a gang of simple organisms. Bacteria, fungi, mites, nematodes, earthworms, insects and even small mammals see leaves as a bountiful buffet."

"So, when you think of rotting leaves, think green. The leaves that fell this fall already are on their way to being the new leaves of next May.'

I can just hear my neighborhood trees talking to their branches "Hey Bud! Don't look so sad, I'll see you in the spring."

Toro Hitachi, landscaping professional

Toro, can't you use a rake to corral the leaves? Other

Silicon Folley

than the obnoxious sound your blowers make, you seem to be relocating the leaves from the lawn to curb and then the street. What about those leaves that you don't bag? If you bag them, where do they end up? Do they get blown somewhere else or end up in the mountains of mulch that are sold back to us at our favorite garden supply stores?

Dr. Windy West, aeronautical **botanist**

Do leaves have an internal GPS function? It seems like I could park in a desert and the whirly wonders still end up in my engine and the windshield wiper trough. Just when I think I've got them cleaned out they seem to have birthed a new bunch of crunch overnight.

How do they find the three inch wide gutters on every house in the hood? Leaves are much more accomplished dam builders than beavers. Show me a sewer drain and I'll show you leaves with engineering degrees.

A few miscellaneous points for your after-dinner conversation on Los Altos leaves:

- Rain soaked leaves on the hood of your car won't blow off until you hit 35 mph.
- Palm fronds laugh at leaf blowers.
- Trees can laugh when you slip and fall.
- Leaves really don't like to become mulch.
- Leaves like to be placed in kid's books.
- Was Ryan Leaf a quarterback during his brief NFL career?

Enjoy the colors!

Andy Dolich operates Dolich & Associates, a sports consultancy based in Los



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Town Crier voting guide

- Ballots for the Dec. 30 special election go out this week - remember to vote!
- Choose Neysa Fligor for County Assessor

Holiday pet hazards: Keeping away dangerous food

By Kenton Taylor, D.V.M.

oliday time presents some situations that can be hazardous to your pet's health. A little planning and taking extra precautions will keep the holidays a happy time for everyone.

Holiday food favorites can be dangerous for dogs. Watch out for "counter surfing" with food left on counters and serving areas. Fats, gravies and poultry skin can lead to gastrointestinal upset or worse, pancreatitis. This inflammatory condition of the pancreas often requires hospitalization and can be

Keep trash where your pet cannot get to it. Food scraps and packaging can be delectable for your pet. Moldy food in the trash may contain tremorgenic mycotoxins that can cause muscle tremors and difficulty walking.

Alcoholic drinks, especially eggnog, are tempting, along with rum cake. Cats are sensitive to ethanol and are attracted to mixed drinks containing milk, cream or ice cream. And unbaked bread dough undergoes fer-

Pet Pause

mentation in the stomach to produce ethanol and stomach distension.

Chocolate poisoning is a common problem, with early symptoms being anxiety, agitation or vomiting. In general, the darker the chocolate or the more bitter, the more toxic. Unsweetened baking chocolate is the worst. White chocolate is negligible in toxicity. One-half to one ounce of baking chocolate can be fatal for a toy breed, while four to eight ounces can be toxic for a Labrador. Don't keep wrapped boxes of chocolate under the tree your dog will open them.

If you have to share food, give canned pumpkin or raw or cooked sweet potato, carrots or green beans without added oils. Grapes, raisins and currants are toxic for some dogs. They can cause kidney failure and how this happens is unknown. Any amount can be dangerous.

Be careful with peanut butter, as it



SONYACHNY/ADOBE STOCK

The holidays can be hazardous to your pet's health and require extra precautions.

is high in fat, and some peanut butters now contain a natural sweetener called Xylitol. Xylitol, in dogs and rabbits only, causes a release of an increased amount of insulin in the body which results in dangerously low blood sugar levels. It can also cause liver failure.

Most products containing Xylitol do not list the concentration in the product because it is not toxic to people. Therefore, it is impossible to predict if a product has a toxic amount or not.

See PETS, Page 10

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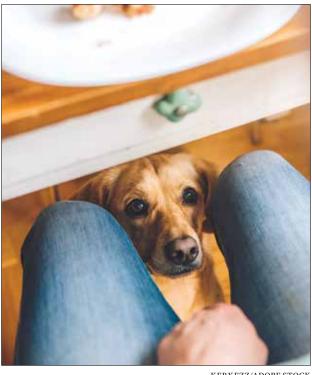
From Page 9

Only two ounces of peanut spread containing Xylitol can be toxic for a 25-pound dog. Xylitol is also used in sugar-free gum, baked goods (including protein bars) and candies often labeled as "sweetened naturally" or "naturally sweetened."

Onions and garlic can also be toxic, especially for cats. Of most concern is exposure to concentrated sources in powders, salts and minced products. Garlic is more toxic than onion. The toxic effect of greatest concern, especially in cats, is damage to red blood cells, resulting in anemia.

It doesn't take much for a climbing cat or excited dog to knock the Christmas tree over, so make sure it is secured. A tight-fitting tree skirt can prevent your pet from drinking the tree's water. Christmas preservatives in the water typically don't cause problems. Ingestion of Christmas tree needles by cats can cause vomiting and decreased appetite. Foil around the base, double-sided cellophane tape or citrus-scented spray at the tree base will discourage cats from climbing. Avoid ornaments made from food, such as salt/ dough ornaments and popcorn strings. Watch for and remove any broken ornaments. Be careful with holiday lights, as they are usually not insulated well and so are easily chewed through. Burn marks on the lips or tongue or respiratory distress are signs of electrocution. Tinsel and curling ribbon should be avoided completely, especially with cats.

Poinsettias, Christmas cactus, mistletoe, holly and amaryllis ingestion can cause mild gastrointestinal upset. Lilies are a big problem for cats. Even biting



KERKEZZ/ADOBE STOCK

Peanut spread containing Xylitol can be toxic for certain small dogs.

a leaf or ingesting the pollen can be toxic. Initial symptoms typically are vomiting followed by kidney failure 24 to 72 hours after ingestion. Delaying treatment beyond 18 hours usually results in death. Potpourri liquid or scented oils simmered in a pot are particularly attractive to cats and are poisonous due to the essential oils and cationic detergents they contain.

For cats, the silica gel packs that come with many of the presents are fun to bat around. Eating the contents of the packs is typically not a problem but eating an intact packet could cause an obstruction. While your medications are safely stored away, house guests may leave theirs in plastic bags in open suitcases. More common now is marijuana in plastic bags. If there is marijuana in the house, your dog will find it. No drug sniffing training needed here.

Lastly, one that you may be unfamiliar with is snow globes. They can contain ethylene glycol (antifreeze). If you drop and break one, the liquid could be quickly licked up because it tastes sweet. Ethylene glycol ingestion can cause kidney failure. Proceed immediately to your veterinarian if this occurs.

For some cats and dogs, the bustle of the holiday season with visitors and increased household activity can be stressful. Providing a comfortable, quiet place to retreat to can help and also prevent unnoticed escapes out the door. If your pet is particularly upset by houseguests, your veterinarian can help with possible solutions.

If you suspect that your pet has been exposed to a "holiday hazard," call your local veterinarian immediately or call Pet Poison Helpline at (855) 213-6680 or ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435 (fee for both). Early treatment can prevent a serious or fatal condition.

Dr. Kenton Taylor is a veterinarian with Miramonte Veterinary Hospital, located at 1766 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View. Miramonte Veterinary Hospital is accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association since 1996. For more information, call (650) 962-8338 or visit miramontevet.com.



Holiday cyclists ride for the lights

By Giuseppe Ricapito Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

undreds of cyclists traversed Mountain View and Los Altos on Saturday, Dec. 13, seeking out the illuminated winter and holiday decorations in area neighborhoods.

The 2025 Mountain View-Palo Alto Holiday Lights Ride set off from the Mountain View Transit Center at 5:15 p.m. just after dark - for a 13-mile and two-hour ride that looped through neighborhoods between Middlefield Avenue and El Camino Real and returning to the transit center.

The event, now in its third year, is hosted by the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, said Mountain View and Los Altos local team leader Bruce England.

"Riding at night during the holiday season with all of our lights on is just a great way to celebrate the holiday season,"

Each year the decorations, lights and holiday spirit hold new surprises, England said. Riders are encouraged to wear costumes, illuminate their bikes with their own holiday cheer and even seek out their own itinerary if they choose to do so.

'It's a really long and well attended ride. Some people take different routes and end in Palo Alto. Others take the train to the event. People are encouraged to be festive and people are free to ride wherever they want or with the group," England said.

The streets are navigated by what organizers call a slow rolling bicycle bus - the riders in the main units stay grouped together – and there are periodic stops for photographs. The event is inclusive to all faiths and holiday

Participants were encouraged to dress in warm layers and wear a helmet as part of their lit-up getups.

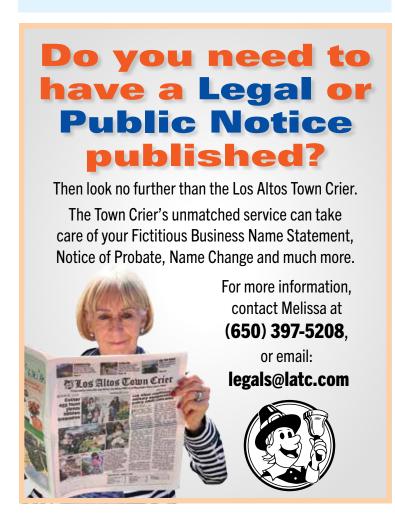


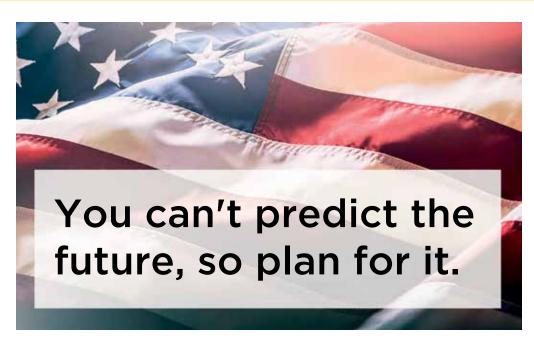
Cyclists during the 2025 Mountain View-Palo Alto Holiday Lights Ride.



Have a comment or idea? Reach out

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







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AAUW leader outlines federal challenges to higher education

By Allyson Johnson

♦ he Silicon Valley Branch of AAUW (American Association of University Women) hosted a Zoom event Dec. 3, "Higher Education at Risk - How You Can Protect It," featuring Meghan Kissell, AAUW senior director of policy and member advocacy.

More than 90 people tuned in, including branch members from around California. Kissell focused on how the current administration has challenged AAUW's policy positions on higher education and offered action items to counter those challenges.

Kissell started with a brief history of the Department of Education, now under attack from the current administration. The Department of Education was spun off from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in 1979 with three goals: to enforce civil rights laws in education, to administer federal aid to students and to promote equal educational opportunity for all.

The current administration has announced its intention to functionally eliminate the Department of Education by reassigning its programs to other federal departments. (As the department was established by a Congressional act, it cannot be legally disbanded.) The current



The Silicon Valley Branch of AAUW hosted a Dec. 3 Zoom event from Meghan Kissell, above, an AAUW senior director of policy and mem-

head of the department is a supporter of using public money for vouchers to apply toward private school tuition. AAUW opposes the diversion of money from the public school system, as

See AAUW, Page 13

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AAUW From Page 12

this will especially impact low-income students who have few alternatives to public education.

The Department of Education under the current administration has dismissed civil rights complaints "at an unheard-of pace," Kissell said. It has also allowed a campaign to discourage international students from studying in the United States by limiting visa approvals and blocking re-entry if a student returns home. This creates a climate of fear and deprives schools of premium tuition payments, which help sustain programs that help all students.

The current administration has also pressured schools to remove any teaching of diversity, equity and inclusion. "These are very fuzzy terms," Kissell said, but the administration is threatening loss of federal funds as reprisal if the content of the curriculum does not adhere to traditional "Manifest Destiny" and "American exceptionalism" teachings. These moves disproportionately harm women, students of color, low-income, LGBTQ+ and disabled students who have been left out of traditional curricula. Under the administration's Contract for Academic Excellence, proposed as a requisite for universities to receive federal funding, "we can't talk about race or gender," she said.

Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" also

raises concerns, Kissell said. It slashes financial aid, eliminates vital student-loan programs and channels public dollars into private voucher schemes without strong civil rights safeguards.

The Department of Education will make recommendations for levels of public funding for higher education in January. One controversial idea has been to offer different levels of loan caps for higher degrees depending on profession; under the proposal, nurses, for example, would have a loan cap of \$100,000, while doctors would have a cap of \$200,000. Kissell urged her audience to write letters and make their ideas heard during the period when these recommendations are open for public comment.

AAUW offers advocacy training programs and quarterly policy briefings to help members stay up to date on issues and protest effectively against harmful policies. Kissell urged AAUW members who tuned into the Zoom meeting to take action by participating in these programs, attending the briefings, meeting with elected officials and, most importantly, by voting to defend equity and demand inclusion for all segments of our society.

The talk was organized by the AAUW - Silicon Valley Branch, which includes members from Los Altos, Mountain View and Palo Alto. For information about activities and membership in the local branch, visit siliconvalley-ca. aauw.net.

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When:Tuesday, January13, 2026at 6:30PM Where: Covington Elementary School Multi -**205 Covington Road**

Join us for our New Family Information Night to get to know our elementary schools and what makes learning here so special. You'll hear from students, teachers, principals, and parent leaders. Learn about our outstanding student experience, including TK and Kindergarten, and the many ways families can get involved and feel connected from the very start.



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Sports

Mountain View boys soccer enters season with high hopes

By Curtis Driscoll $\bar{Staff~Writer/curtisd@latc.com}$

oming off a SCVAL De Anza Division league title and a NorCal Division II playoff title last year, the Mountain View boys soccer team is hoping to follow up on last year with more success.

Although it lost several players to graduation, the team has been bolstered by the return of approximately a dozen players who played on the team two years ago and the return of several starters from last year.

"I think we are a very good team, for sure, and I think from top to bottom we are better than we were last year, but like I tell the guys, we're not playing the same teams we played last year," Mountain View head coach Jim McGuirk said.

The players returning to the team after a year's absence are mostly seniors who only played for their club teams last year. Senior forward Nicholas Garzino is one of those play-

ers and will provide a valuable attack threat and be a primary goalscorer, while senior Valen Spade, the defensive player of the year his sophomore year in the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League, will also return. Mc-Guirk will be responsible for mixing the two groups of new and returning together to create the best team.

"It's a very strange phenomenon," McGuirk said of his returning experience. "It's very different than it's ever been. I have fewer returning players from last year than pretty much ever, but I also have these guys; a good core of them played their sophomore year."

Mountain View will still have several starters returning, including Patrick McGuirk, a defender last season who returns to his preferred goalkeeper position, starting centerback Brayden Graham, left back Ayan Kothari and leading goalscorer Cyrus Shafie. Mountain View will have several new contributors this year



The Mountain View boys soccer team (4-0-1) is coming into the season with high hopes after coming off of a SCVAL De Anza Division and NorCal Division II playoff title last year.

in outside back Jonah Fernandez and midfielders Marko Nedeljkovic and Michael Mon-

The team will lean on its defense and the experience of the backline, a typical strength for Mountain View.

"That's the way I coach, if you don't give up any goals, you

See SOCCER, Page 16

Talented Los Altos has early momentum to start season

By Curtis Driscoll Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

he Los Altos girls basketball team is off to a strong start (6-1) early this season, thanks to its experienced players and several dynamic freshmen, as it eyes contending for a league title.

Los Altos head coach Brittany Taylor noted the team is playing at a good pace and has a solid defensive foundation after summer workouts, calling the team the most talented she's had in her third season with Los Altos.

"I do think we have a new dynamic compared to last season," Taylor said. "We have some good incoming freshmen who are going to really help us elevate our game a little bit."

Freshman point guard Taylor Ware has emerged as a key player thanks to her dribbling, shooting and decision making, using her skills to help the team on both sides of the floor.

"Super dynamic, very smart for being a freshman, getting to her spots well," Taylor said of Ware. "Knowing when to get that steal, when to attack, when to get us facilitated. You don't see that in a lot of young players. She has

such a natural ability and very exquisite skillset as well, so that's what makes her more dynamic than most."

Ware, along with senior guard and captain Ella McFarlane, have created a dynamic backcourt together, with the pair the team's key offensive weapons. Los Altos' identity will still focus on playing fast-paced and creating transition buckets off steals and turnovers, with a lot of points expected in transi-

"I do think playing in transition and defensively will definitely be our bread and butter for this year," Taylor said.

Freshman guard Isha Peruri and center Sahara Kaci have also earned significant playing time early in the season and have provided early help. The three freshmen on the team also have experience through club and school play that has helped them transition to the high school varsity level.

"Isha (Peruri) has a lot of length, and being on the wing really helps us, very versatile," Taylor said. "Just having size with Sahara (Kaci) and her really helps with movement."

The freshman pair are committed to rebounding and getting second possession for the team, along with sopho-



MAX ASMAR/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

The Los Altos girls basketball team is off to a strong start this year at 6-1 as it gets ready for the start of SCVAL De Anza Division play in January.

more and team captain Chloe D'Amico. Los Altos has had a rebounding edge in most of its games so far this season and managed to secure several key offensive rebounds in the final minute of the 36-34 win over Cupertino on Wednesday to prevent the Pioneers from getting possession to attempt a game-winning

"We have girls that are very committed to rebounding," Taylor said. "Physical, very strong, really smart, finding the ball, so I think that is also just another advantage for us with our size."

See BASKETBALL, Page 16

Sports

SOCCER From Page 15

don't have to score too many to win," McGuirk said.

Mountain View was more direct last year, aiming to control possession at a higher rate this year as it looks to get the ball to Garzino.

Mountain View is the backto-back SCVAL De Anza Division league champion and only lost one league game last season, but McGuirk expects a tough fight from Los Altos, Palo Alto, Los Gatos and Santa Clara.

"Nothing (is) easy in our league," McGuirk said. "We can't just say we are going to go out there and win. It's not going to work that way. We've got to continue to work hard and play together and not get frustrated when things aren't going well."

Mountain View has opened the non-league portion of its season with a 4-0-1 record to start the season, and league play begins away at Santa Clara Jan. 3 at 6 p.m.



KELLEN SCANLON/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Mountain View forward Nicholas Garzino takes on the Carlmont defense in a Dec. 4 game.

BASKETBALL From Page 15

While Los Altos is off to a good start in its non-league portion of the season, Taylor wants to see the team continue to improve as it gets ready for league play in the SCVAL De Anza Division in January.

"I think we can be competitors (for the league)," Taylor said. "We are getting off to a good start. We've got to work on some things, but I definitely think we can be a contender for that and definitely qualify for CCS, two big goals for us this year."

McFarlane noted the team has gotten better with each game and has seen significant improvement in its rebounding and controlling the key. Los Altos went 3-9 to start the season last year, but is 6-1 already this season. McFarlane said the team's goal is to compete for a league title.

"Definitely to win the league would be nice," McFarlane said. "I feel like we have a good chance at that."



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Schools

Cupertino district looks at budget as layoffs loom

By Giuseppe Ricapito

Staff Writer/giusepper@latc.com

he Cupertino Union School District has approved its first interim budget report while layoffs and program cuts are still on the table for the district to balance its budget.

The district board of education unanimously voted to approve the first interim budget report at a meeting on Dec. 11. The budget report takes a snapshot of the district's finances from the beginning of the fiscal year in July until Oct. 31.

The vote comes as the district has announced plans to make cuts in middle school electives, transitional kindergarten hours and high-paid employees in order to make up millions in deficit spending.

"We have tried to develop a fiscal stabilization plan that will then meet the needs of the ongoing budget, ... that will eliminate the deficit spending, that will establish a pathway to fiscal stability, that will increase reserves and will recognize and value employees," said Tina Bernal, director of business services.

Stacy Yao, superintendent of the district, said in an email that formal employee layoff resolutions must be brought before the board prior to a March 15 deadline.

The district is currently projecting \$253.7 in revenue and \$267.8 in expenses, according to the first interim report.

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

Yao said during the meeting that the district was intending to make up \$8 million in savings from cuts. About \$4.5 million would come from staff cuts, about \$2.2 million from the system changes and \$1 million from early retirements.

With staff cuts, the reductions would come over the course of multiple votes and board sessions related to the various unions that represent the positions, Yao said.

"We tried to find as many of those reductions as we could," she said. "There are different processes for every position. They don't come as one lump sum."

The district also plans to make some financial changes that do not involve personnel. Bernal said during her presentation that \$3 million in supplemental taxes, \$8.4 million from a bond fund, and \$3.3



TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

The Cupertino School District is considering layoffs and program cuts as it seeks to balance its budget. It approved its first interim budget Dec. 11.

from a debt refinancing would be added to revenues, while materials and equipment costs would increase costs by \$1 million.

The board is considering cutting TK to a half-day class, a savings of about \$2.59 million. Other options include a full-day TK class which would be capped at 360

students, resulting in a savings of \$3.24 million. The last option is a split day with classes either in the morning or the afternoon, resulting in \$2.56 million in savings.

The district is also considering giving

See CUPERTINO, Page 19

The Physics Show returns for 19th year at Foothill

By Amalia Tormala

Town Crier Editorial Intern

acuum canons, professors in tutus and egg drops are a mere fraction of the events that take place at The Physics Show, Foothill College's seasonal science extravaganza.

After an inaugural show in 2006 and a one-year hiatus during the pandemic, The Physics Show this month returns for its 19th year, led by the same two Foothill physics instructors who created it: David Marasco and Frank Cascarano. This year, Cascarano said they will be putting on 34 shows – including

more field trip shows than ever.

"We try to raise the bar every year and push the limits a little bit," he said.

This year, there will be seven field trip shows offered at no cost to Title I students. For Cascarano, these full-day experiences are an opportunity to show the younger generation what college campuses can be like, including tours of campus, time to interact with current students, free T-shirts and, of course, displays of neat physics.

"This year, we'll have quite a few activities for the kids to do at

See PHYSICS, Page 19



COURTESY OF DAVID MARASCO

Foothill physics instructors David Marasco, above, and Frank Cascarano helped create The Physics Show, which is now in its 19th year. The first show day is Saturday, Dec. 20.

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Schools

CUPERTINO From Page 18

seventh and eighth grade students the option of taking a second elective. Sixth grade students would only take one elective. It would result in a decrease of 18 full-time employees of middle school staff and about \$2.1 million in savings.

The district is also proposing early retirement for 475 eligible employees. If all the employees retired by June 30 it would amount to \$1.1 million in savings.

To pitch an idea for the **Schools** section or to comment on its content, please email editorial@latc.com.

PHYSICS From Page 18

lunch," Cascarano said. "They'll be able to do some of the things we do on stage during the show, and we have some outside groups coming to run tables."

The other 27 shows run on weekends at a cost of \$6. Money raised through ticket sales allows Foothill to offer its cost-free field trip shows, according to Cascarano. He added that the field trip shows fill all 1,000 theater seats and the weekend shows come close

Marasco said The Physics Show is designed to showcase many of the in-class physics demonstrations that take place at Foothill, which he does through classic "physics teacher humor" that is targeted toward younger students.

"The parents in the crowd can look at our students and say, 'Wow, those are some smart, talented, well-spoken individuals on stage. Maybe I should be sending my kid to this program," Marasco said.

On stage, Marasco said he and Cascarano are joined by several student volunteers from Foothill who work alongside the pair. He said they complete activities that students and parents alike are surprised by - some of which, like the "bed of nails," are so memorable that kids talk about them for the entire car ride

One such student volunteer is Keda Campbell, a dually enrolled physics student at Foothill. When Campbell observed The Physics Show for the first time, encouraged by her mother, she was a middle school student. Despite her knowledge that the show was geared toward a younger audience, Campbell said she thought it was going to be cool. And cool it was.

"I saw (The Physics Show) and I was like, 'This isn't just kid stuff," she said. "It introduced me to wanting to do a little more hands-on (work) in STEM."

From that moment, thanks to the Foothill students - whom Marasco deems "role models" onstage, Campbell was hooked.

"The presenters seemed really cool and I wanted to be friends with them, of course," she said. "I (later) became friends with



COURTESY OF DAVID MARASCO

The Physics Show student volunteer Keda Campbell presents a demonstration during a previous show.

multiple of them."

Now a presenter herself, Campbell's responsibilities include interacting with students who come on field trips, building demonstrations and presenting for the audience, hence their title.

"All the nerves go away when you're just facing a bunch of kids who are in awe of what you're doing," Campbell said.

The Physics Show, according to Marasco, has become a way for many individuals at Foothill

to lean in and create an event that functions to serve children. From the theater department to veterinary technology staff, Foothill goes all-hands-on-deck for The Physics Show.

This year, the weekend shows are scheduled for 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 20), Sunday (Dec. 21), Jan. 3, Jan. 4 and Jan. 10.

To purchase tickets, make a donation and for more show information, visit thephysicsshow.com.



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Holiday Scenes

INSIDE

Stepping Out Business & Real Estate

Datebook

Holiday Scenes is published once a year. For advertising information, email sales@latc.com.

40 years of holiday cheer

By Skye Dean Town Crier Editorial Intern

t the annual Kiwanis Tree Lot in Los Altos, seniors work alongside middle schoolers to serve their community.

Now in its 39th year, it is the only Christmas tree lot for charity in Los Altos, according to Kiwanis Club of Los Altos treasurer Martha McClatchie. She said all proceeds, about \$75,000 last year, fund scholarships and grants.

The lot, open daily in the Lucky grocery store parking lot, is staffed by 50-100 volunteers, according to McClatchie. Not only club members but also others from the community help out each year. They range in age from 10 to 80-plus.

Longtime Kiwanis member Art Carmichael, 86, likes seeing people of all ages take part.

"It's very wonderful to see that we have the young generation as well as the old generation, all working together for the good of the community," Carmichael said.

The younger generation consists of multiple Scouting America troops from the area. According to Leela Suppiah, assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 75 and Scoutmaster of the new girls for Troop 4075, Scouts are assigned roles at the tree lot – ranging from customer interaction to cleanup work – depending on their experience.

"It's very rewarding at the end of the day," Suppiah said. "And then you're at a fun place where you're outside and you



MATTHEW LEE-ASIONG/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Santa Claus, pictured, hides behind a tree for sale at the Kiwanis Christmas Tree lot.

can smell the trees. It's just such a happy place to be and my Scouts love it. They truly love it."

The Scouts are not the only volunteers who find joy in their work. For McClatchie, little moments with customers make

the experience gratifying.

"I've been in the club for 14 years now, and I'm at the point where I recognize a lot of families that come in to buy their tree," McClatchie said, "and then I also recognize families that come in now with their

children ... whose kids are grown up. That's always exciting to see the time go by like that."

Carmichael, who helped start the tree lot, said it began

See TREE LOT, Page 23

Illuminating the cold winter nights







LEFT: GABRIELA DE CARVALHO TELES/TOWN CRIER EDITO-RIAL INTERN, ABOVE: SHELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE

Families huddled (candles lit from those of one another) and watched as the menorah was lit Sunday night in celebration of Hanukkah. The menorah now sits near the Christmas Tree in the Veterans Community Plaza in downtown Los Altos.



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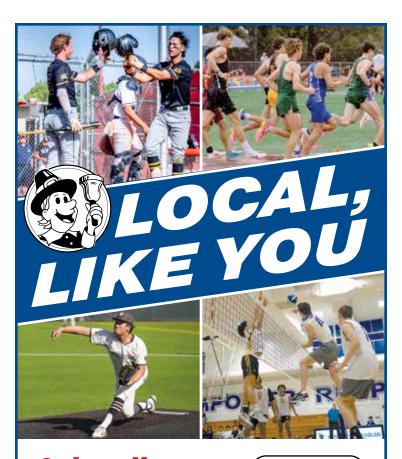


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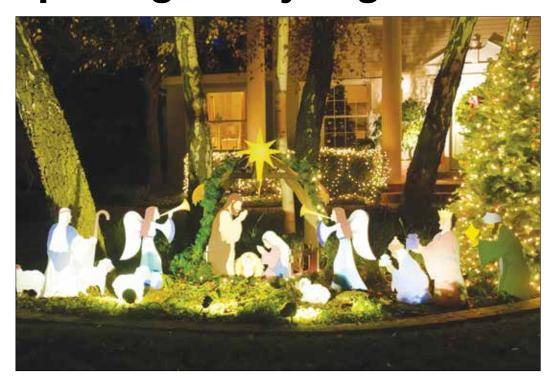
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Holiday Scenes

Sparkling holiday magic





HELLY BOWERS/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIEF

Who knew that plugging in a few electrical cords and stringing some lights could strike up this much holiday magic? From an illuminated nativity scene, top, to a house with columns and windows decked with lights, above, Los Altos residents didn't hold back with their decorating. Some even made candy cane lanes, below, bordered by an enchanted forest featuring twinkling bushes and a lit-up reindeer pulling a sleigh.



Holiday Scenes



ABOVE, TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO; RIGHT, MATTHEW LEE-ASIONG/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN Above, volunteers help at the 2023 tree lot. Right, garland and other goods are also for sale at the tree lot.

TREE LOT

From Page 21

in a small parking lot on Miramonte Avenue. The tree lot was a successor to Kiwanis' Safe and Sane fireworks fundraiser, a campaign that ended when the explosives were banned in Los Altos.

'So all of a sudden, there we were without a fundraiser, and we had to do something. ... Menlo Park Kiwanis had a Christmas tree lot, and so we started one ourselves," said Carmichael, a 58year Kiwanis member.

Since then, the event has only grown, selling an estimated 1,200 trees each year, according to McClatchie. Carmichael added that the lot typically sells out a few days before Christmas.

The ultimate benefactor of the tree lot is the community it serves. McClatchie explained that



earnings from the tree lot go toward scholarships for high school students and grants for the Los Altos Educational Foundation and Mountain View Los Altos High School Foundation. Other organizations are also eligible to receive grants based on their applications.

Additional proceeds are reserved to fund other club events like the Kiwanis Pet Parade and Kiwanis Special Games.

McClatchie added that, to volunteers, working the lot means more than fundraising.

"Our focus is on raising funds, but in the process of doing that a lot of people meet one another, get to know each other a little bit better by volunteering together," McClatchie said.

The Kiwanis Tree Lot is open 2-6 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends. Lucky is located at 2175 Grant Road.







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Stepping Out

Enjoy a holiday concert this Sunday

Town Crier Report

↑hoose from Ctwo popular annual holiday concerts this Sunday, Dec. 21.

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Fr. Brendan McGuire, Pastor

1860 Grant Road, Los Altos 94024

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RELIGIOUS DIRECTORY

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Bayer Ballet's 'Snow Queen' opens Friday in Mtn. View



"The Snow Queen" is en pointe at last year's Bayer Ballet show at MVCPA.

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By Olivia Levesque Ouellette Town Crier Editorial Intern

ayer Ballet Academy School's annual performances of "The Snow Queen" are scheduled to run this weekend in downtown Mountain

Now in its 11th year, the shows will be held Friday and Saturday at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, MainStage, 500 Castro St.

Based on Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tale, "The Snow Queen" follows a young girl named Gerda who embarks on a magical journey to save her friend, Kai.

Inna Bayer, who owns the Mountain View-based academy and serves as artistic director, said she has choreographed the show since 2014, adding classical and neoclassical ballet elements.

"I think people will love it," the Saratoga resident said. "It's a nice story, which is (also) interesting for young kids and for adults. Also, our (students) are dancing professionally, so we bring in a beautiful quality and I know that many people say that it's the best Christmas show."

The cast of 150 dancers, ranging in age from 9 to 18, auditioned in October and began rehearsals in November, according to dancer Sydney Qian, who performs the role of Gerda.

"I always enjoy how (Bayer) always gives a lot of corrections (to our technique), even at rehearsals or classes, and pays a lot of attention to detail, which I think you can't find anywhere else," the 14-year-old said.

"I think the audience can expect a lot of vulnerability or emotion portrayed on stage throughout the ballet."

This year, Bayer Ballet wanted to focus on the presentation of the upper body throughout the dance, according to Diana Levine, who dances multiple roles in the show.

"We already kind of built the foundation (of the dance) over the past two years, so now we need to work on our upper body and our presentation," the 15-year-old said. "Also, the upper body in our presentation is a really unique way to express ourselves that no other ballet school does."

Miley Liu, dancing as the Master Troll in the show, said "The Snow Queen" is an engaging and magical experience for the audience.

"(The show) is certainly one of a kind, like for each audience member, it's really different," the 15-year-old said. "Each character has such a unique personality that it takes the audience through an adventure of their own. You really feel like you're in the story with Gerda, and I think it's really lively and a very warm and happy story."

Performances are set for 7 p.m. Friday and 1 and 6 p.m. Saturday. Each show runs approximately two hours and 20 minutes, with a 20-minute intermission. Tickets are \$42-\$65.50.

Los Altos Town Crier Holiday Fundraiser 2025

Grants from the Town Crier Holiday Fund support agencies in Silicon Valley that touch the real needs of people.

"At this time of year, we are inundated with requests for donations. Giving to the Town Crier Holiday Fund assures us that 100% of our money goes directly to groups that are doing the most good for the most people without any added overhead costs. This is among my favorite charities." ~ Dick Henning, Founder, Celebrity Forum

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Business & Real Estate

Greetings from California: Greeting cards highlight local landmarks

By Grace Lin

Town Crier Editorial Intern

os Altos' Linden Tree Books, the Stanford Dish hiking trail and Hillsborough's famous Flintstone House are among the Bay Area landmarks illustrator Courtney Beyer features on the greeting cards and stickers she creates.

"They are places that I have a connection with, so I get a kick out of making them and I see the customers get a kick out of them too," the Los Altos Hills native said. "... I hope my cards give them a smile on their face. I hope they have a chuckle, even if they don't buy it and that they think it's funny or cool that my cards have something local to just us."

Bever first started illustrating Bay Area landmarks after a friend suggested

Reach out!

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

she make a card featuring the Stanford Dish. Beyer said the card sold exceptionally well, leading her to create more Bay Area-inspired greeting cards.

"When I'm creating, I have to keep my customer in mind," Beyer said. "San Francisco-themed cards are some of my best sellers. It's not necessarily artistically pushing me, but from a business perspective, they sell very well and propel my business - it's very enjoyable, but that's also a motivation."

Her cards are featured in more than 60 stores nationwide and she's collaborated with brands like Mattel and Hallmark. Along with cards and stickers, Beyer also sells stationary and offers illustration and pattern-design services for commercial use on her website.

Her illustration of Linden Tree Books is part of a larger collection of greeting cards that pay tribute to Bay Area landmarks that include the Golden Gate Bridge and the Stanford Theatre.

Before Bever became

an illustrator, she worked in biotech. The 2005 graduate of Los Altos High School attended the University of Michigan on a swimming scholarship and earned a degree in anthropology.

After working several years in biotech and exploring UX design, Beyer said she traveled to Spain to learn about designing Islamic art patterns. During maternity leave, she returned to drawing – something she did growing up.

Encouraged by her family, Beyer began creating greeting cards, initially for friends and family, and then starting selling them on her website in 2014.

Beyer emphasizes sustainability, using biodegradable sleeves, compostable or recycled paper greetings and wooden pins. Her designs are often natureinspired, including flowers, trees and other local flora, as well as motherhood themes, reflecting her personal life.

"Growing up in the Bay Area and enjoying nature, I feel like I can't not be inspired by the world around me," the Menlo Park resident said. "A lot of the

mothering themes are what I like and what my life is. I try to keep my cards authentic to me."

While Linden Tree is her only Los Altos-specific landmark at the moment, Beyer said she has a few more in the works: Shoup Park, the Festival of Lights Parade and the "Welcome to Los Altos" sign.

In the future, Beyer hopes to sell her work in downtown Los Altos gift shops and work on a project with Arts Los Altos, an organization that creates public art in town.

"It adds beauty and fun," Beyer said of the importance of local art. "It makes people want to come down to Los Altos and enjoy it. People don't realize how much art they see on a daily basis, and that there are artists behind it."

To purchase Beyer's cards and other products and for more information, visit courtneybeyerdesign.com.

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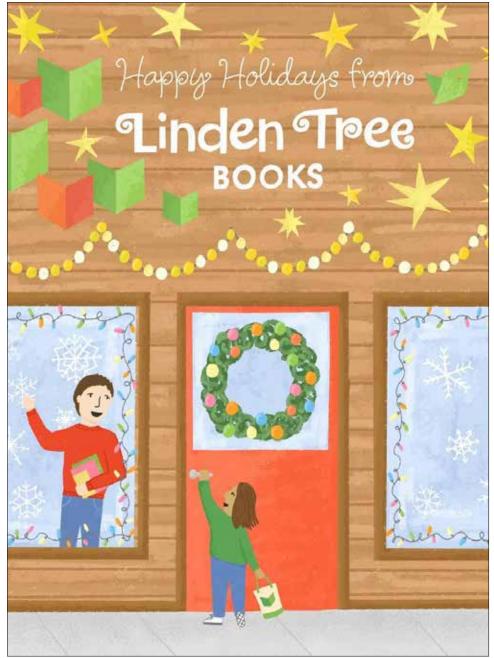
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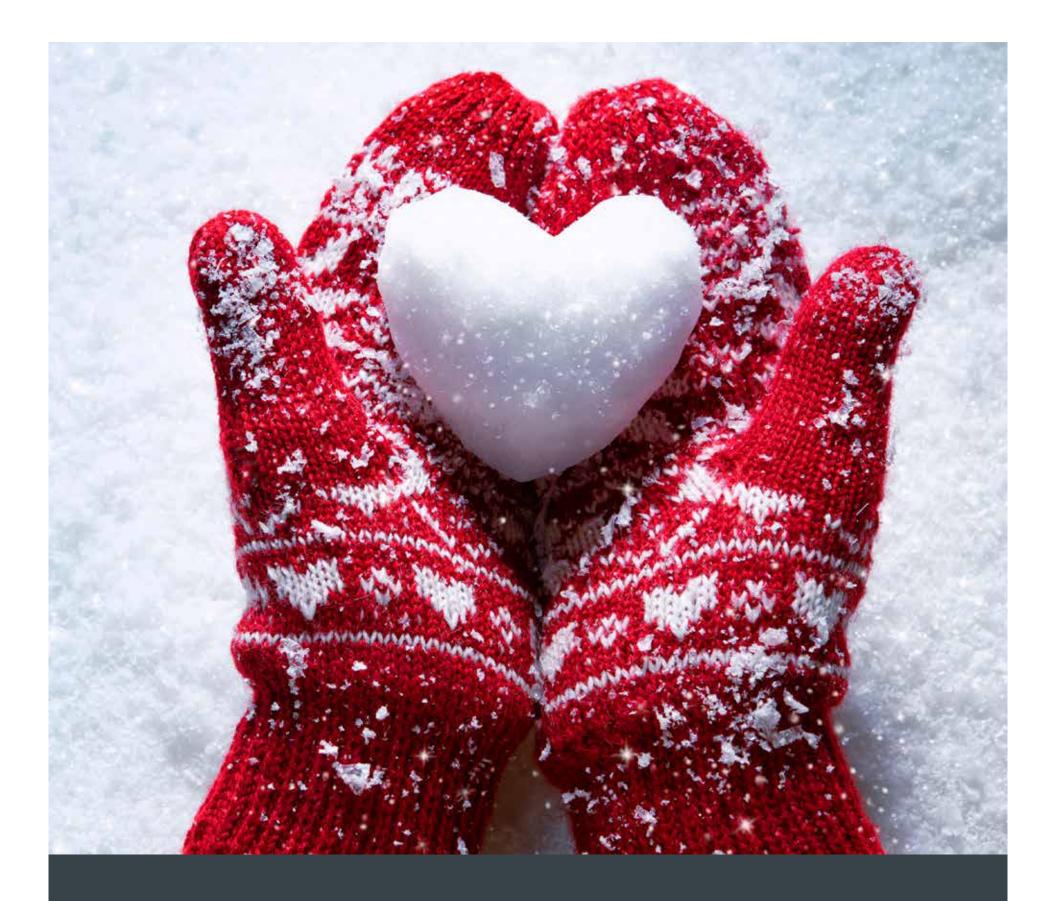
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COURTESY OF COURTNEY BEYER

Courtney Beyer's card designs include Bay Area landmarks like Los Altos' Linden Tree Books.



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30<u>2-T</u>

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300-T

SATTVIC MEALS FOUNDATION **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS** NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN721936

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SAT-TVIC MEALS FOUNDATION. 680 E Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas, CA, 95035, Santa Clara County The business is owned a corporation. by: The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): WORLD FOOD MOVEMENT, 680 E Ca laveras Blvd Milnitas CA 95035 Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business

name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Naga Rekha Prodduturi / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/09/2025. (12-17,24,31-25,01-07-26)

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PETITION OF ALYSSA ASHLEY KLEIN ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME 25CV481420

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS 1. Petitioner: Alyssa Ashley Klein filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name

a. Alyssa Ashley Klein

Proposed Name: a. Alvssa Ashlev Brucculeri

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

NOTICE OF HEARING 03/03/2026 at 8:45 a.m. Room: Probate (b) The address of the court is: 191 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95113

3. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Altos Town Crier Date: 12/08/2025 /s/ LE Jacqueline Duong Judge of the Superior Court

297-T

DRAGONFLY FLORISTIC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT **FILE NO. FBN721777**

(12-17.24.31-25.01-07-26)

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business DRAGONFLY FLORISTIC 105 Main Street, Los Altos, CA, 94022. Santa Clara County business is owned an individual. by: The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Olha Savehenko, 105 Main Street, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transact ing business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 12/04/2020. /S/ Olha Savchenko / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/04/2025 (12-17,24,31-25,01-07-26)

SRI LAKSHMI CAFE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT **FILE NO. FBN721772**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SRI LAK-SHMI CAFE, 1818 Milmont Dr, Milpi-

tas, CA, 95035, Santa Clara County The business is owned by a limited liability company. The name and residence ad dress of the registrant(s) is (are): THILLAI LLC, 196 Marylinn Dr, Milpitas, CA 95035. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/21/2025 /S/ Manikandan Jothi / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/02/2025. (12-10,17,24,31-25)

294-T

LAUGH AFTER WAR.COM **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS** NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN721724

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: LAUGH AFTER WAR.COM. 159 Hardy Avenue, Campbell, CA, 95008, Santa Clara County. The business is owned individual. bv: a n The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): James Robert Mc Cormick, 159 Hardy Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ James Robert Mc Cormick / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 12/01/2025. (12-10,17,24,31-25)

292-T

HIGH LEVEL DESIGN BUILD **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS** NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN721190

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: HIGH LEVEL DESIGN BILLD 1455 McCandless Dr. Milpitas, CA. 95035, Santa Clara County. The business is owned bv: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): HDY BUILDERS INC, 1455 Mc-Candless Dr, Milpitas, CA 95035. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/2025. /S/ Delphine Driquez / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/12/2025. (12-10,17,24,31-25)

291-T

CHAPTERBARBERSHOP **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS** NAME STATEMENT **FILE NO. FBN721634**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CHAPTERBARBERSHOP. 2050 S Bascom Ave, Campbell, CA, 95008, Santa Clara County. The business is owned an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Hoang Huy Le, 2019 Brightwillow Cir, San Jose, CA 95131. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/25/2025. Hoang Huy Le This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/25/2025. (12-10,17,24,31-25)

289-T

postponed one or more times by the

TS No. CA-25-1015902-NJ Order No.: FIN-25006329

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT LINDER A

DEED OF TRUST DATED 2/24/2014.

UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY IT MAY

BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF

YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF

THE NATURE OF THE PROCEED-

ING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD

CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auc-

tion sale to the highest bidder for

cash, or cash equivalent if deemed

acceptable to the trustee, cashier's

check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFI-CIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): Carlos Watson Jr., as Trustee of the Carlos Watson Jr Revocable Trust dated March 6, 2012 Recorded: 3/4/2014 as Instrument No. 22534432 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of SANTA CLARA County, California; Date of Sale: 12/24/2025 at 10:00 AM Place of Sale: At the Gated North Market Street entrance of the Superior Courthouse, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113 Amount of ance and other charges: \$979.325.08 The purported property address is: 435 KENT DR, MOUN-TAIN VIEW, CA 94043 Assessor's Parcel No.: 160-74-031 All bidders, at the date, time, and place of the scheduled sale, will be required to show satisfactory support to the auctioneer of their ability to pay the amount they intend to bid, unless arrangements have been made with the trustee prior to the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BID-DERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be

mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law republication of this Notice of Sale. If quires that information about trustee the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether of the monies paid to the Trustee This shall be the Purchaser's sole your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled and exclusive remedy. The purchastime and date for the sale of this er shall have no further recourse property, you may call 916-939against the Trustor, the Trustee, the 0772 for information regarding the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, trustee's sale or visit this internet or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you website http://www.gualityloan.com. have previously been discharged using the file number assigned to through bankruptcy, you may have this foreclosure by the Trustee: CAbeen released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter 25-1015902-NJ. Information about postponements that are very short is intended to exercise the note holdin duration or that occur close in ers right's against the real property only. Date: QUALITY LOAN SERVICE time to the scheduled sale may not CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the inter-Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE informanet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to at tion only Sale Line: 916-939-0772 tend the scheduled sale. NOTICE Or Login to: http://www.gualityloan TO TENANT: You may have a right com Post-Sale Information (CCC 2924m(e)): (866) 645-7711 Reinto purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section statement or Pavoff Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SER-2924m of the California Civil Code If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," VICE CORPORATION TS No.: CA-25-1015902-NJ IDSPub #0271725 you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid 12/3/2025 12/10/2025 12/17/2025 placed at the trustee auction. If you (12-03 10 17-25) are an "eligible bidder," you may 288-T be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid NOTICE OF PETITION TO placed at the trustee auction. There ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: are three steps to exercising this right of purchase First 48 hours

after the date of the trustee sale

you can call 619-645-7711, or visit

this internet website http://www.gual-

ityloan.com, using the file number

assigned to this foreclosure by the

Trustee: CA-25-1015902-NJ to find

the date on which the trustee's sale

was held, the amount of the last and

highest bid, and the address of the

trustee. Second, you must send a

written notice of intent to place a

bid so that the trustee receives it no

more than 15 days after the trustee's

sale. Third, you must submit a bid so

that the trustee receives it no more

than 45 days after the trustee's sale.

If you think you may qualify as an

"eligible tenant buver" or "eligible

bidder," you should consider con-

tacting an attorney or appropriate

real estate professional immediately

for advice regarding this potential

right to purchase NOTICE TO PRO-

SPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT: Any

prospective owner-occupant as de

fined in Section 2924m of the Cali-

fornia Civil Code who is the last and

highest bidder at the trustee's sale

shall provide the required affidavit or

declaration of eligibility to the auc-

tioneer at the trustee's sale or shall

have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN

SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m.

on the next business day following

the trustee's sale at the address set

forth in the below signature block

NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE POST-

SALE OVER BIDDERS: For post-

sale information in accordance with

Section 2924m(e) of the California

Civil Code, use file number CA-25-

1015902-NJ and call (866) 645-

7711 or login to: http://www.quality-

loan.com. The above statutorily man-

dated notices to Tenant, Prospective

Owner-Occupant, and Prospective

Post-Sale Over Bidders are brief

summaries of what may be required

under Section 2924m of the Califor-

nia Civil Code. Compliance with all

relevant provisions will be required

The undersigned Trustee disclaims

any liability for any incorrectness

of the property address or other

common designation, if any, shown

herein. If no street address or other

common designation is shown, di-

rections to the location of the prop-

erty may be obtained by sending a

Leonard Ken Miyata CASE NO. 25PR200985

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of Leonard Ken Miyata A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Vernon Miyata in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. PETITION FOR PRO-THE BATE requests that Vernon Miyata 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: 01/16/2026 at 9:03AM in Dept. 1 located at 191 NORTH FIRST ST., SAN JOSE, CA 95113 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

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 DF-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 Barzin Barry Sabahat & Tanzeel Hak 4285 Pavne Ave., Suite 9691 San Jose, CA 95117

of the California Probate Code

Other California statutes and

287-T

DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE GRO-CERY OUTLET FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN721543

(408) 500-5280

(12-03,10,17-25)

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE GROCERY OUTLET, 272 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose, CA, 95113, Santa Clara County. The business is owned corporation The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): J & A WARREN OUTLET, 272 E Santa Clara, San Jose, CA 95113. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/13/2021. /S/ Alexis Warren This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/21/2025. (12-03.10.17.24-25)

286-T

Sausage Sam's Mtvw FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT **FILE NO. FBN721398**

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Sausage Sam's Mtvw, 939 W. El Camino Real, Suite A, Mountain View, CA. 94040. Santa Clara County. The business is owned a corporation The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): FJL Foods, Inc., 1282 Hammerwood Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94089. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. Michael D'Ambrosio / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/17/2025. (12-03,10,17,24-25)

285-T

SOUTH BAY THERAPY SERVICES **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS** NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN720715

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SOUTH BAY THERAPY SERVICES, 881 Fremont Ave, Suite B8, Los Altos, CA 94024 Santa Clara County The business is owned an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Jonathan Ramsden, 881 Fremont Ave Suite B8. Los Altos. CA 94024. Registrant began transactng business under the ficti-

Public Notices

/S/ Jonathan Ramsden / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 10/23/2025. (11-26-25,12-03,10,17-25)

KNOTTYHOLE WOODWORKS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN721439

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: KNOT-TYHOLE WOODWORKS, 614 Milverton Rd, Los Altos, CA, 94022. Santa Clara County. The business is owned an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Richard Gray Detro, 614 Milverton Rd, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Richard Gray Detro / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/18/2025. (11-26-25,12-03,10,17-25)

Innovative Precision Paving FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN721386

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Innovative Precision Paving, 189 Solana Dr. Los Altos, CA, 94022, Santa Clara County. The business is owned an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Charles Sines, 189 Solana Dr, Los Altos, CA 94022. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/17/2025. /S/ Charles Sines This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/17/2025. (11-26-25.12-03.10.17-25)

CBIC GROUP FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN721388

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CBIC GROUP, 103 Olive Street, Los Gatos, CA, 95030, Santa Clara County. The business is owned an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Carolyn Marie Bechtel, 103 Olive Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030 Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 11/17/2025. /S/ Carolyn Marie Bechtel / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/17/2025. (11-26-25,12-03,10,17-25)

280-T

Y & Y AUTO EXPRESS L.L.C **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS** NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN721128

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Y & Y AUTO EXPRESS L.L.C, 1837 Monterey Rd Unit A, San Jose,

a limited liability company The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Y & Y AUTO EXPRESS LLC, 1837 Monterey Rd Unit A, San Jose, CA 95112 Registrant began transact ing business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 08/08/2025. /S/ Yuber Quiroga / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/07/2025. (11-26-25,12-03,10,17-25)

KLERIQ AI FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN721212

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) KLE-RIQ AI, (2) CREDENTIALRX AI, 2621 Leigh Avenue, San Jose CA, 95124, Santa Clara County The business is owned in dividual. by: a n The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Simranjeet Singh Sidana, 2621 Leigh Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A /S/ Simranjeet Singh Sidana / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 11/12/2025. (11-26-25,12-03,10,17-25)

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PETITION OF MARY-JOAN DUKE ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME 25CV476826

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioner: Mary-Joan Duke filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: a. Mary-Joan Duke

a. Joanie Duke

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

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

> 3. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Los Altos Town Crier Date: 10/09/2025

/s/ LE Jacqueline Duong Judge of the Superior Court (11-26-25,12-03,10,17-25)

277-T

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. Scandinavian Fabric Star Workshop, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 17. Create an elegant handmade ornament just in time for the holidays with sustainable artists Gigi Farmer and Leila Ghasempor. Program is free, open to the public and designed for adults and teens.

Autocrats vs Democrats: China, Russia, America and the New Global Disorder, 7:15 p.m. Jan. 7. Michael McFaul. former Ambassador to Russia, international affairs analyst for NBC News and retiring Director of the Freeman Spogli Institute (FSI) at Stanford University talks today's challenges. Held in the Grand Oak Room.

CLUBS/GROUPS

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.

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

Kiwanis Club of Los Altos. An international service organization. Meets at noon every Tuesday at the Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave. Information: (650) 735-1552, losaltoskiwanis.org.

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

GreenTown Los Altos. Nonpartisan group of

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

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

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

American Association of University Women, Los Altos-Mountain View branch. Open to women (and men) with a college degree who are interested in equity for women and girls. Information: (650) 207-6625, lamv.ca.aauw.net.

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

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Volunteer organization of boating enthusiasts who perform community service, including boating education, voluntary vessel inspections and boating operations. Not involved in military or law enforcement activities. Ages 17 and up. 7 p.m. second Tuesday of the month. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave. Information: (650) 941-5466.

Rotary Club of Los Altos. Service group. 12:15 p.m. Thursdays. Garden House at Shoup Park, 400 University Ave. Information: (650) 948-1455, losaltosrotary.org.

Electric Toasters. Toastmasters group. Noon to 1 p.m. today. Electric Power Research Institute, 3412 Hillview Ave., Palo Alto. Information: (650) 855-2270.

Los Altos Lodge No. 712 F. & A. M. 7:30 p.m. first Monday of the month. Los Altos Masonic Hall, 146 Main St. Information: (650) 941-6615.

Weekly meditation practice group. Based on Jack Kornfield's book "A Path with Heart." 7 a.m. Tuesdays. Foot-hills Congregational Church, Los Altos. Information: (650) 969-3452.

South Bay Storytellers. 7 p.m. third Sunday of the month. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave. Infor-

> Subscribe to the **Town Crier!** Call (650) 948-9000 or visit losaltosonline.com

mation: (650) 494-1383, (650) 917-1920, southbaystorytellers.com.

Vasa Order of America, Lindbergh **Lodge.** Organization for experiencing the Swedish culture, open to people of Scandinavian descent and their families. 6:30 p.m. second Friday of each month; supper 7 p.m. American Legion Hall, 347 First St., Los Altos, Information: (650) 948-7030, (650)

Mountain View Foothills International Training in Communication Club. 7 p.m. first and third Thursday of the month. Union Bank, El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Information: (650) 967-6466.

Baha'I Faith of Los Altos. Fireside talks. 8-9:30 p.m. Thursdays. 158 Coronado Ave., Los Altos. Information: (650) 948-0143.

View Club. Community service organization. Monthly meetings. Masonic Temple, 890 Church St. Information: (650) 967-1390.

Technology and Society Committee. 11:45 a.m. alternate Tuesdays, Golden Wok, 895 Villa St., Mountain View. Information: (650) 969-7215 (after 6 p.m.).

Quota Club of Mountain View. Noon first and third Thursdays of the month. Michael's at Shoreline, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Information: (650) 967-2964.

Optimist Club of Palo Alto-Mountain View. Luncheon meetings noon to 1:30 p.m. first and third Tuesdays of the month. Hyatt Rickey's, Palo Alto. Information: (650) 855-1847.

Peninsula Gem & Mineral Society. Includes mineral displays, field trips and a lapidary. 7 p.m. fourth Wednesday of the month. Hillview Community Center, Room 12, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Information: pggs.org.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Mid-Peninsula Widows and Widowers Association. Helps people begin a new way of life following the loss of a spouse. 1:30-3 p.m. first Tuesday of the month and 7:30-9 p.m. remaining Tuesdays. Los Altos Lutheran Church, 460 S. El Monte Road. \$66 annually. Information: (408) 246-4642, mpwwa1.org.

Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing (GRASP). Support group provides compassion, understanding and help for individuals and families suffering the loss of a loved one as the result of drug use. 7-8:30 p.m. second Wednesday of the month. Los Altos Lutheran Church, 460 S. El Monte Ave. Information: eshow818@gmail.com.

See DATEBOOK, Page 31

DATEBOOK

From Page 30

Los Altos Al-Anon. Confidential support and tools for families and friends affected by another person's drinking. Noon Thursdays. Room 7, Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Road. Information: district20afg.com.

Eating Disorders Resource Center. For individuals struggling with disordered eating and body image. 9:30-11 a.m. first and third Saturdays of the month. El Camino Hospital, Conference Room A, 2500 Grant Road, Mountain View. Free. Information: edrcsv.org.

Moving On. For those going through major life changes. Led by Paula Wolfson, LCSW of Avenidas. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Los Altos United Methodist Church, Garden Room, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Cosponsored by Avenidas and Senior New Ways. \$42. Information: (650) 289-5438, pwolfson@avenidas.org.

Amputee Support Group. A place to meet other amputees, gain support, hear guest speakers and have barbecues in the summer. Third Wednesday of each month. Cedar Crest Rehabilitation, 797 E. Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale. Information: 968-7464, (408) 738-4880.

Ongoing Breast Cancer Support.

Recovery, renewal and education for anyone who has completed breast cancer treatment and is focusing on continued physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. 5-6:30 p.m. second and fourth Mondays of the month. Free. Information: (650) 326-6686.

Child Advocates of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Volunteers needed to mentor and speak up for abused and neglected children who have been placed in the foster-care system. Information: (408) 416-0400.

Huntington's Disease Support Group. 7-8:30 p.m. second Tuesday of each month. First Baptist Church, 305 N. California St., Palo Alto. Information: (650) 967-0679.

Sexual Assault Survivors Counseling. Confidential group and individual counseling sessions for survivors of sexual assault. Women meet 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays; men 6:30 p.m. Dropin counseling: 2-5 p.m., Tuesdays. Mid-Peninsula YWCA, 4161 Alma St., Palo Alto. \$5. Information: (650) 494-0993, ext. 316.

OBITUARY NOTICE

ANN PETRIE OLIVER



July 27, 1932 – November 9, 2025

The world sparkles less with the passing of Ann Petrie Oliver on November 9, 2025, at her home in Los Altos, California. She was preceded in death by her husband, Floyd (Bud) Oliver, to whom she was married 65 years. She is survived by four children; Peter (Christine), Melissa (Tom), Amelia (Thomas), and Sandra (David); and a large extended family that includes eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Ann was born in Cadillac, MI on July 27, 1932, to Bonnie and Kenneth Petrie. She recalled her childhood, with her older brother Bill, as idyllic: sledding and ice skating in the winters, blueberries and swimming in the lake in the summers. In 1941, her father drove the family to a new picnic spot on Lake Mitchell. When Ann worried they were trespassing on this quaint cottage property, he informed her that they now owned this little piece of paradise. To this day it remains relatively unchanged, and has served as her summer refuge and lifelong connection to the Cadillac community.

Ann graduated a Cadillac High School Viking, Class of 1950. Besides being a sharp high school student and cheerleader, she was a Girl Scout, lifeguard, and camp counselor. Ann attended the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, earning a B.S. in Physical Therapy, 1954 (this Program's inaugural class). Fresh out of college, Ann landed a job at The Children's Hospital in Akron, OH, and due to the polio epidemic soon became the Acting PT Supervisor of the Polio Respiration & Rehab Unit. The devotion, compassion, and adaptive skills she displayed at this job were qualities she carried forward through her PT career.

At a high school reunion, Ann 'ran' into Bud Oliver, a handsome former football center she had cheered on from the sidelines. They married in 1956 in Cadillac. As a young Navy couple, they settled briefly in southern CA, but it was in Madison, WI where they started a family. In 1959 the family of 4 moved to Scottsdale, AZ, where they welcomed their third child and adapted quickly to mild winters. Bud's career led them back to CA in 1965, and eventually to Los Altos. Here they welcomed their fourth child and nestled in to make this house their permanent home. Over the years, the Olivers transformed the property into an oasis, complete with native plants, waterfall, koi pond, fern garden, and a brickwork patio. It served as a source of pride and comfort to Ann, right up to her final hours. The yard hosted countless parties, family celebrations, and intimate candlelit dinners.

Professionally, Ann reentered the workplace as a PT in 1973, practicing for 25 years with Visiting Nurses Association Home Health Care. This job introduced her to the backroads of Santa Clara County and honed her Rand McNally roadmap skills, a must for road trips with Bud. At age 61, Ann decided to pursue a post-graduate degree, both for personal growth and to keep pace with her well-educated kids. So in 1994, 40 years after receiving her B.S, she earned an M.S. in Gerontology from San Jose State University with a thesis, "A Study of Older Adults' Knowledge of Parkinson's Disease". She then worked at The Parkinson's Institute until she retired.

Retirement did not come easily

to Ann. As a PT, Ann's Gait & Balance classes (2002-2025) usually had a waiting list. She served many years as a Court Designated Child Advocate and as an Advocate recruiter. At one point, she delved into her genealogy and warmly embraced new relatives into the family. Her longest heartfelt commitment was to her Foothill's Congregational Church community. As a lifelong member, Ann served on numerous boards, study groups, and the Altar Guild. The church offered her an endless source of fellowship and comfort. Ann always had a full and fulfilling schedule. A short list of her most recent activities includes a Mah Jongg group, a memoirs class, Los Altos Morning Forum, Bridge groups, and at least two book clubs, including one with Gamma Phi Beta sisters and a favorite called Truth

Ann was an enthusiastic traveler and her desire to see the world was unfettered. Some of her memorable adventures with Bud included: hiking trips to Joshua Tree, Canyon De Chelly, New Zealand, Nepal, and Copper Canyon in Mexico; biking in Cambodia and Italy; and canoeing the Pine River. She made it a point to visit her children wherever they lived, traveling from Uppsala to Bangui and Durham to Hong Kong. Her last trip (2023) was to Iberia to visit a granddaughter. Last summer, Ann rallied to spend time at her favorite spot, the Cadillac cottage.

Throughout her life, Ann was a woman with a tenacious drive, kind heart, mischievous twinkle in her eye, and a genuine smile. While Ann had many passions, the strongest was for her family. She cherished the annual 'Oliver Boxing Day' gatherings, where she was surrounded by her legacy. She will be deeply missed. An in-person and virtual memorial service will be held Feb 7, 2026, www.foothills-church.org.

Given Ann's zest for life, the best way to honor her is to dive head first into everything you do; share your stories, get outdoors, embrace friends & family, and appreciate the world. In lieu of flowers, consider donating to one of her local favorites: Filoli (www.filoli.org/support) OR Los Altos Adult 50+ Program/ 97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos 94022, Memo: Ann Oliver Mah Jongg Group.



DONNA MARIA (HOLSTINE) HENKEL



May 17, 1946 – July 23, 2025

Donna was a near lifelong resident of Los Altos/Mountain View. She was a graduate of Los Altos High School in 1964 and attended classes at Foothill College. She worked for Hewlitt Packard, Stanford Linear Accelerator, and other south bay tech firms. She was good at math and enjoyed computer programming in her work career. What she really enjoyed was knitting, giving countless Christmas and Birthday presents from her own creations. For the past five years Donna lived in Texas close to her daughter, Victoria and her grandchildren Kyle and Sara. This was the joy of her later life. She was preceded in death by her parents Margaret and Clayton Holstine of Los Altos and sister Sharon of Los Altos. She is survived by her brother Clayton and sister in-law Cristina of Los Altos and niece Michelle in Indiana, Kaitlyn in San Francisco and nephew Jimmy in Georgia. She will be missed for her engaging smile and sense of fun at numerous family get-togethers. Services were held in



