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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 • September 17, 2025

Train Day makes Los Altos stop



S.M. LIEU/SPECIAL TO THE TOWN CRIER

Miniature steam engines made their stops at the Los Altos History Museum Sunday, delighting train lovers and bringing some choo-choo fun to the city. From train-related films and music to miniature displays, there was something for almost everyone with an appreciation for miniatures and locomotive history.

Los Altos downtown water main construction nearing end stages

By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisdr@latc.com

Downtown Los Altos construction to replace water mains and micro resurfacing of Main and State streets is expected to wrap up by the end of September or early October, the city said.

Construction crews from California Water Service and PG&E have been busy this summer working on infrastructure upgrades downtown aimed at improving long-term service reliability and upgrading water mains near the downtown parking plazas.

While contractors are working on resurfacing Main and State streets, plans are in the works for repaving the Central Parking Plazas (Parking Plazas 4, 5 and 6) next spring and in the summer of 2026 after the

rainy season, Los Altos assistant to the city manager Anthony Carnesecca said. Construction began early in the summer and paused briefly for the Los Altos Arts and Wine Festival.

"The city is prioritizing infrastructure to ensure that our streets, sidewalks, intersections and every facet of our downtown will be safe, accessible and beautiful for all residents, businesses and visitors that come into downtown," Carnesecca said. "With increased accessibility and beautiful new streets, the community as a whole will benefit in a positive way."

Cal Water operations manager Christopher Wilson said his organization has finished phase one work that

See CONSTRUCTION, Page 6

Online Poll of the Week



What type of businesses would you like to see more of in Los Altos?

- More extensive variety of restaurants, i.e., a steakhouse
- Different niche retailers, like a mens' suit store
- More chain stores, we need a 7-Eleven in Los Altos
- Service providers like hair and nail salons
- Experiences, like a rage room or escape room

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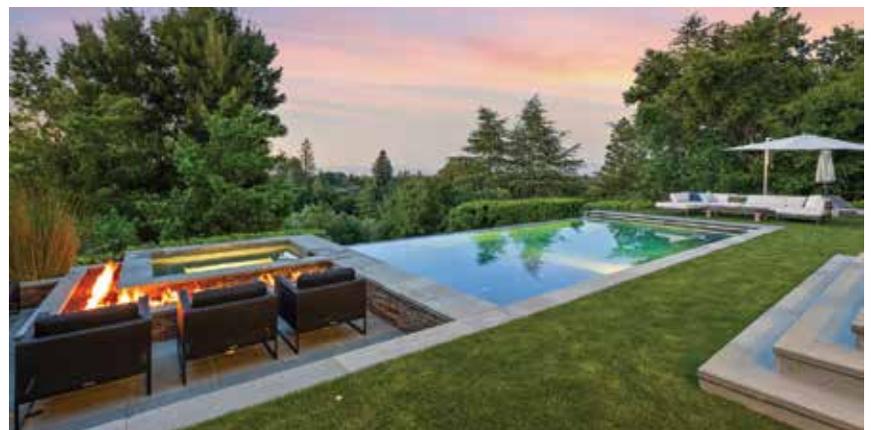
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Around Town

Whiskey stroll brings in large crowds



HOWARD BISCHOFF/TOWN CRIER

About 300 tasters showed up in downtown Los Altos Friday night for the Whiskey and Bites Stroll sponsored by the Los Altos Village Association. The Town Crier hosted 55/110 Whiskey from San Jose.



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News

Foothill-De Anza begins relocation process for apartment residents

By **Brandon Roth**
Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

Foothill-De Anza (FHDA) Community College District student housing is now accepting applications for its apartments near De Anza College amidst a controversial decision in removing current residents.

The board of trustees voted unanimously at the Sept. 8 Community College District Board of Trustees meeting to implement the relocation plan of McClellan Terrace Apartments residents with Gannett Fleming Technologies (GFT), an infrastructure consulting firm that assists companies with property services. The board hired GFT for an 18-month contract in May to meet with residents one-

on-one, form a comparable housing list and conduct an assessment of resident needs.

The residents will receive advisory assistance from the firm with their specific accommodations, relocation benefits based on state relocation law and guidelines and the district's rules that will provide moving expenses and rental assistance for tenants and last resort rental housing rental assistance if the firm can't locate a nearby property, according to the relocation program document.

The apartment residents also aired their complaints that evening, feeling excluded from important decisions regarding their apartment resident status and the company involved in their relocation process. More than 79 house-



MAX ASMAR/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Foothill-De Anza Community College District is accepting applications for its new student housing this fall. The new student housing complex will take over the McClellan Terrace apartment complex near De Anza Community College, pictured above. Many current residents believe they have been ignored during the relocation process.

holds, comprising multi-generational families and K-12 students, are expected to move before a June 30, 2026, deadline.

According to FHDA's pur-

chase and sale agreement, the district purchased the apartment complex, which went into escrow on March 11, for \$66.7 million and the expected renovation costs are \$28.2

million for its new student housing. The sale was finalized in July, allowing GFT to start its outreach mail and email

See APARTMENTS, Page 5

Los Altos City Council OKs demolition contract and votes in commissioners

By **Christina Casillas**
Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

Los Altos City Council members approved the demolition of the caretaker cottage at Redwood Grove and appointed a number of commissioners during last week's city council meeting.

The demolition of the caretaker cottage, a small building near the entrance of Redwood Grove, 482 University Ave., was approved unanimously Sept. 9 as a consent calendar item. The cottage is the only other building in the grove apart from the Halsey House. It historically housed the caretaker of Redwood Grove and the Halsey House, according to Manny Hernandez, parks and recreation director.

In recent years, the caretaker cottage has been used for storage.

"Since that caretaker cottage is no longer working in (a housing) capacity, camps have been using it for summer work, and storage, as well as Grassroots Ecology," he said in a phone call. "The contract we have with them, the city has with them, they do a lot of the nature plantings and similar things like that in Redwood Grove. They have an agreement with the city to do that and they work and store their tools out of there, too."

Demolition and removal of the cottage will be conducted by Castroville-based Randazzo Enterprises, Inc., and is set to not exceed \$98,900 – the initial cost a maximum \$86,000 with up to 15% contingency not exceeding \$12,900.

The city is currently working on the contract and insurance, so there is no established date for

See DEMOLITION, Page 7

News Briefs

Assessor candidate Zhao raises half a million for campaign

Yan Zhao, Santa Clara County Assessor candidate and current Saratoga City Council member, announced Sept. 4 that her campaign had reached the voluntary expenditure limit of \$500,000 in her run for the assessor's seat.

Zhao has been fundraising for the county assessor election since she started her campaign committee at the end of 2023. Candidates for the Santa Clara County Assessor's seat are allowed to

have a campaign maxed at \$500,000.

"This is an extraordinary show of support from all over Santa Clara County," Zhao stated in an email to newsletter subscribers. "It's not just about the dollars raised – it's about the growing support for an assessor's office that works better, serves people faster and uses modern tools to deliver real results and outreach for our community on everything from public safety to public schools."

The assessor's office is

See NEWS BRIEFS, Page 6

Police Blotter

Commercial burglary

Sept. 8, 8:02 p.m.: 1000 block of Terra Bella Avenue, Mountain View

Sept. 11, 8:28 a.m.: 2900 block of North Shoreline Boulevard, Mountain View

Sept. 12, 2:55 p.m.: 1000 block of Terra Bella Avenue,

Mountain View

Sept. 13, 10:03 a.m.: 700 block of West Middlefield Road, Mountain View

Sept. 14, 5:30 a.m.: 600 block of Calderon Avenue, Mountain View

Elder abuse

Sept. 12, 10:30 a.m.: 500

block of Tyrella Avenue, Mountain View

Grand theft

Sept. 11, 7:38 a.m.: 2200 block of Latham Street, Mountain View

Sept. 11, 4:10 p.m.: 3500 block of Truman Avenue, Mountain View

Sept. 12, 7:03 p.m.: 1900 block of West El Camino Real, Mountain View

Sept. 14, 6:14 p.m.: 500 block of San Luis Avenue, Los Altos

Robbery

Sept. 11, 7:47 p.m.: 1000 block of North Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View

Residential burglary

Sept. 5, 12:01 a.m.: Intersection of Deerfield Drive and Burke Road, Los Altos Hills

Sept. 11, 12:23 p.m.: 700 block of Continental Circle, Mountain View

Sept. 12, 7:31 a.m.: 600 block of Walker Drive, Mountain View

– Christina Casillas

APARTMENTS

From Page 4

to residents on the relocation plan.

Ellen Kamei, the FHDA director of government affairs and public information officer, said to the Town Crier in an email that the residents will have 90 days to vacate the property before their deadline date. She said it will not be a formal eviction – it won't show up in their rental record since it is not an eviction with cause. However, if they stay past June 30, an eviction would be filed.

She said all the households will have a financial benefit based on the cost of a similar unit in the current market. The costs would then be subtracted by the lower of 30% of gross household income or their current rent and at the end multiplied by 42 months. She also said each household will work with a specialist who would help them with applications and paperwork, housing tours and transportation, viewings and connections to moving and storage vendors.

“Each household will be assigned a relocation specialist to guide them through the entire process, Kamei said. “Specialists will be available in person, by phone or by email – depending on the household's preference – to ensure residents receive personalized, hands-on support.”

She said at the last board meeting, the board also approved LPAS Architects, a Bay Area-based architectural team that works with higher education and apartment developers, to be hired for their design and construction. She said the design process is expected to last six months and the regular review with the city of Cupertino will last nine months. The construction phase won't begin until fall 2026.

“Several students are expected to move into McClellan Terrace Apartments this fall, a limited number of units are already in good condition,” Kamei said. “The broader complex will undergo a comprehensive renovation to modernize facilities and improve accessibility, including new units for residents with mobility, auditory and visual impairments.”

McClellan residents' next steps

Devendar Mallireddy, a McClellan Terrace resident for 14 years, said his parents and his son, who attends Monta Vista High School, live in one household and have relied on the surrounding community for their livelihood. He said his 83-year-old father has become accustomed to walking to nearby parks for health reasons. He said there is no other apartment that has so many amenities within a five-mile radius.

“In February, they announced that the FHDA is trying to buy this apartment and they closed the deal at the end of July,” Mallireddy said. “There are 94 families with more than around 34 kids who go to Monta Vista High School, and 63 kids who go to Kennedy Lincoln and Ferry Elementary that live in this particular apartment. After they hired GFT, they are unilaterally making decisions without us.”

Mallireddy said that the residents were not involved with hiring GFT to help them with relocation and had ignored their rights to be involved in the process of picking them. He said he is hoping the college district will find a fair solution in meeting the residents' needs. Mallireddy, alongside other residents, sent the board an appeal on Aug. 22 to have GFT provide technical assistance on the plan, but they were met with denial. He also wrote another appeal to the board's denial, stating the impact it could have on minorities, the elderly, large families and persons with disabilities.

He believes the board needs to re-examine the California Code of Regulations to ensure all the residents' requests are met before going forward with their project.

Robert Swenson, a lawyer based out of Minneapolis who represents displaced tenants, homeowners and businesses across the country, said residents from the apartments

reached out to review their relocation plan in early August to ensure their relocation rights were upheld. He said a group of 18 residents have been in contact with him and their biggest issue is not having enough time to review the documents.

“The residents filed appeals pursuant to the appeal procedures identified in the plan itself,” he said. “We were ignored by the board and the board argued that the appeals fell outside the business that was at hand and to approve the plan that day. So already, the college isn't really fulfilling its obligations according to the plan that they just approved. I know why they're rushing it. It's a scheduling issue. What motivates the board is timing in the schedule, not necessarily compassion for the residents.”

He said the board is trying to get people out as soon as October so they can begin their renovations. He said the residents do not believe they are getting the “maximum amount of relocation benefits,” and there are no properties in the surrounding areas that are compatible with their needs.

“At the recent board meeting, the board did not seem interested in listening to any further comments and all the comments that have been submitted are now part of the final approved plan,” Swenson said. “I would venture to say the board members probably will never even look at those comments. This ends their due diligence in implementing this relocation plan. From Monday on, they have the statutory right to move forward with their project.”

He said the residents also want FHDA to know they have the right to form a committee, but the district has taken their public meeting space away. However, he said that the district is trying its best to find a new space.

To learn more about the new FHDA housing site, visit fhdastudenthousing.com.

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News

CONSTRUCTION

From Page 1

includes construction on Plaza Central, from Third Street to State Street, and on Third Street, from Plaza North to Plaza South and is now on to phase two, expected to be completed in a month or two. Phase two includes the remainder of Plaza Central, from Third Street to First Street and parts of North San Antonio Road.

Wilson said services would likely be interrupted for some businesses that back up to Plaza North, with plans to let those affected know

72 hours in advance. Cal Water is also working with the city to minimize impacts. Water would likely be shut down for an hour in the morning or single lane closures for several days. Wilson said most of the work is done one block at a time. He said Cal Water chose this year to do the project as both the city and Cal Water had construction projects they wanted to complete in the coming year.

“We are trying to account for future development, and hopefully, that has a payoff down the road that there would be less of this type of construction,” Wilson said.

NEWS BRIEFS

From Page 4

responsible for the assessment of real and business properties across the county, including those that are secured and unsecured, according to the Santa Clara County Assessor’s Office website. Property taxes – which support public services provided by local governments and public schools – are levied by the assessment.

The assessor also does not collect property taxes, compute property tax bills, establish property tax laws, or set rules related to property tax rates or which property is appraised, according to the website.

Zhao has emphasized the need for better accessibility and customer service in the assessor’s office, including a technology revamp. While the assessor’s office is already in the process of putting a new information system in place, Zhao was disappointed with how long it took the county to upgrade compared to other nearby county assessor’s offices.

“I thought this office could use some fresh perspective

and (I want to) bring this office into 21st century technology,” Zhao told the Town Crier previously. “I have an engineering background. I think we can make this office better.”

Other candidates include Neysa Fligor, deputy Assessor and Los Altos City Council member, Rishi Kumar, former Saratoga City Council member, and Bryan Do, board president of the Eastside Union High School District in San Jose.

Lucas Ramirez announces run for local environmental nonprofit

As Lucas Ramirez approaches his final year on Mountain View City Council, he announced last week he’s running for a position on the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter Executive Committee.

Founded by environmental activist John Muir in 1892, the Sierra Club is a nonprofit, grassroots environmental organization dedicated to ensuring clean air and water, protecting wildlife and open spaces, and fighting the impacts of climate change.

Ramirez, who’s pushed

for affordable housing, environmental sustainability and climate resilience since he joined city council in 2019, said in an email that he’s running because he wants to continue the Sierra Club’s work in protecting environmentally sensitive lands, protecting agriculture, promoting sustainable development and enhancing and expanding open space and tree canopy.

“On the Mountain View Council, I have advocated for bird-safe building design, a dark sky ordinance, stronger reach codes, and ongoing funding for parks, open space, and affordable housing,” he stated in an email to his newsletter subscribers.

In the past, he said he’s worked with organizations including and similar to the Sierra Club, like Green Foothills, Greenbelt Alliance and the Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance. He said he looks forward to “contributing to the success of the regional environmental sustainability movement.”

Only members of the Sierra Club are allowed to vote. Other Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter Executive Committee candidates include Mike Swire, Michael Regula and Natalie Geise.

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MVPD arrests Los Altos suspect for perjury

Charges associated with high-profile wrongful death suit

By Christina Casillas
Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

Mountain View police arrested a Los Altos resident Thursday after a warrant was issued for his arrest Sept. 9. The arrest followed an investigation into his involvement in a wrongful death civil case related to the death of his wife, Mountain View resident Alice Ku, according to a Mountain View Police Department press release.

The suspect, Harald Herchen, 66, was arrested at 10:45 a.m. Sept. 11 in the 900 block of Lundy Lane in Los Altos by Mountain View police detectives, with the assistance of the FBI and Santa Clara County District Attorney's office. He was booked in the Santa Clara County Main Jail on an active

warrant for seven counts of perjury – lying under oath.

The wrongful death case was filed June 12, 2021 by Ku's family. Ku married Herchen in October 2017. During a November 2019 business trip to Taiwan completely orchestrated and planned by Herchen for himself and Ku – both Mountain View residents at the time – Ku disappeared, according to court documents.

Although her body was never found, nor was a cause of death ruled, a Santa Clara County judge ruled she died Nov. 29, 2019 in Taroko National Park. In the days following her death, plaintiffs allege Herchen used Ku's electronic device to send emails to himself, deceiving law enforcement and members of Ku's family.

Herchen was eventually ordered to pay approximately \$23 million to the decedent's family after he was found liable in the wrongful death suit.

DEMOLITION

From Page 4

when demolition will begin, Hernandez said. However, he estimated it should begin sometime in early October. While subject to change, the city is estimating the demolition of the building and removal of debris to span four weeks. Access to Redwood Grove would also be affected.

"That pathway down the hill into the cottage area, and then across the cottage that goes to the grove itself and the Halsey house, the public will have limited access through there," he said. "Obviously, we don't want to mix people with big equipment that are coming down to pull out pieces and get some of that debris out. During certain intervals of the demolition, there'll be no access across that area when they're working with big machinery or big trucks."

The official council meeting lasted a short 30 minutes following a longer special session including interviews of applicants for a variety of city commissions. After the interviews, city council members filled out paper bal-



HOWARD BISCHOFF/TOWN CRIER

The caretaker cottage at Redwood Grove is pictured above.

lots and submitted them to City Clerk Melissa Thurman.

Council voted Clara Roa to a vacant one-year seat on the Complete Streets Commission; Angelo DeGiuli to a short-term Environmental Commission seat expiring in September 2028; Jonathan Chang to one of three full-term Financial Commission seats expiring in September 2029; Karen Scussel to one full-term Historical Commission seat expiring in September 2029; Pierre Bedard, Ambica Bhardwaj and Jeanine Valadez were appointed to three full-term Library Commission seats expiring in Septem-

ber 2029, with two possible reappointments; Teresa Morris, Erin MacDonald, Misti Sangani, Ellen Dolich and Alexandra Nguyen to five full-term Parks, Arts, Recreation and Cultural Commission seats expiring in September 2029 and Yvette Stout to a short-term seat expiring in September 2027; Daphne Ross to one of two short-term Planning Commission seats expiring in September 2026; and Kris Olson to one of two short-term Senior Commission seats expiring in September 2026.

Vacant Planning and Senior commission seats will remain open, Thurman said in an email.



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Comment

Letters to the Editor

Happy retirement, Bruce

Sadly, I read about the retirement of our illustrious editor Bruce Barton in the Town Crier (Aug. 27, 2025). He will be a hard act to follow. Surely, after 32 dedicated years, he has earned his retirement. The communities in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View owe him a very big thank you. He always tried to be impartial and fair in printing articles. Some of which he agreed with and surely some of which he disagreed with. I will surely miss him and wonder if some of my controversial opinions will get published in the future under new leadership.

Please join me in wishing Bruce Barton a well earned happy retirement.

Myra Orta
Los Altos

that you are conducting a survey about astroturf. I attended the city council meeting last month and many others articulated my view that astroturf is not a good candidate for a heavily used dog park.

My vote for astroturf in a word: No!

- It off gasses and sends chemicals into the soil AND the water table

- Critters that depend on Earth are contaminated. Ultimately this includes humans. Plastics have been discovered in our bloodstream, lungs...

- It cannot be kept clean

- Gets moldy and contaminated with animal and bird feces

- It is murderously hot when the sun is strong

Karina Nilsen
Los Altos

Beware flood plains

Re: Ashley Hawrylyshyn's letter on concern over loss of the nonprofit Lapidary Shop in Shoup Park's Garden House (Sept. 3,

2025), she might remind city council that the Garden House is in Adobe Creek's flood plain – not a favorable spot for city records.

This creekside location was once Mrs. Shoup's garden, her pride and joy, but a horticultural expense former city management were anxious to avoid so (they) offered the area to Los Altos Seniors to build the Garden House at their own expense. Today's standards would not advise a city structure in a flood plain and municipal use would be wise to keep its recreation uses as fluid as possible.

Santa Clara County lost all too many historic documents when the Guadalupe River flooded out their basement storage and Stanford spent a small fortune in restoring archives lost to the San Francisquito Creek flooding of Green Library.

A Lapidary Shop is probably more suited to a river's erosive action than city files.

Jack Lucas
Los Altos

Peek into the past



COURTESY OF THE LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

Ralph Appio, seated on a circa 1920 Fordson (solid wheel) tractor, and his brother Peter, hunkered down with their dog, Bambi, work in a prune orchard in 1945 on Portola Avenue. The brothers drag heavy stones behind the tractor to smooth the ground around the prune trees.

Vote no for astroturf

Thank you for making people aware of this toxic issue.

Dog park members just told me

Letters to the Editor

The Town Crier welcomes letters to the editor on current events pertinent to Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View. Drop us a line at 138 Main St., Los Altos 94022, Attn: Editor or email letters to howardb@latc.com. Because editorial space is limited, please confine letters to no more than 200 words. Include a phone number for verification purposes. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

Unite and rise to protect democracy

By Katie Zoglin

In December 2010, a fruit vendor in central Tunisia set himself on fire out of frustration with local authorities. Little did he know that he would spark what would be known as the Arab Spring. Soon after that, citizens of all ages and backgrounds were protesting in the streets, calling for the ouster of their long-term autocratic ruler Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. They were fed up with corruption, economic inequality, nepotism and their lack of rights. After several weeks of mass protests, Ben Ali fled Tunisia in January 2011.

At the time, I was working for a nonprofit in Washington, D.C., overseeing democracy promotion projects in the Middle East and North Africa funded by the U.S. government. In March 2011, I travelled to Tunis, the capital of Tunisia on the Mediterranean coast of north Africa. As I walked through the center of Tunis, the excitement and apprehension in the air were palpable. The streets were crowded with people exercising their new rights, peacefully protesting on one street corner after another. Under Ben Ali, they never would have been allowed

Other Voices

to do that without fear of being arrested. Now, they were publicly voicing their opinions just because they could, for the first time in years.

A couple of months later, the people returned to the streets. But this time, it was because no elections had been held and they were frustrated that they were not yet living in a democracy. I remember speaking with young adults, urging them to participate in public life and explaining how a democracy is not created overnight. Some were reluctant to or not interested in joining in the efforts to become a democracy but deeply wanted that outcome. I explained that democracy requires the participation of all and it takes continuing work.

Those conversations caused me to reflect on whether I was practicing what I preached. I asked myself, what am I doing to support our democracy here at home?

I returned to California and became involved with the League of Women Voters (LWV), a non-

profit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization that encourages informed and active participation in government.

This spring, the LWV declared a constitutional crisis, explaining that “checks and balances, the rule of law, (and) free and fair elections ... are under direct and sustained threat.” In May, it launched a campaign called “United and Rise 8.5.” The campaign seeks to mobilize 8.5 million voters. According to a study, nonviolent protests that engage 3.5% of the population – approximately 8.5 million voters – can bring about meaningful change.

Please join this effort to mobilize 8.5 million voters by writing to your elected officials, voting, volunteering to help at elections or to observe polls, participating in local marches and turning out at public meetings. We all need to step up and to work to have our voices heard so as to preserve our democracy. As President Kennedy once said, “Democracy is never a final achievement. It is a call to an untiring effort.”

Katie Zoglin is the President of the Los Altos-Mountain View Area League of Women Voters.



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Community

Fifth grader creates comic book about killer pandas

By Dorie Xie
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Ten-year-old Kabir Jnagal has uncovered a world of killer pandas, snow dodgeball and secret cave portals. They're all featured in the Los Altos fifth grader's debut comic book, "The Freaky, Killer Antarctic Pandas."

"These pandas in Antarctica, they're out for blood," Kabir said. "And the main character, Bob, his mission was to find the pandas and create peace so that they don't destroy the world."

Published in August on Amazon, the 96-page book is a culmination of just over half a year's work for the Springer Elementary School student. Inspired by his favorite comics

"Dog Man" and "Calvin and Hobbes," Kabir brainstormed the idea in February from a daily writing exercise with his dad.

"With my dad, we always wrote a few sentences a day about how the day went and then one day, he told me to write whatever I want," Kabir said. "So, I wrote this idea on a Google Doc and I said, 'Could I turn it into a book?' And then it became this whole thing."

Kabir and his father Amit Jnagal, a published author, then developed and edited the story together.

"I did a lot of thinking, then wrote it down in a notebook," Kabir said. "If it felt good, I'd keep it. Or my dad would tell me to change it."



COURTESY OF MEENAKSHI JNAGAL

Artwork from Kabir Jnagal for his comic book series *The Freaky, Killer Antarctic Pandas*.

At his peak, Kabir said he worked for about 90 minutes every day, including writing and editing.

"He would write a few pages every day, and he would run it by his dad," said Meenakshi Jnagal, Kabir's mother. "Re-working was something that he didn't like very much, but

he needed to learn to take and implement readers' feedback, which he did."

But his words on the page were only half of it – Kabir also needed illustrations to finish the comic. He opted for AI-generate images using ChatGPT, which created another learning curve – how to

prompt the engine.

"That was probably the main struggle of writing the book," Kabir said.

For example, Kabir had to write prompts specific enough to include exactly what he wrote about and deal with the

See COMIC, Page 12



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Community

MV garage sale brings out crowds



BRANDON ROTH/TOWN CRIER

From left, Tim Noack, Henry Abedor, Finn Noack, Kathy Lee and Claire Chen pose at the 2025 Mountain View garage sale Sunday. Hundreds of Mountain View residents participated in holding garage sales at their homes Saturday and Sunday selling paintings, clothes, old technology, jewelry and books.

Community Briefs

History committee holds fall presentation

The Los Altos Hills History Committee has scheduled its fall presentation, "Los Altos Hills and the Surrounding Areas before Statehood," for 2 p.m. Sept. 21 in the Los Altos Hills Council Chambers. The presenter, Robert Senkewicz, was a professor of history at the University of Santa Clara between 1976 and 2018. A reception will follow.

To RSVP, visit the town of Los

Altos Hills website at losaltoshills.ca.gov, scroll down to calendar and click on Sept. 21.

Compassion Week Blood Drive

Vitalant is asking the public to consider making a donation of blood between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6 at St. Williams Hall, 611 S. El Monte Ave., Los Altos. Appointments can be made at vitalant.org using the blood drive code: compassion week.



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Community

Arroyo Road Block Party enters fifth decade

By Allyson Johnson

More than 40 neighbors on Arroyo Road in Los Altos met for a block party Sept. 6, marking a long-lived tradition of connecting with neighbors. The annual block party takes advantage of the cul-de-sac at the end of Arroyo Road, and features potluck salads, appetizers and desserts, a gas fired grill for sausages and kebabs, games for the kids, and a wine-tasting contest for the adults. For the last several years, the Los Altos Fire Department has also made a guest appearance, allowing the children a chance to sit in the firetruck and ring the bell.

“It’s all about the community,” said co-organizer Andy Maisel. “When we moved here in 1986, It was already going on and we were told we had to take part. We’ve been doing it ever since.”



COURTESY OF ALLYSON JOHNSON

Top: The Los Altos Fire Department shows the public an engine. Bottom: Los Altos residents gather for food and fun.



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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COMIC

From Page 9

technical difficulties of using the AI resource.

“This one image – and it’s very funny – where he needed a panda as a waiter ... but the AI carried the waiter panda through all its images,” Meenakshi said. “There’d be a war going on and there’d still be waiter pandas in the corner. It was funny, but it was also very frustrating.”

Despite that initial setback, with practice, Kabir successfully generated illustrations to fill the comic.

“He was eventually pretty spot on with what he wanted them to be after the initial glitch,” Meenakshi said. “He did a good job feeding it what he expected out of it.”

With the completed comic now published and available for purchase online, Kabir has started receiving reader feedback.

“A lot of people from my school have read it, and everyone’s saying it’s pretty good,”

Kabir said.

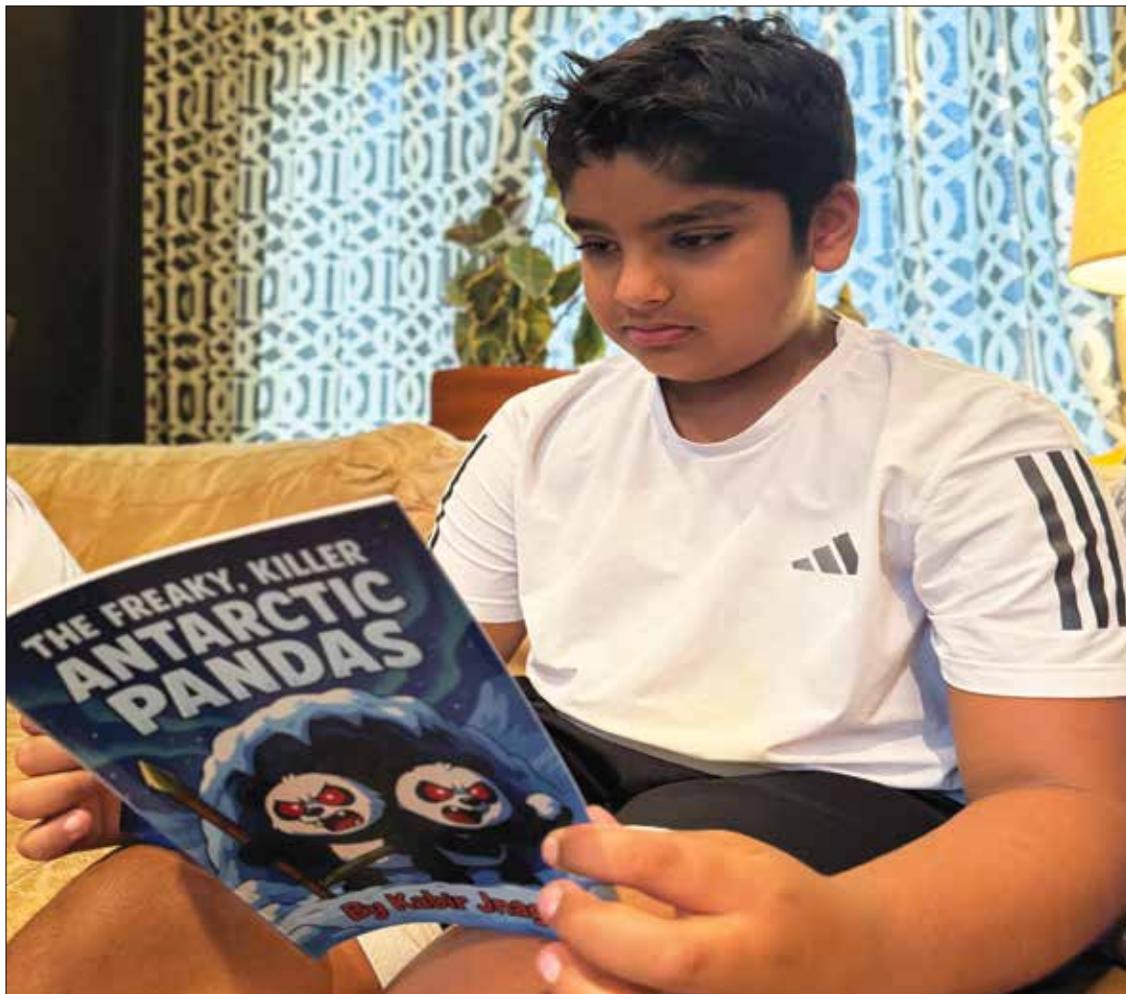
The success of “The Freaky, Killer Antarctic Pandas” doesn’t just motivate Kabir, though. For his mother, the product and process have been inspiring to watch him grow as both a writer and a thinker.

“He’s got this flair with words where he makes it very humorous as well,” Meenakshi said. “The current generation – and even he – has a hard time focusing on things because there’s so much online he can do. I think this process has helped him calm down, sit, write, focus and think hard.”

As for Kabir, he’s already thinking about what comes next.

“I want to take a break, but I already know what I want to write for the next book,” Kabir said.

The book is available in hard copy and on Kindle. For more information and to purchase the book (\$5.99-\$19.99), visit tinyurl.com/2n6t5dku.



COURTESY OF MEENAKSHI JNAGAL

Kabir Jnagal reads a copy of his comic book series, *The Freaky, Killer Antarctic Pandas*.

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Winchester sisters talk today at LA History Museum

By **Ethan Xue**

Town Crier Editorial Intern

Janan Boehme, a historian and special project manager at the Winchester Mystery House, will lead a discussion tonight in Los Altos exploring the history and architectural legacy of Sarah Winchester and sister Isabel Merriman.

Titled “Sarah and Isabel: Two Sisters and Their Dream Houses,” the event is scheduled for 5:30-7 p.m. at the Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road. Admission is free for museum members and \$15 for non-members.

Boehme said she has lent several Winchester Mystery House artifacts to the museum to offer a physical connection between it and the Los Altos house owned by Merriman. The museum’s latest exhibition, “Building El Sueno,” features Merriman’s life and work.

Throughout the discussion, Boehme said she aims to cover Winchester’s personal story and compare her house with Merriman’s to offer insight on her architectural style.

Although most people only know of the Winchester Mystery House, Boehme said she will focus the discussion on Sarah Winchester, who de-

signed the San Jose house, and her personal relationships.

“Her house is a wonderful piece of history, and (Winchester) was an amazing person. She was really intelligent, a good businesswoman and was a very generous person too,” Boehme said. “She and her sister Isabel were very close; she was the same but in a different way. I like to share those stories because a lot of people don’t know them, have never heard them and will otherwise not hear them.”

Following this, Boehme said she plans to discuss Winchester’s community impacts from when she was alive (1839-1922) and today.

“One of her goals was to use her money to employ people and help them support their families. There were a lot of people who lived on the estate and raised their families,” Boehme said. “Because the house survived over the last 100 years, she has continued to employ many, many people.”

Reflecting on her fascination with Winchester, Boehme said her lifelong passion for these topics has allowed her to lead this discussion and foster community appreciation for Winchester’s positive legacy.



COURTESY OF MEENAKSHI JNAGAL

Janan Boehme stands in front of the Winchester Mystery House.

“When I first saw the house as a small child, I just fell in love with it. When I was old enough, I got a job as a tour guide, and I’ve always had a real connection to the place,” Boehme said. “I like to (share) the history and

make sure people understand that she was a very special person and did a lot of good in the community.”

To register for the event and more information, visit tinyurl.com/52z37frw.

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Schools

Los Altos School District extends contracts for 10th site

By Brandon Roth

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

The Los Altos School District is making progress on its new school site called the San Antonio Campus on California Street and Showers Drive by starting with discussions on its design and extending construction contracts.

The board of trustees at the Sept. 8 meeting unanimously voted in favor of the extension of the Funding Joint Use Agreement and the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Agreement – a contract that would allow developers to obtain unused property at \$130 per square foot.

LASD bought the 10th site – alongside the city of Mountain View in a Funding Joint Use Agreement – from Kohl’s department store in 2019 and let them finish out its lease in January 2025. They also allowed Community Service Agency to remain on the site until March.

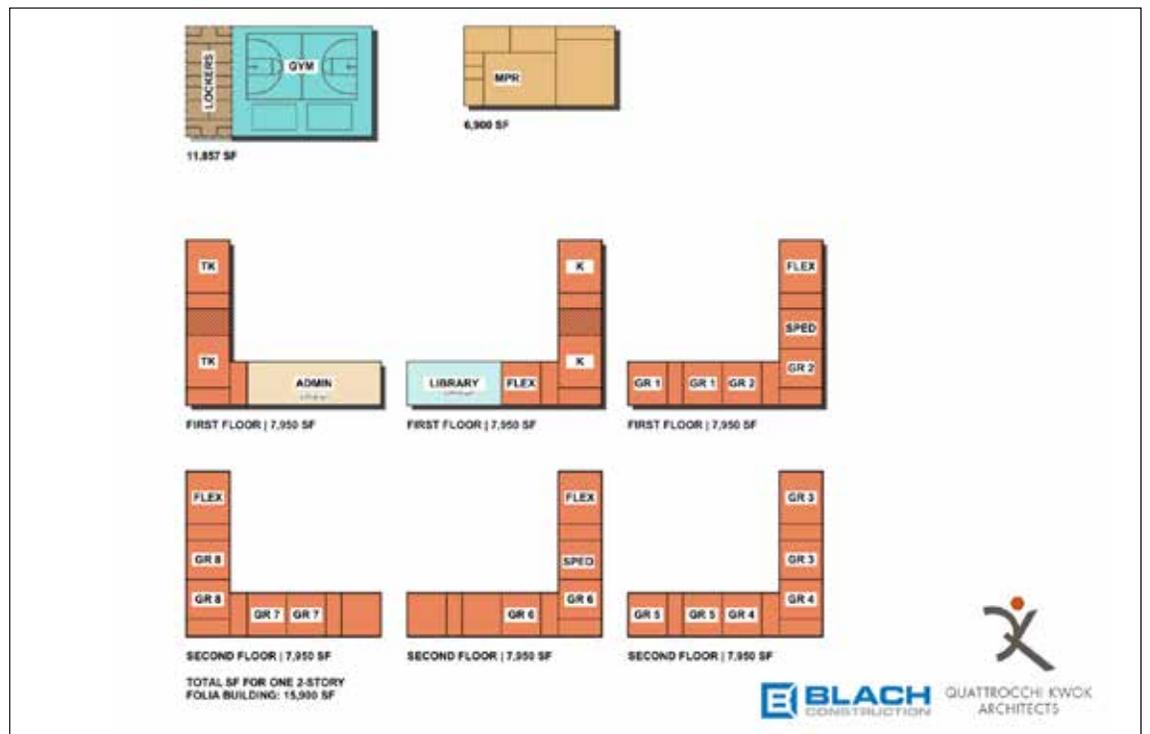
Erik Walukiewicz, LASD’s assistant Superintendent of Business Services, said at the meeting that the city of Mountain View is contributing \$23 million in exchange for the site

to have recreation available for community use and that it would be in the board’s best interest to approve the contracts because of COVID delays and in case of any contingencies with construction.

“The TDR program was set to expire in a few years,” he said. “So instead of going from a 10-year agreement, it’s going to be a 20-year extension. And we feel that it’s enough time to really see if the TDRs come in. Right now, the commercial real estate market is not in the best shape, with interest rates and many other factors in our community.”

Walukiewicz said to the Town Crier that the school campus will hold grade levels from transitional kindergarten to eighth grade and that it will fit roughly more than 600 students.

He said there is no official name to the school yet and said the board has still not decided on which community will be going there. He said it is exciting to see the project come along and that by passing the recent agreements, it will allow prospective developers to purchase some of the district’s



SCREENSHOT COURTESY OF QUATTROCCHI KWOK ARCHITECTS

Concept designs of Los Altos School District’s new construction site classrooms.

MediLink: AI-powered medical translation app

By Maya Dutt

Town Crier Editorial Intern

The Bay Area is a diverse hub of languages and cultures, with more than 160 languages spoken in households. However, medical centers don’t have someone available to speak all of these languages, potentially leading to a lack of communication between patients and healthcare providers.

A Los Altos teen has created a solution to help bridge this gap.

Los Altos High School freshman Maahi Gupta recently developed a site called MediLink, which allows patients to fill out medical forms, schedule appointments, read doctor summaries, take screening tests and get medical advice about common ailments. It can translate seven languages: English, Spanish, Chinese,

Tagalog, Vietnamese, Hindi, Korean and Bengali.

If immediate assistance is required, users can press a button which would allow them to email their respective hospital for help or connect with an interpreter on Facetime, Gupta said.

Users can also ask the built-in AI chatbot questions, and it can respond with both text and audio. Gupta said she trained the audio feature using YouTube content produced in the respective languages so the chatbot could understand and replicate native accents.

“It was really fun asking it questions and seeing what its responses were,” Gupta said. “I was laughing the whole time because I was so amazed. Its responses were really helpful and it was mind blowing that it could do that.”

The idea for MediLink came

from Gupta’s own experience. She had seen her family accompany her grandparents to the hospital many times because they did not speak English.

Gupta said she did not think much of it until she attended the San Mateo County API Foundation summer internship program, which aims to expose youth to public service and give them networking opportunities with city officials.

While speaking to community members during the program, Gupta said she realized the lack of medical translation was a bigger problem than she previously thought.

“I remember my grandparents always said, ‘What was the doctor saying?’” Gupta said. “I grew up around that, but through my internship, I realized this problem was overlooked. There’s so much

TDR prospective developers and TDR development deals weren’t coming to fruition. By extending this out, it gives the district more time to potentially get some TDR buyers, and then that money can go straight into our bond program to help fund part of the project.”

He said other funds for the project will come from the remaining amount of Measure N, a \$150 million bond measure that was passed in 2014 and Measure EE, a \$350 million bond that was passed in 2024. The project is expected to cost

See DESIGN, Page 17



COURTESY OF MAAHI GUPTA

Second to right, Maahi Gupta, a ninth grader at Los Altos High School, created an AI-powered translation application that helps seniors and limited-English families understand medical terms and hospital instructions.

diversity, but we still don’t have sufficient interpreters at hospitals.”

At the end of the internship, students had to present a pro-

posal to the county, and Gupta’s group focused on the lack of resources for non-English

See TRANSLATE, Page 17

Schools

DESIGN

From Page 16

\$117 million: \$71.9 million going toward the various classroom buildings, \$18.3 million toward outdoor beautification, \$1 million for solar panel systems and \$4 million for general conditions.

“We passed the bond and we’ve got the funding mechanism in place, so now we can kind of start moving in a positive direction and start getting something actually designed and built out,” he said.

Nick Stephenson, a principal architect at Quattrocchi Kwok Architects, also presented the board with an update on the concept and designs involved with the San Antonio Campus.

The architecture firm plans to construct three two-story buildings dispersed throughout the campus, one multipurpose building and a custom gym.

According to the architecture floor plans, each floor will hold various grade levels and each room will hold a capacity between 40 and 54 people. The groups include TK, kindergarten and special education, first and second grades, third through fifth grades and sixth through eighth grades.

Stephenson said there will be two classrooms for every grade and flex rooms that can be used for various class activities. He said there are other unassigned rooms that could be flex rooms or used for different grade levels. He said his team is

also trying to find ways to utilize the new outdoor space and meet the different needs of the school district.

“We want to provide students a quiet, contemplative space, but also very active spaces for play structures and games,” Stephenson said. “That is why we have these. We’ve used these three L-shaped buildings to kind of create a few intersecting spaces that are a little bit more private and then that connect out to the more public space.”

The next steps for the site include community engagement, site investigations, city of Mountain View coordination and district standards development. Construction on the site is not scheduled to begin until May 2026.

Schools Brief

5th-8th graders invited to enter American history contest

Students between the fifth and eighth grades are invited to enter the 2025-26 American history contest, sponsored by the Los Altos Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Students in those grades are eligible if they live in or attend school in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View or Sunnyvale or if they attend one of the invited Challenger School campuses (Strawberry Park, Berryessa, and Sunnyvale). Entries are due Oct. 25. (Students in grades 9-12 will have a separate essay and video contest.)

This year’s contest commemorates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of our country in 1776, with the topic “Lunch with a Signer!” Contestants will prepare an entry responding to the prompt: America will celebrate her 250th birthday on July 4, 2026. If you could go back in time

and meet one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence for lunch, who would you choose? How did their actions and service contribute to our country becoming independent?

Students may choose to enter a written essay or a short video (less than 3 minutes long).

Students may enter the video contest as an individual or a team of two; an essay entry must have an individual author. See the website losaltos.californiadar.org for detailed information about the contest, entry forms and study guides.

The Los Altos Chapter, DAR will select one chapter winner at each grade level. These winners will receive a cash prize, a medal and a certificate. They will then go to the next level of the competition, potentially progressing through additional levels to compete at the national level. Los Altos Chapter will host a celebration for the chapter’s contest winners on Sat-

urday, Jan. 24, presenting the \$100 prize per essay and \$200 prize per video and the Los Altos Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), founded in 1950, focuses on education, local historic preservation projects, genealogy research, environmental conservation, service to veterans, and other community projects. The chapter has planned multiple programs to celebrate America’s 250th birthday in 2026. DAR is a nonpartisan volunteer women’s service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, education and historic preservation. Any woman 18 years or older is eligible to join if she can prove lineal descent from a supporter of the American Revolution (through military service, financial donations such as donativos at the California presidios, food supply, government service or other support).

Visit losaltos.californiadar.org to learn more.

ters in Mountain View and is currently getting a HIPAA compliance certificate so patients’ personal information can be protected.

“(MediLink) will definitely be part of my high school experience,” Gupta said. “I’m going to try to expand this. This is one of my passions, and I definitely will create more projects to overcome this issue.”

TRANSLATE

From Page 16

speakers at local medical facilities, program director and co-founder Michelle Droz said.

While most groups delivered a presentation, Gupta was the only one who presented a live demo of the app she had developed, Droz said.

“What I loved about it is that it was a surprise,” Droz said. “Here she has this opportunity to showcase her app in a presentation full of local leaders. It was made for her, but it was obviously something she’s been working on for a very long time.”

After the program ended, Gupta said she wanted to continue developing the app. She contacted senior cen-

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Sports

Young Eagles stage comeback in SCVAL volleyball opener

By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

Down 2-1 against Milpitas Wednesday, the Los Altos girls volleyball team won two straight sets to seal the win, punctuated with a thunderous final kill in the fifth set from outside hitter Aviya Russo.

"It was game point, and everybody said, 'just rip it; last ball,' so I think that was the mentality," Russo said.

Los Altos head coach Peter Kim credits the team's mentality in the fourth and fifth sets for helping turn around the deficit to win 3-2, noting his young team didn't play well in the second and third sets but focused in later in the match. Los Altos has several new key contributors in freshman right-side hitter Kat Minkevich, freshman setter Angela Deng and sophomore outside hitter

Mila Wong playing in their first Santa Clara Valley Athletic League De Anza Division league match of the year.

"So, half the team on the court is basically either a freshman or a new starter," Kim said.

While the season has just begun, Kim expects improvements as the season progresses and they play together more.

"It's still a process right now, trying to get them all basically working together as a team," Kim said. "Some people are doing one thing and then some people are doing other things, so that's something we have to do as a coaching staff to get them better."

The Eagles will look to seniors Ella McFarlane, Ana Heath and Russo to lead the team, with Heath a consistent presence with her passing and defense and McFar-



GABRIELA TELES/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Los Altos outside hitter Aviya Russo jumps up for a kill during the first league game of the season against Milpitas Wednesday. The Eagles won 3-2.

lane a dynamic force in the front row. Russo, an outside hitter, finished with a team-leading 21 kills and believes the Eagles will continue to get better as the season progresses.

"I think we are a very new

team from last year, so just building those connections, making sure we know who's going for what ball and building that synergy," Russo said.

Los Altos (6-3) opened the match with a 25-17 first-set win thanks to six kills in

the set from Russo. Milpitas (7-2) followed with wins in sets two and three (25-19, 25-17) before Los Altos won the fourth and fifth sets (25-18, 15-7) by going on early runs at the beginning of the sets to

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 19

Mountain View falls in offensive shootout against Live Oak

By Curtis Driscoll
Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

From the very first offensive play of the game, it was all scoring and action between the Mountain View football team and Live Oak.

The two teams combined for eight touchdowns and just one punt in the first half, trading the lead seven times to make it 28-26 at halftime for Live Oak, which eventually pulled away for a 49-32 away win in the non-league game.

Mountain View opened the scoring on its first offensive play with a touchdown pass downfield from quarterback Ishan Devarapalli to receiver Micah Perkins to make it 6-0. Live Oak quarterback Adrian Leal then found wide receiver Praise God Ofobuikwe for a 22-yard touchdown catch to take the lead, while the Spartans answered with a 17-yard touchdown run from running back Dom Kristof to make it 12-7 with three minutes left in the first quarter. Live Oak scored just a minute later, thanks to a touchdown catch from Tanner Holeman, but Mountain View added another touchdown with 25 seconds in the first quarter with a Kristof touchdown run to make it 20-14.

"We got back to the good, a good, balanced attack," Mountain View head coach Rick Esparza said of the offense. "Dom Kristof ran the ball like he did during our first game, very well. Ishan De-



KELLEN SCANLON/TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

Mountain View lost 49-32 against Live Oak Thursday in its third game of the season.

varapalli threw the ball just like he did in our first game and the second game, very well. That's what we are trying to be. We are trying to be very balanced in our approach, and I thought, at times, we run and passed blocked well."

After the two teams exchanged touchdowns in the second quarter to make it 26-21 Mountain View, the visitors took the lead for good through an Ofobuikwe touchdown with 25 seconds left until halftime to make it 28-26. The Acorns took advantage of getting the ball first after halftime by scoring a touchdown run from running back Gage

Jones, making it a two-possession game at 35-26 with eight minutes remaining in the third quarter.

Following a Mountain View turnover on downs, Leal quickly hit Ofobuikwe for a 72-yard touchdown catch to make it 42-26 Live Oak with 3:42 left in the third quarter. Mountain View made it 42-32 with a 74-yard touchdown run from Kristof on an end-around on fourth and five on the Mountain View 26-yard line, with Kristof accelerating past the Live Oak defense. Kristof finished with three touchdowns in the game thanks to a fast and physical running style, with the junior taking the bulk of the carries with running back Braden Greene out.

"He's got great speed," Esparza said of Kristof. "He plays running back like a linebacker. He's not afraid to mix it up and run it in there."

Undefeated Live Oak added another score on the following drive with an 8-yard touchdown run from Jones to make it 49-32 with nine minutes left in the fourth quarter and held Mountain View from scoring for the rest of the game. Live Oak outscored Mountain View 21-6 in the second half.

"They ended up pulling away, and kudos to them," Esparza said. "We're going to keep on getting better."

Mountain View (1-3) will travel to play Menlo School Sept. 19 at 3:30 p.m., while Live Oak (3-0) will host Westmont Sept. 19 at 7 p.m.

Sports

VOLLEYBALL

From Page 18

build the advantage.

“I think we talked about starting strong,” Russo said. “I think it’s really hard to come back when the set’s really short if you’re down, so we started talking about pushing that beginning and continuing to go on.”

Kim noted that while the teams passing and serving were good, the defense had to improve, given the back-and-forth nature of the game.

“I think we also need to work on quite a bit of stuff like back row defense,” Kim said. “That’s an ongoing thing – they tend to like freelancing it too much, move around too much and get caught out of position. We need to work on having them be disciplined, be there, read, and then react, not react, and then I’m out of position now.”

Los Altos’ next league game is away against Homestead 6:45 p.m. Monday.

Montoya leaving Bay FC

By Curtis Driscoll

Staff Writer/curtisd@latc.com

Bay FC head coach Albertin Montoya will step down from his position at the end of the 2025 season, the club announced Sept. 8.

Montoya, a Los Altos High graduate, was named the first Bay FC coach in its history in 2023 and led the team to the National Women’s Soccer League (NWSL) playoff quarterfinals in its inaugural season.

“I have so much love for these players, staff and fans. We’ve built a culture and a style of play that I believe will compete for championships for years to come,” Montoya said in a press release. “I want to thank ev-

eryone at the Bay FC organization for their support. I look forward to finishing this season strong and for this club continuing to accomplish great things.”

Montoya grew up in Mountain View and played for the U.S. youth national teams and the San Jose Clash in Major League Soccer before coaching in the now-defunct Women’s Professional Soccer League and serving as interim head coach for the NWSL’s Washington Spirit. Montoya is also on the Mountain View Los Altos Soccer Club Board of Directors.

The NWSL regular season ends Nov. 2, with the NWSL Championship Nov. 22.

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



Montoya

COURTESY OF BAY FC

Sports Briefs

Town Crier Report

The Los Altos football team (0-3) lost 61-6 against Bellarmine (2-1) in a non-league matchup Friday night. Bellarmine is part of the West Catholic Athletic League, one of the toughest

leagues in Northern California.

The St. Francis football team lost 40-0 Friday against De La Salle, the top-ranked team in Northern California. St. Francis is now 0-3 on the season.

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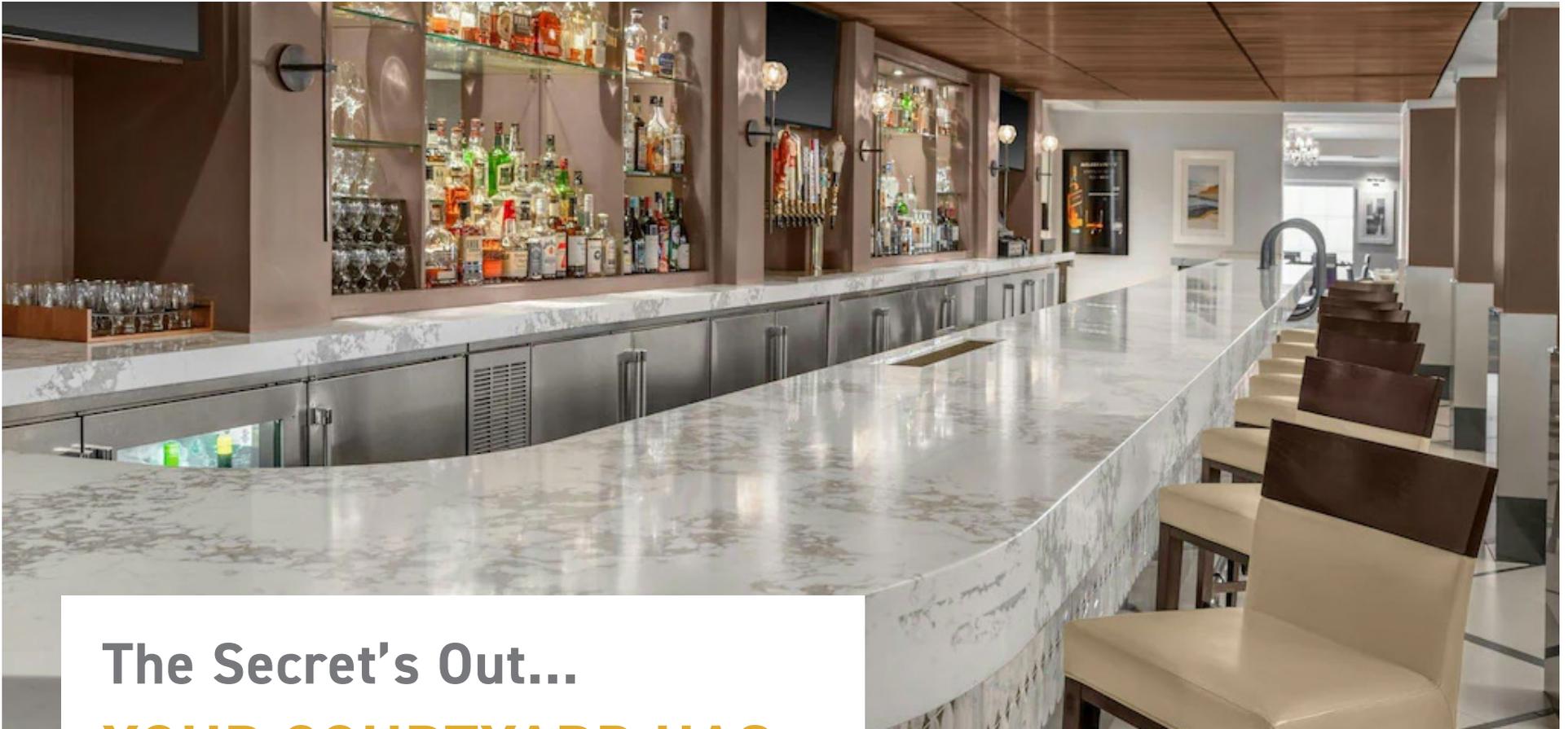
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Senior Lifestyles is published once every other month. For advertising information, email sales@latc.com.

Communicating with a loved one with dementia – dos and don'ts

By Duanni Hurd

This topic is always top of mind for me, as dementia has touched so many of our clients and their families over the years. Watching the progression of this disease is never easy. For family members, caregivers and, most importantly, the individual living with dementia, life can feel as though it is rapidly changing in ways that are difficult to understand or accept.

We have seen many different expressions of dementia-resultant behaviors. Dementia is a progressive disease with stages, characterized by gradual worsening behaviors over periods of time, yet every patient has their individualized progress. Some patients become combative and will punch, kick or even bite; some stay quiet, pleasant and calm; while others become

withdrawn and often at loss for words.

Journey
into Aging

Emotions from both patients and their family caregivers can run high in situations involving dementia, as our loved ones can behave like a total stranger or out of character from what we're used to. They may talk illogically, or behave erratically and aggressively. One client of ours that was a high-level diplomat his entire career, once dementia developed, often cursed and swore loudly at his beloved wife whenever agitation hit. Another client, a university professor who developed frontotemporal dementia, frequently attempted

inappropriate touching toward female caregivers. A client that was an accomplished writer and journalist regularly walked incessantly in mid-afternoon in the downtown area of Los Altos, sometimes trying to go across Foothill Expressway without following the traffic lights; when reminded and held back by the accompanying caregivers for her safety, she bit their arms and hands out of frustration.

In all situations, however, there is a common thread: The person often has little to no situational awareness of their behaviors, or the consequences of their behaviors. This loss of awareness often deepens as the disease advances, making communication especially challenging. Families often feel helpless, unsure of what to say or how to say it. Yet small



PHOTO FROM PIXABAY

Dementia and the behavioral complications can be difficult to navigate for families, columnist Duanni Hurd writes. changes in how we approach everyone involved. these conversations can bring comfort and reduce stress for See DOS & DON'TS, Page 23

Estate planning ramifications of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act

By Jean Kohler and Victoria Kaempf

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act ("OBBBA"), signed by President Trump on July 4, 2025, includes provisions which impact estate planning. Here are a few of the highlights:

Estate, lifetime gift and generation-skipping transfer taxes

For 10 years we have had countless discussions with clients about the looming reduction in the federal estate tax exemption, referred to as the "sunset." The discussions centered around ways to use the exemption before its reduction by half on Jan. 1, 2026. The estate tax landscape is indeed shifting on Jan. 1, but not necessarily in the way our industry anticipated.

The OBBBA includes a permanent and expanded increase to the federal estate tax exemption, with similar changes to the federal gift and generation-skipping transfer ("GST") tax exemptions. On Jan. 1, 2026, the federal unified lifetime gift and estate tax exemption will increase from its

Estate Planning

current \$13,990,000 per person to \$15,000,000 per person and the federal GST tax exemption will increase from its current \$13,990,000 per person to \$15,000,000 per person. Starting Jan. 1, 2027, these new exemption amounts will be adjusted annually for inflation. Before the OBBBA, each of these exemptions was scheduled to be reduced to about \$7,200,000 per person on Jan. 1, 2026. These changes are permanent unless a future Congress reverses them with new legislation. The estate, gift and GST tax rates remain at 40%.

For the overwhelming majority of American households, these changes will mean nothing. However, for high-net-worth individuals, these changes are transformative. Some will be relieved to have the pressure to utilize the high exemptions via lifetime gifting before the end of the year lifted, while others may welcome the opportunity to transfer more wealth to the next generation and to future generations. Some who have already

made substantial gifts in anticipation of the sunset may want to explore ways to unwind the gifts and take back the gifted assets. Tried and true strategies like grantor retained annuity trusts, defective grantor trusts and dynasty trusts remain useful, but weighing the benefit of estate tax reduction against the loss of the income tax basis step up at death is crucial and complex.

The determination of the annual exclusion gift amount (currently \$19,000 per person per year), the basis "step-up" at death, and the spousal portability rules all remain unchanged under the OBBBA. These important features benefit just about everyone, so regardless of one's net worth, estate planning remains essential.

Trump accounts

Another key feature of the OBBBA is the "Trump account" pilot program. A Trump account is an IRA-style investment account for children born between Jan. 1, 2025, and Dec. 31, 2028, seeded with a gift from the federal government of \$1,000. The account assets will appreciate on an

income tax deferred basis, but no funds may be withdrawn prior to the child's 18th birthday. When the child turns 18, the account converts to a traditional IRA with special rules allowing for distributions to the child for education, training programs, a home purchase and small business start-up costs. At age 25, the child can withdraw the entire account for these approved purposes only; at age 30, the child can withdraw the entire account for any purpose. The accounts will grow on a tax-free basis, but qualified withdrawals will be taxed at the rate applicable to long-term capital gains (as opposed to ordinary income). The account assets may only be invested in certain types of mutual funds or ETFs. Until the child turns 18, a parent or others may gift to the child's account up to \$5,000 per year, using a portion of the annual exclusion. Some employers have already agreed to match the government's \$1,000 investment for the qualifying children of its employees, and these matching funds will not be treated as taxable income to the parent.

See ESTATE, Page 22

Senior Lifestyles

ESTATE From Page 21

Expansion of 529 plans

The OBBBA also expands the utility of the beloved, tax-advantaged 529 education savings account. Starting in 2026, authorized payments for K-12 education costs will increase from \$10,000 per year to \$20,000, homeschooling expenses will be authorized, as well as tutoring expenses, testing fees, vocational education expenses, credentialing programs and continuing education costs. For

families with a special needs child, the ability to roll over a 529 account to an ABLA account will become permanent. Note that 529 plans are established under the purview of a state-sponsored plan, so be sure to check the state rules of your 529 plan as well – it may take some time for the state laws to conform to these federal changes.

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

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Friendly voices brighten days – Nonprofit to join Avenidas family

Town Crier Staff Report

Friendly Voices, a nonprofit that provides human connections for older adults through regular phone calls, is expected to join forces with Avenidas this month, according to a press release. Approved by both organizations, the merger is pending state approval.

Since its inception in 2020, Friendly Voices has supported more than 380 older adults, primarily in the Bay Area. Dozens of volunteers each week chat with their “phone buddies,” enriching their lives with precious human connection.

“From a simple idea, a friendly phone call, we’ve built

something deeply human and enduring,” said Friendly Voices founder Laura Steuer. “Joining forces with Avenidas is the fulfillment of our vision, and I couldn’t be more hopeful about what’s ahead.”

Avenidas has been referring clients to Friendly Voices since 2020. Avenidas President and CEO Kristina Lugo called Friendly Voices “a powerful service rooted in compassion, consistency, and care.”

For information on becoming a phone buddy or to refer an older adult to this service, visit friendlyvoices.org. For more on Avenidas and its services and volunteer opportunities, call (650) 289-5499 or visit avenidas.org.

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DOS AND DON'TS

From Page 21

Here are some simple but effective dos and don'ts when communicating with a loved one who has dementia:

Dos:

- Be patient. Listen to and acknowledge their communication, as if it's the first time hearing it, even though you may have heard the same thing five times in the past 30 minutes.
- Use short, clear sentences. Speak slowly and simply, avoiding complicated explanations.
- Maintain eye contact and gentle body language. Nonverbal communication often speaks louder than words.
- Validate their feelings. Even if their reality isn't yours, acknowledging emotions ("I see you're upset" or "That sounds frustrating") can calm anxiety.
- Offer reassurance. Familiar phrases like "You're safe" or "I'm here with you" go a long way.
- Redirect gently. If agitation rises, change the subject to something soothing.

Don'ts:

- Don't argue or correct. Trying to convince

someone with dementia that they are wrong usually causes more confusion and distress.

- Don't overwhelm with too many choices. Instead of "What do you want for lunch?" try "Would you like soup or a sandwich?"
- Don't raise your voice. Frustration can unintentionally escalate the situation.
- Don't take aggression personally. Remember, it's the disease, not your loved one, causing the behavior.

Above all, patience and empathy are essential. Dementia takes away many abilities, but the need for dignity, love and human connection never fades. By adjusting how we communicate, families can preserve moments of trust and tenderness even in the hardest stages of the illness.

Caring for someone with dementia is difficult, but with the right tools, understanding and patience, we can ease the journey for the person affected, for their caregivers and for the family members who love them most.

Duanni Hurd is founder of Starlight Caregivers, a Los Altos-based home-care organization that serves most of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. For more information, visit starlight-caregivers.com.

Out & About – Upcoming events in Los Altos

The following events are part of Los Altos' Adult 50+ Program. Registration is required. Call (650) 947-2797 or email adult50plus@losaltosca.gov.

• **Mini-trip: John's Pumpkin Farm, Half Moon Bay, Thursday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** Learn about pumpkin agriculture, take a hayride and select fresh pumpkins and sunflowers to take home. A

no-host group lunch at Ciya Mediterranean Cuisine follows. Round trip motorcoach transportation provided. Cost is \$75.

• **Meet-Up at Loyola Fire Station, Thursday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m. to noon.** Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Loyola Firehouse. Meet at the McKenzie Park picnic grounds at 707 Fremont Ave. to enjoy coffee and treats followed by an easy stroll to the firehouse. Free.

• **Diwali celebration, Wednesday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Enjoy cultural presentations from seniors of Los Altos and Los Altos Hills at the Los Altos Community Center, Grand Oak Room. Free.

• **Thankful Thanksgiving, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Join the Adult 50+ Program for a free seasonal lunch at the Los Altos Community Center, Grand Oak Room.

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Stepping Out

Palo Alto Players' 'Gypsy' entertains as much as she overcomes

By Brandon Roth

Staff Writer/brandonr@latc.com

How business isn't all glamour and glitz; it is years of hard work and a never-ending line of rejection.

Palo Alto Players' production of "Gypsy," a 1959 Broadway biographical story of Gypsy Rose Lee, an internationally renowned burlesque dancer popular between the 1930s and 1950s, demonstrates a young performer's transformation into a career she never imagined was possible. The play centers around the art of live entertainment, showing a behind-the-scenes look at Gypsy Rose and her little sister, June Havoc, as they grow up as child stars in vaudeville and then cast into a world that will eat you up.

It wasn't all about the children in the story; it took a strong woman to get them to the top. Mama Rose (Caitlin Gjerdrum) was the ultimate stage mom who

commanded the room and did whatever shady deal it took to make her children stars. In the beginning, Gypsy Rose Lee, or as a child known as Louise (Phoebe Wagner), and Baby June (Caitlin Segal), were at the whims of their mother and wherever she needed them to be. Baby June was the jewel of the family, having a successful act of being cute and doll-like for theatre houses across the country. Louise, however, was cast aside and given little potential to be the star.

Louise did not expect the attention as she grew up and did not believe she had any talent, displaying sadness in her eyes. While Louise's mother and her talent agent boyfriend, Herbie (Ray D'Ambrosio), were booking for June, Louise was cast as a background character and largely neglected most of her childhood.

It wasn't until their late teens that both sisters grew into them-

selves. The adult June (Samantha Borthwick) grew fatigued of her mother pushing her to remain a child and eventually ran away. Adult Louise (Whitney Hisako Moore) gradually gained confidence in herself and it took luck and circumstance for her to find her niche in the entertainment business.

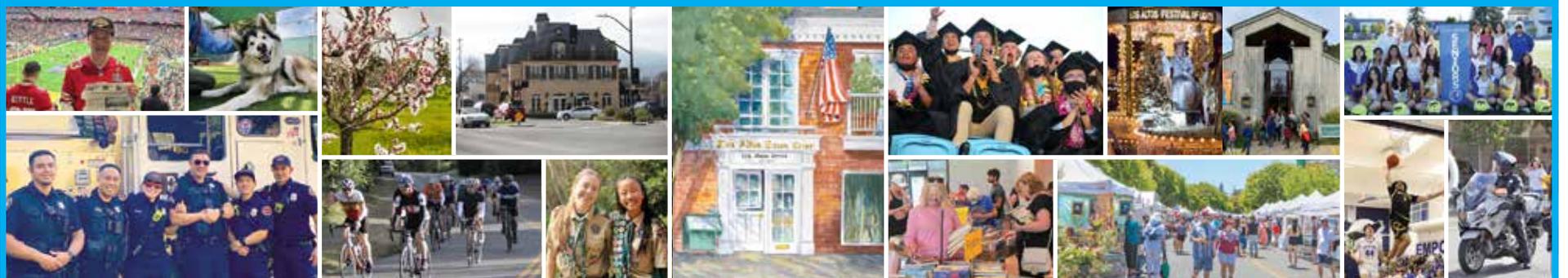
Although Mama Rose wanted her daughters to make their mark in Hollywood, all of it stemmed from a negative place and jealousy. Both girls were caught under a raging mother who wanted her own success, and in the end, she ended up causing them to resent her. It is important to let a child grow naturally without forcing them into a profession that is demanding and filled with uncertain outcomes.

"Gypsy" will be performing at Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto through Sept. 21. For more information visit paplayers.org/event/gypsy.



COURTESY OF SCOTT LASKY

From left, Baby Louise (Phoebe Wagner), Baby June (Caitlin Segal) and the company of "Gypsy," the Tony award-winning classic Broadway musical lauded by critics as the best musical ever written. The Palo Alto Players' performance of "Gypsy" will be played through Sept. 21.



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Puzzles Page

Town Crier Crossword

By Myles Mellor

Across

- 1. **Pets In** ____
- 5. 16th US President
- 8. Common form datum, abbr.
- 11. Pool site, maybe
- 12. Bread spread
- 14. Pipe joint
- 15. Mysterious, var.
- 16. Appeal for help
- 17. "Wheel of Fortune" purchase, 2 words
- 18. Bundle
- 20. Some degs., abbr.
- 21. 650, Roman-style
- 22. Taken in
- 25. Prepare a birthday present. e.g.
- 29. Sam Shepard's play: "____ of the Mind", 2 words
- 32. Pay homage
- 33. Enter cautiously, 2 words
- 35. Unload, as stock
- 36. Research done for potential course of action
- 38. Nautical measure, 2 words
- 40. Disapproving expression for Shakespeare

- 42. Public television network
- 43. Retired Santa Clara County Assessor**
- 48. Chow, for one
- 49. Winter pear
- 51. Above
- 52. Simpson case judge
- 53. Software offering, abbr.
- 54. Thanksgiving dish
- 55. Blackguard
- 56. Turner TV trademark
- 57. Token taker

Down

- 1. Russian word for "no"
- 2. Like some profs., abbr.
- 3. Neutral shade
- 4. Time pieces
- 5. Unit of electric current
- 6. Rocky ____ boxing character
- 7. Attractive quality, 2 words
- 8. Wraps a baby
- 9. N' ____ pop group
- 10. Astronaut Armstrong
- 13. Beer making arena
- 19. Sayings

- 23. Hunk
- 24. Effortless
- 25. Position tracker, abbr.
- 26. Ill temper
- 27. Idol, 2 words
- 28. Kitchen back-splash material
- 30. Roman numeral
- 31. One-striper, abbr.
- 34. Schooner fillers
- 37. Maxima maker
- 39. Police dept. alerts, abbr.
- 40. Money guarantor, for short
- 41. Little bit
- 44. Tops, e.g.
- 45. Roundish
- 46. Lost fish in film
- 47. Before now, old word
- 50. Time in Chicago, abbr.

- Los Altos clues bolded

**Answers
on Page 35**

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

Sudoku

By Myles Mellor and Susan Flanagan

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

Level: Medium

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

Find A Word

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

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

- | | | |
|----------|----------|------------|
| Anchovy | Haddock | Mullet |
| Bass | Halibut | Pompano |
| Catfish | Mackerel | Redsnapper |
| Eel | Mahimahi | Salmon |
| Flounder | Marlin | Sole |

Business & Real Estate

GK Pastry debuts on Main



CHRISTINA CASILLAS/TOWN CRIER

GK Pastry, a local, family-run business, made its Los Altos debut last week. The pastry shop, 251 Main St, is operated by Gulnoza Khaytenova and her family. It started off as a farmers market vendor but expanded to brick-and-mortar shortly after. The bakery, which features Khaytenova's recipes, first opened in Palo Alto in 2023 and in Mountain View in 2024. For more on the shop, visit gkpastry.com.

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\$4,055,000 | 4 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS
Sold over \$1M over list price with 17 offers



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LOS ALTOS, CA 94024
\$4,510,000 | 3 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS
Sold over \$1M over list price with 13 offers



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Rooms, amenities renovated at local Courtyard by Marriott hotel

By Christina Casillas

Town Crier Staff Writer/christinac@latc.com

Refreshed rooms, event and meeting facilities, and a restaurant await travelers at the Courtyard by Marriott Palo Alto – Los Altos location. Operated by Johnson Hospitality, the hotel's renovation was orchestrated with innovation in mind, according to a Courtyard by Marriott press release.

The 191-room hotel is just one of more than 1,300 Courtyard by Marriott International locations. Marriott initiated the modernization of locations across the U.S. and Canada in 2021, according to an article on the Marriott International website.

"We're excited to welcome guests to a newly transformed courtyard that blends functionality with contemporary design," said Nader Elkabbany, general manager of the Courtyard by Marriott Palo Alto – Los Altos. "Our upgraded spaces are designed to help

guests relax, work and connect more effectively than ever before."

While other locations were limited to exterior renovations, the 4320 El Camino Real, Los Altos location included interior modernizations. Guest rooms received new, plush bedding, ergonomic workspaces with modern decor and lighting and enhanced in-room tech, according to the press release.

The upgrades to meeting and event rooms include more natural light, new furnishings, use flexibility and enhanced audiovisual capabilities, according to the press release. The hotel also has expanded fitness offerings and the outdoor courtyard was enhanced for informal gatherings and relaxation.

Described as open-concept, the lobby and Courtyard Long Bar now have a variety of seating options. The Bistro – the hotel's restaurant – includes an updated menu, from breakfast to evening cocktails and a renovated lounge.

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

Los Altos: The million-dollar moat The city is pulling away from Silicon Valley's elite

By Alex Wang

While all of Silicon Valley's premier communities have experienced strong growth in 2025, Los Altos has emerged with particularly noteworthy performance that sets it apart from neighboring markets. Recent data analysis of Q1-Q3 2025 sales reveals some interesting trends worth examining as we compare our local market to other highly desirable Peninsula cities.

The numbers paint a picture that offers valuable insights for homeowners, buyers and market observers throughout our region.

Strong performance across markets

In my 20-plus years serving Los Altos, Palo Alto and Mountain View, I've witnessed many market cycles, and 2025's first three quarters show strength across all these desirable communities. Los Altos achieved notable 38.4% year-over-year growth in Q1 2025, averaging \$5.89 million, while Palo Alto also performed strongly with 31.6% growth to \$5.03 million.

Mountain View, serving a somewhat different market segment, saw more modest growth at 3.1%, averaging \$2.79 million in Q1.

February 2025 proved particularly active for Los Altos, with average sale prices reaching \$6.06 million – a 43.6% increase from the previous year. This momentum continued through Q2 and Q3,

suggesting sustained demand in our local market.

Understanding the price differences

When examining average sale prices across these three markets, some notable differences emerge. Los Altos currently averages approximately \$858,000 more than Palo Alto, while the difference with Mountain View is more substantial at about \$3.1 million.

Our city now commands this premium over Palo Alto – despite Palo Alto's prominence not only by name, but also by its proximity to Stanford University and its reputation as the innovation hub of Silicon Valley.

The \$3.1 million gap with Mountain View represents a 111% premium, even accounting for the fact that some Mountain View properties benefit from Los Altos School District access.

These variations reflect the different market segments each city serves. Palo Alto, with its proximity to Stanford and strong tech corridor presence, continues to attract buyers seeking urban amenities and university connections. Mountain View serves as an important entry point for many tech professionals, offering more accessible price points while maintaining Silicon Valley's innovation culture.

From my experience working with buyers throughout the region, each city offers distinct advantages that appeal to

Realtor Field Notes

different buyer priorities and life stages.

February market activity

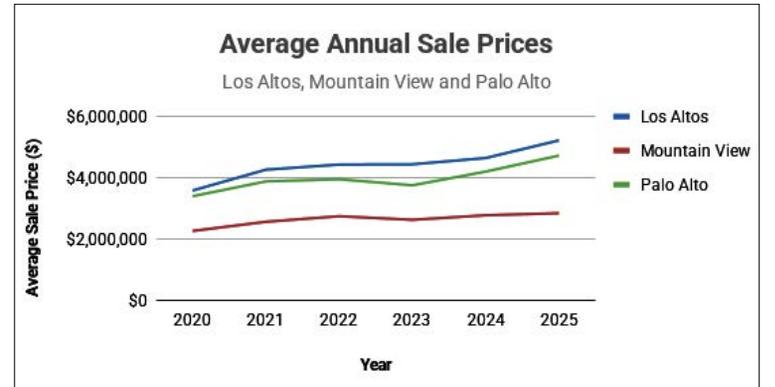
February 2025 showcased particularly strong activity across our local markets. Los Altos experienced robust 43.6% year-over-year growth to break the \$6 million average barrier, while Palo Alto also saw healthy appreciation at 24.9%. Mountain View showed a slight -1.7% adjustment during the same period, which can be typical in markets serving different price segments.

I've observed that Los Altos buyers in early 2025 demonstrated strong financial capacity, with many leveraging tech stock performance and existing home equity to participate in what became a competitive market environment.

Factors behind Los Altos' performance

Several elements contribute to Los Altos' strong market showing:

- **Supply constraints:** Limited available inventory has created competitive conditions among qualified buyers, particularly for properties with desirable lot sizes and locations. With approximately half the housing inventory of Palo Alto, Los Altos faces additional supply pressures that



GRAPH BY ALEX WANG

Above is a comparison of average sales since 2020 across local cities.

contribute to price appreciation.

- **Educational appeal:** The Los Altos School District continues to attract families who value access to well-regarded educational opportunities.

- **Community character:** Los Altos maintains its residential charm while offering convenient access to major employment centers, creating appeal for many buyers.

- **Market positioning:** Buyers often view Los Altos real estate as offering good long-term value retention, supporting sustained demand.

Market outlook

While these 2025 numbers reflect strong performance, it's worth considering how sustainable this level of appreciation may be long-term. The fundamentals supporting demand in Los Altos remain solid, though the pace of price increases we've seen in early 2025 may naturally moderate as we move forward.

Each of our neighboring communities offers compelling advantages for different buyer types, and market dynamics can shift based on broader economic conditions affecting our tech-centric region.

Practical considerations

For current Los Altos homeowners, this data reflects positive equity development and validates the investment value of our community.

For prospective buyers, it highlights the importance of understanding market timing and being prepared to act when suitable opportunities arise.

It's also worth noting that while Los Altos has shown strong appreciation, Palo Alto and Mountain View each serve important roles in our regional housing ecosystem, offering different lifestyle options and price points that meet varied buyer needs.

As we've seen throughout 2025, Los Altos continues to demonstrate market resilience and sustained buyer interest. Whether you're considering buying, selling or simply staying informed about local market conditions, understanding these trends can help inform your real estate decisions.

Alex Wang is a Los Altos resident, local realtor, and founder of Rainmaker Real Estate. For more information, text or call (650) 800-8840 or visit AlexWang.com.



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Emergency scams instill fear in victims

Better Business Bureau

Elder fraud schemes, also known as emergency scams or grandparent scams, prey on the willingness of an unsuspecting, worried individual to help friends and family in need.

Often, they will impersonate their targets' loved ones, make up an urgent situation, and plead for help – and money. Social media sites allow scammers to look up information and offer plausible stories. They may even incorporate nicknames and real travel plans into the con to convince their targets.

How the scam works

Emergency scams are about a family member or friend in a dire situation. You get a call, email or social media message from someone claiming to be a distressed family member. They may say they've been arrested or there was an accident, medical emergency or other calamity. They provide convincing details, such as family names and school

BBB Scam Alert

details. A twist to this scam targets parents of college students. The scammer calls the family member and claims their child has been arrested and needs bail money sent immediately via a payment app like Venmo or PayPal. They may even text pictures of a mugshot and say that the child is headed to jail with dangerous criminals.

Terrified parents send the money, only to find out later that the story wasn't true and the money is gone. A common version is the "grandparent scam," where the con artist contacts a grandparent claiming to be their grandchild and asking for money. The plea is so persuasive that the grandparent wires money to the scammer, only to find out their family member was safe and sound later. This scam can also work in reverse, where the "grandparent" calls their grandchild, pleading for

help. The scammer may also tell the victim that someone will arrive at your house to pick up the money.

The FTC has warned that scammers are using voice cloning techniques to imitate the voices of loved ones. The technology enables con artists to copy the voices of persons close to you from videos they may find on social media or other sources. They can then use tools to imitate the voice of your loved one and have the tool say whatever they wish in a call. Some voice cloning efforts may be crude, and others very sophisticated – either way, this adds to this scam's confusing and frightening aspect.

Spotting the scam

- Resist the urge to act immediately.
- Don't call the phone number provided by the caller or caller ID.
- Know what your family members are sharing online.
- Don't send money if you are unsure about the call.

Transactions

Los Altos

450 1st Street #306, Dd 1St Street Group LLC to Esquivel Family Trust for \$2,675,000

1328 Rossway Court, Deppmeier Family Trust to Elrfd Trust for \$3,700,000

510 Valencia Drive, S. & C. Conner to J. & F. Xia for \$4,826,500

Mountain View

829 Montgomery Street, Erlien Living Trust to R. Ramakrishnan for \$1,175,000

229 Cypress Point Drive, Concests LLC to R. & B. Neilsen for \$1,300,000

660 Tyrella Avenue, L. & A. Lee to F. & Q. Chen for \$1,649,000

462 Mountain Laurel Court, K. Skiden to F. & Z. Zhao for \$1,700,000

1638 Tyler Park Way, Ranney Living Trust to J. & N. Aghli for \$1,900,000

2350 Toledo Terrace, A. Chattopadhyay to G. Luk for \$1,948,000

324 Cherokee Loop, Battles

Living Trust to D. Fontaine for \$2,100,000

41 Starr Way, Fiocco Trust to Wang Family Trust for \$2,750,500

1208 Fairbrook Drive, C. & M. Gerhardt to Martel Trust for \$3,300,000

137 Sherland Avenue, H. Wang to Liu & Zhang Legacy Trust for \$3,495,000

1961 Fordham Way, Mc-camish Homes Lp to A. & P. Mishra for \$4,120,000

1728 Peartree Lane, M. & T. Mihopoulos to J. & J. Tao for \$11,700,000

Total sales

Los Altos

Total sales: 3
Lowest sale: \$2,675,000
Highest sale: \$4,826,500
Average sale: \$3,733,800

Mountain View

Total sales: 12
Lowest sales: \$1,175,000
Highest sale: \$11,700,000
Average sale: \$3,094,800

–Cal REsource.



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Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team

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706 N SAN ANTONIO RD | \$4,988,000 | 4 Bd | 5.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS | 706NSanAntonio.com



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23171 MORA GLEN DRIVE | \$7,500,000 | 5 Bd | 5.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS | 23171MoraGlen.com



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



11722 PUTTER WAY | \$2,988,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS | 11722Putter.com



12355 STONEBROOK COURT | \$9,988,000 | 6 Bd | 9 Bth
LOS ALTOS HILLS | 12355StonebrookCt.com



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



240 3RD STREET #301 | \$5,988,000 | 2 Bd | 2.5 Bth
LOS ALTOS | 240Third.com

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PORTOLA VALLEY | 5OakForest.com



671 KINGSLEY AVENUE | \$1,988,000 | 2 Bd | 1 Bth
PALO ALTO | 671Kingsley.com



756, 758, 760 WAVERLEY ST | \$2,888,000 | Triplex
PALO ALTO | 756-760Waverley.com



1932 EMERSON STREET | \$9,988,000 | 6 Bd | 6 Bth
PALO ALTO | 1932EmersonStreet.com



140 FARM ROAD | \$10,988,000 | 5 Bd | 5.5 Bth
WOODSIDE | 140FarmRd.com



579 GLENBROOK DRIVE | \$5,988,000 | 6 Bd | 4 Bth
PALO ALTO | 579Glenbrook.com



779 HOLLY OAK DRIVE | \$3,988,000 | 4 Bd | 2 Bth
PALO ALTO | 779HollyOak.com



40 TAGUS COURT | \$6,988,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
PORTOLA VALLEY | 40Tagus.com



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Public Notices

7-SEAT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719634

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: 7-SEAT, 959 Sladky Avenue, Mountain View, CA, 94040, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): 7-SEAT LLC, 959 Sladky Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 08/20/2025. /S/ Jeff Baher / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/10/2025. (09-17,24-25,10-01,08-25)

225-T

SMART CITY MOBILITY COUNCIL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719588

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: (1) SMART CITY MOBILITY COUNCIL, (2) SCMC, 5532 Milligan Drive, San Jose, CA, 95124, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): SMART CITY MOBILITY COUNCIL, LLC, 5532 Milligan Drive, San Jose, CA 95124. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/14/2014. /S/ Paul Frederic Hoekstra / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/09/2025. (09-17,24-25,10-01,08-25)

224-T

PRADERA TREE SERVICE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719488

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: PRADERA TREE SERVICE, 3228 Coldwater Dr, San Jose, CA, 95148, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Mariela Jimenez Ciriaco, 3228 Coldwater Dr, San Jose, CA 95148. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Mariela Jimenez Ciriaco / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/05/2025. (09-17,24-25,10-01,08-25)

223-T

BRANDCRAFTED FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719167

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: BRANDCRAFTED, 760 Peach Ave, Sunnyvale, CA, 94087, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Jonathan Rios, 760 Peach Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94087. Registrant began transact-

ing business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 08/21/2025. /S/ Jonathan Rios / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/26/2025. (09-17,24-25,10-01,08-25)

222-T

TEAM OFBJ FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719308

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: TEAM OFBJ, 914 Turley Dr, San Jose, CA, 95116, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): OFBJ CONSTRUCTION INC, 914 Turley Dr, San Jose, CA 95116. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 08/22/2025. /S/ Oscar Carbajal / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/29/2025. (09-10,17,24-25,10-01-25)

221-T

LITTLE ECONOMISTS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719069

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: LITTLE ECONOMISTS, 1525 Gold Street Unit 72, Alviso, CA, 95002, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): ECON FOR KIDS LLC, 1525 Gold Street Unit 72, San Jose, CA 95002. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/2025. /S/ Yi Li / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/21/2025. (09-10,17,24-25,10-01-25)

220-T

CaliSun Roofing FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719337

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CaliSun Roofing, 3790 El Camino Real #509, Palo Alto, CA, 94306, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Hajaj Builders Group, 3790 El Camino Real #509, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Michael Hajaj / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/29/2025. (09-10,17,24-25,10-01-25)

219-T

ALTOS CARE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719119

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: ALTOS CARE, 10511 Mag-

dalena Rd, Los Altos Hills, CA, 94024, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a limited liability company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): ALTOS TELEHEALTH, 10511 Magdalena Rd, Los Altos Hills, CA 94024. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Nara Rajagopalan / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/22/2025. (09-10,17,24-25,10-01-25)

218-T

BAY AREA JUNK KNIGHT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719133

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: BAY AREA JUNK KNIGHT, 5824 Falon Way, San Jose, CA, 95123, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a general partnership. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Zachary Glenn Knight, 1058 South 5th St Apt 307, San Jose, CA 95112, Andrew Charles Steinberg, 5824 Falon Way, San Jose, CA 95123. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Zachary Glenn Knight / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/25/2025. (09-10,17,24-25,10-01-25)

217-T

CUPIDLY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719376

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CUPIDLY, 809 Cuesta Dr Ste B PMB 5043, Mountain View, CA, 94040, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Jonathan Ziyuan Liu, 809 Cuesta Dr Ste B PMB 5043, Mountain View, CA 94040. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/21/2025. /S/ Jonathan Ziyuan Liu / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 09/02/2025. (09-10,17,24-25,10-01-25)

215-T

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PETITION OF HAYDEE GUTIERREZ SANTIAGO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME 25CV470669

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
1. Petitioner: Haydee Gutierrez Santiago filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name:
a. Miliano Santiago Garcia

Proposed Name:
a. Miliano Gutierrez Santiago

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 10/14/2025 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: 07/16/2025 /s/ LE Jacqueline Duong Judge of the Superior Court (09-10,17,24-25,10-01-25)

214-T

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PETITION OF DAVID KNIGHT, SOYOUN PARK ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME 25CV473768

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
1. Petitioner: David Knight, Soyoun Park filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name:
a. Mi Ah Rose Knight

Proposed Name:
a. Miah Rose Knight

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 12/09/2025 at 8:45 a.m. Room: Probate (b) The address of the court is: 191 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): SF Bay Business Sales inc, 100 S Murphy Ave Ste 200, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/31/2024. /S/ Michelle Koblas / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/28/2025. (09-10,17,24-25,10-01-25)

212-T

JR CAR AUDIO FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719222

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: JR CAR AUDIO, 1097 S First St, San Jose, CA, 95110, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Agustin Nieves Jaimes, 458 Beth Dr, San Jose, CA 95111. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/07/2024. /S/ Agustin Nieves Jaimes / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/27/2025. (09-10,17,24-25,10-01-25)

211-T

Edenbridge Homes FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN718950

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Edenbridge Homes, 21801 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Suite 204, Cupertino, CA, 95014, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: a corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Edenbridge, Inc., P.O. Box 1825, Los Altos, CA 94023. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 07/23/2004. /S/ Diane M. Downend / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/15/2025. (09-03,10,17,24-25)

210-T

CALI LUNA & COAST FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN718229

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: CALI LUNA & COAST, 151 Calderon Ave #135, Mountain View, CA, 94041, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Cristal Dos Santos, 151 Calderon Ave #135, Mountain View, CA 94041. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: N/A. /S/ Cristal Dos Santos / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 07/24/2025. (09-03,10,17,24-25)

209-T

TRACY STONE LEADERSHIP FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN719098

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: TRACY STONE LEADERSHIP, 1030 Varsity Ct., Mountain View, CA, 94040, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Tracy Stone, 1030 Varsity Ct, Mountain View, CA 94040. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 01/01/2024. /S/ Tracy Stone / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/22/2025. (09-03,10,17,24-25)

208-T

BLISSBERRY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN718962

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: BLISSBERRY, 900 Pepper Tree Ln Apt 1811, Santa Clara, CA, 95051, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Elena Khlopina, 900 Pepper Tree Ln Apt 1811, Santa Clara, CA 95051. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 05/30/2025. /S/ Elena Khlopina / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/18/2025. (08-27-25,09-03,10,17-25)

207-T

SEXY SOMA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. FBN718940

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: SEXY SOMA, 930 Mariner Dr Apt B, Mountain View, CA, 94043, Santa Clara County. The business is owned by: an individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is (are): Laura Ann Cole, 930 Mariner Dr Apt B, Mountain View, CA 94043. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on: 08/15/2025. /S/ Laura Ann Cole / This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on 08/15/2025. (08-27-25,09-03,10,17-25)

206-T

\$40

is usually all it costs to
publish your Fictitious
Business Name in the
Los Altos Town Crier
Email
legals@latc.com
by 2pm on Thursday

Datebook

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

EVENTS

Los Altos Main Library. All events held in the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, unless otherwise indicated. **Monday Meditation & Mindfulness**, 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Los Altos Main Library, 7 p.m., Woodland Library, 1975 Grant Road. **Poetry Community Hour Open Mic**, 7 p.m., first Monday of every month; **Bay Area Games Day**, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., third Saturday of every month. Other events: **Drink What You Grow**, 7 p.m. Sept. 18. Master Gardener Monique Frappier and the Garden-to-Glass team introduce six of their favorite plants that impart desirable flavors and aromas, ideal for crafting refreshing teas, infusions, syrup and other homemade beverages. **Do Galaxies Breathe, Too?**, 7 p.m. Sept. 26. Dr. Xinnan Du from Stanford University will discuss how galactic-scale outflows and inflows impact the formation of stars. **Turning the Tide: Community Actions Against Plastic Pollution**, 7 p.m. Oct. 1. Sherry Auerbach from the Rotary Club of Los Altos will discuss how to redirect plastic packaging away from landfills. Programs are free and open to the public. Information: (650) 948-7683, scclcd.org. **¡Viva! at the Library Featuring Singer/Songwriter Diana Gamos**, 7 p.m. Oct. 8. This intimate and up-close performance features original songs and melodies that celebrate the cultural richness and vibrancy of Mexico and Latin American countries. Diana Gamos immigrated to the United States as a teenager, has released two albums of original music in both Spanish and English, and has been recognized by NPR's Tiny Desk concert series. **Meditative Banig Drawing**, 11 a.m. Oct. 3. Join Kenneth Tan, author of "Crescenciana: A Memoir in Words and Illustrations," for an engaging class on drawing banigs - traditional Filipino woven mats. In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll explore a variety of line patterns inspired by Filipino weaving and tattoo designs. You'll then apply these patterns to create your own distinctive banig illustration. This creative process is not only accessible to all skill levels but also offers a calming, meditative, and enjoyable experience.

Crossword Answers

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

Sudoku Answers

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

Find A Word Answers

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

OBITUARY NOTICE

EVA PFENDT



November 19, 1936 - September 4, 2025

Eva Ann Havas Pfendt, 88, passed away on September 4, 2025, at the care home in San Carlos where she resided. The longtime resident of Los Altos was born on November 19, 1936, in Budapest Hungary. Her family fled the turmoil of their homeland towards the end of World War II and lived as refugees in southern Germany for six years before being sponsored to emigrate to the United States. They were welcomed to their new life in Buffalo New York, where Eva excelled as a student in High School and at the University of Buffalo.

Following her marriage to Siegfried Pfendt, the young couple moved to San Francisco and built their life in the Bay Area. Eva worked as a medical research professional, including a long career at Stanford University, while raising a family and caring for others. Eva had a bright mind, a kind soul, quiet faith, and the inner toughness of a refugee. And she was really good at crossword puzzles!

Eva was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by her son Karl; daughter Greta; daughter-in-law Anne; loving sisters Katherine and Judith; and grandchildren Jacob, Bradley, Benjamin, and Elizabeth. Eva was a blessing to so many family members and friends. We will miss her dearly.

In remembrance of Eva's gratitude to those who helped her, the family asks that you support caregivers who assist the elderly and frail in your community. This vital work is difficult, and we have been touched by the incredible kindness of those who supported Eva during her journey.



**OPEN SAT & SUN
SEPTEMBER 20 & 21
1:00-4:00PM**

1762 Austin Avenue | Los Altos | \$4,698,000 | 1762AustinAvenue.com

THIS EXQUISITE SINGLE-LEVEL HOME is beautifully situated in the sought-after Grant Park neighborhood on a generous, lushly landscaped lot. Expertly designed, it features distinctive artistic touches throughout – from the high ceilings, multi-layered crown molding, and designer baths and custom cabinetry to the backyard oasis with multiple entertaining venues and mature trees for beauty and privacy. Experience the warmth and exceptional community that make this home and neighborhood truly special.

Spacious single-level 4-bed, 3.5-bath home for 2,277 +/- SF
 Expansive entertaining lot for 14,094 +/- SF
 Granite kitchen with island, high 9.5-foot ceiling, custom cabinets, and motorized skylight

Bright family room with 4 skylights, 10-foot-high ceiling, and custom entertaining unit
 2 luxurious bedroom en suites with designer baths, both with access to backyard
 Refinished hardwood floors and fresh paint throughout

Picturesque backyard oasis with pool, spa, fountain, custom bar with sink and refrigerator, separate built-in barbecue also with sink, game table, paver patio, and deck
 Highly rated Cupertino schools: Montclair Elementary, Cupertino Middle, and Homestead High (buyer to verify enrollment)



Amazing Home with Designer Finishes and Entertaining Backyard on Large Lot



**JUDY &
CINDY**



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THE BOGARD-TANIGAMI TEAM

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