Chef Chu’s marks half-century

Chef Lawrence Chu Sr., bottom left, far left, celebrated his eponymous Chinese restaurant’s 50th anniversary Sunday with lion dancing, top left, and drumming performances, above, in the Los Altos institution’s parking lot. Chu’s sons, “Crazy Rich Asians” director Jon M. Chu, bottom left, with microphone, and Larry Chu Jr., in gray blazer, spoke at the event.

City, Friends to sign lease renewing civic center space

By Melissa Hartman
Staff Writer/mellissa@laltc.com

The Los Altos City Council last week unanimously authorized entering a lease agreement with Friends of the Library of Los Altos that will guarantee the nonprofit organization remains on the civic center campus.

In exchange for the city paying for power consumption for the space, Councilwoman Jeanie Bruins said Friends would be responsible for “all capital costs.” The costs were defined as those to establish power, for maintenance and for additional site-preparation expenses for the 330-square-foot portable and sheds.

Friends has been renting and occupying on the land between the Los Altos Police Department and the Los Altos History Museum.

Once formalized, the lease will remain in effect until either party wants to terminate it, City Manager Chris Jordan said. The temporary lease, Friends had signed with the city was set to expire Dec. 31, or when the new Los Altos Community Center is completed, whichever came first.

The council’s decision Jan. 28 came after approximately two hours of discussion. The initial motion by Mayor Jan Pepper called for the city to provide Friends space on the civic center campus until a proposed new main library is built—an estimated three to five years—with the city covering all costs. After the motion failed, the council elected to take a break.

The dissenting council members—Bruins, Lynette Lee Eng and Anita Enander—suggested continuing the item. Bruins and Lee Eng said they had different visions for what an ad hoc committee, appointed in July to find solutions to the space problem, would accomplish and the kinds of determinations it would make. Enander said there were too many issues up in the air, specifically financial details about the proposed sites, that she didn’t feel comfortable with.

Pepper responded that she did not care to follow a trend that was problematic for the council in 2019, when they “just kept bringing things back and back.”

Friends volunteer Duncan MacMillan, one of two Friends representatives who served on the ad hoc committee, was on the

See LEASE Page 6
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On leaf blowers and limited enforcement of a gas-powered ban:

"The article neglects electric leaf blowers with cords instead of batteries. They’re generally lighter, electrically more efficient, “greener” and no louder.

- Richard Feldman

Another reader wondered why the warning cards left at residents’ homes described the ban only in Spanish:

"So I was wondering if the City of Los Altos issues cards in other languages or are they just concentrating on Spanish-speaking gardeners? I think that is unfair. ... I showed the card to my gardener and told him not to use a gas-powered blower. He agreed, but then asked me if the city has these cards in various languages or are they only in Spanish. I wrote to the city asking about this, but received no reply.

- Charles Thompson

Stroll, snack, shop and then meet the press

Town Crier Staff Report

In addition to this week’s Los Altos First Friday event, other entertainment is popping up downtown Friday afternoon and evening.

Friends of the Library of Los Altos is holding the first evening of its weekend-long sale, now spread across two locations. Find children’s books in the Los Altos main library’s Orchard Room and all the rest at the Los Altos Youth Center. The 6:30-9 p.m. “members-only” event is accessible to newcomers who pay the $10 annual membership at the door (information: losaltoslibraryfriends.org).

The Los Altos Village Association is sponsoring a Valentine’s Stroll 5-8 p.m. that includes extended store hours and promotions in harmony with the music and children’s activities located at various spots downtown. Learn more on page 18.

Over at Linden Tree Books, store co-owner Flo Grosskorth is scheduled to interview author Jennieke Cohen about her new book “Dangerous Alliance: An Austentacious Romance” (HarperTeen, 2019) 6:30 p.m. Friday. Tea and biscuits will be served — come learn about life in the crossover zone between young adult literature and historical romance.

In other literary news, readers can put a face to a Town Crier reporter’s name the following Saturday when Online Editor Eliza Ridge-way visits Linden Tree to interview Los Altos’ own Abigail Ring Wen, author of “Loveboat, Taipei” (HarperTeen, 2020). Swing by 265 State St. at 4 p.m. Feb. 15 for conversation about the author’s nationwide debut last month.
An accessory dwelling unit in north Los Altos, constructed by homeowner Jacque Rupp in 2015, features an open-concept living space with raised ceilings. Rupp rents the affordable unit to a local architect.

As state legislation evolves, Los Altos hustles to keep up with ADU proposals

By Melissa Hartman
Staff Writer/melissah@laltc.com

Since Los Altos revised two of its ordinances related to accessory dwelling units in 2018 in an effort to meet state standards, the city’s Planning Division has embraced ADUs as a way to help fulfill affordable housing requirements mandated by California’s Housing and Community Development department.

Six laws that took effect this year will again change the city’s ADU policy: Senate Bill 13 and Assembly bills 68, 587, 670, 671 and 881.

According to Housing and Community Development officials, the new laws remove certain requirements that could deter permitting of ADUs and junior ADUs (a bedroom in a single-family home).

Among the laws is a condition that development standards cannot mandate a minimum lot size, owner-occupancy requirements, parking spaces or replacement of parking spaces if the ADU is created in a converted garage. Local agencies now have 60 days instead of 120 to review applications and are tasked with creating “a plan that incentivizes and promotes the creation of ADUs” for very-low, low- or moderate-income households, according to a Housing and Community Development memo.

Los Altos’ ADU permitting application, available on the Planning Division’s website and dated February 2019, limits applicants with maximum allowable sizes based on zoning district and requires one on-site parking space. The first requirement will have to be revised and the second must be scrapped altogether. In a Jan. 23 memo to applicants awaiting a response on their proposed ADUs, planning staff said a process to reform the policy to fit the Housing and Community Development requirements is underway.

Maintaining momentum

The Los Altos Planning Division has ADU permit application details dating back to 1999, but all requests to build ADUs from 1999 to 2017 can fit on one single-spaced page.

“I think this was before state laws made approval of ADUs administrable and not discretionary, so someone may have had to go to the Planning Commission or city council to get their ADU approved,” said Jon Biggs, community development director, last month, with pages of permit numbers and addresses spread out on his desk. “Right around 2002 is when the rules changed, but we still had a process in place that required people to get a design approval. I’m not certain that was really in line with what the state law required, but the city did it.”

However, permit applications rose to 27 by the end of 2018 and 22 by September 2019, following ordinance revisions in 2018, Biggs said. It’s unknown how many of the permits were pulled after approval, meaning many of the ADUs still may not have been built, he added, but the city has approved approximately 60 ADUs – roughly 10 for each of Los Altos’ six square miles. Los Altos counts ADUs as affordable units in the low-income category, according to Biggs.

Biggs pointed out that people often underestimate how intensive building an ADU can be.

“I think it’s still more than people anticipate because they hear we have changed the rules to make it easier for someone to get their accessory dwelling unit approved, which is true,” he said. “But even with those changes, there are still building... See ADU. Page 5

MV water bill woes expose potential flaws in process

By Megan V. Winslow
Staff Writer/meganw@laltc.com

Growing up with limited resources in India taught Ranjita Vishwa the importance of water conservation.

Now the Mountain View resident’s children use buckets to measure how much shower water they use and Vishwa employs a similar technique when washing dishes. Laundry is done only by full load, and the family’s toilets are low-flow, efficient ones.

So it was with no small degree of surprise when Vishwa opened a bill from the city in December and learned she owes $2,633 as part of an adjustment for underbilled water usage going back to October 2018.

“Now I’m freaking out and thinking, ‘What else should I be doing? Not taking showers? Not cooking?’” Vishwa told the Town Crier last week.

Vishwa’s situation is a bit of an anomaly. Of the more than 110,000 water meter reads the city of Mountain View conducts on approximately 18,000 residential, commercial and irrigation meters each year, less than half a percent are incorrect, according to Elizabeth Flegel, city water resources manager. Mistsakes, when they occur, are generally due to miresreads of the meter – not faulty meters erroneously recording water volume. And that means customers are expected to foot the bill.

“Our policy is that when the water is used, even if there is a (meter reading) mistake, that the customer is responsible for the payment of that water,” Flegel said.

Between July and December, the city made 10 account adjustment due to meter miresreads, according to Flegel. Nine of the 10 accounts were credited for overbilling, while one account owes the city for underbilling.

A technician who checked Vishwa’s meter for errors didn’t find any and told her the past miresreads were due to problems with new software used by the city to measure water usage by radio signal, she said. Her meter is among the half of city meters that are read via radio signals captured by passing vehicle rather than interpreted manually by technicians in person.

Investigating miresreads

Flegel wouldn’t comment on specific customer water accounts, but she said the city’s Public Services Division is aware of only one instance when a miresread occurred due to a radio programming error. In that case, she said, the radio “dropped a number” during transmission, 100 units of water, for example, recorded as just 10 units of water. She is investigating the situaton.

Some meter miresreads, however, can mean modest windfalls for water customers. In mid-January, several residents of the Central Park at Whisman Station apartment complex received checks as compensation for overbilling. Among them was Jeannie Corerrick, whom the city reimbursed $27.03 for miresreads in 2016 and 2017. Her check arrived without an explanation about the nature of the error, but she was happy to cash it; she used the money to treat a friend to a Night Ranger performance at the Fillmore in San Francisco Friday night.

“It was a nice surprise, and I’m sorry to hear about others that weren’t (properly) billed and received big bills later,” Corerrick said. “But for me, it was something that was unexpected, like, ‘Oh, this is great.’ To get something extra you weren’t expecting – especially after the holidays.”

The city, meanwhile, has provided Vishwa with a payment plan so she can tackle her large debit in monthly increments. She doesn’t believe her family could have used enough water to justify the charge, but even if they did, she thinks they shouldn’t be held accountable for a mistake by the city that continued and compounded undetected for so long.

Tackling an unexpected $2,633 expense, Vishwa said, will almost certainly mean downscaling her family’s lifestyle.

“It’s already so expensive to live in Mountain View,” she said. “If we have to borrow to pay these things, then it’s an uphill battle.”

For more information on water meters and how to read them, visit mountainview.gov/ leakcheck.
News

Victim recounts downtown attack during Los Altos Pokemon GO meetup

By Melissa Hartman
Staff Writer/melissah@alac.com

The Los Altos Police Department’s report on an assault and battery that occurred at a gathering of Pokemon GO enthusiasts last month in downtown Los Altos will soon land on the desk of the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office, according to Sgt. Brian Jeffery.
The 29-year-old male victim, a Los Altos Hills resident, was attacked by a 32-year-old Cupertino man Jan. 19, the police report stated. The victim, who spoke to the Town Crier on the condition of anonymity to protect his safety and that of his friend—who he said was being harassed by the suspect—and the assault occurred early in the afternoon at the intersection of State and Third streets.
The victim said his friend, a 29-year-old woman, had been harassed online by the suspect for approximately six months, and he yelled at her from across the street that day. That prompted the victim to confront the suspect.
“Are you harassing my friend?” the victim recalled asking the suspect.
That irritated the aggressor, who said he didn’t want the woman near his work (they were formerly colleagues), according to the victim.
“He hit on her, and she said, ‘I don’t like you (romantically)—he didn’t like that,’” the victim said.
“That’s when the harassment began. She still has the evidence, all the messages.”
Before he knew it, the victim said the man had one hand around his throat and another clocked back to punch him in the face. He was pinned up against the wall.
“Of course, I just retaliated,” the victim said.
He recalled pulling the suspect to the ground, and they struggled for physical control of one another as a crowd gathered in front of Rick’s Cafe to watch. At that point, the victim said, he was on top of the other man, and concerned passersby told him to get off. The victim asked them to call police.
Witnesses to the initial attack told police that the suspect started the fight, according to the victim.
“I am going to file charges,” the victim said, showing the Town Crier photos of open cuts on his face and neck that he accused of inflicting.
The victim added that he also has broken bones in one finger, a result of “never learning how to punch,” he joked. He said the Cupertino man received medical attention and was released. His injuries are unknown.
Several people at the scene have reached out to make sure he’s OK, the victim said.
He added that the Pokemon GO community is made up of nice people he’s met by walking a loop of Pokéstops—places in the online game that allow you to collect items, Poke Balls and Pokemon.
The female victim did not report the suspect’s online harassment to police, he said. She described the suspect as a person “who likely hates women that reject him.”
The victim noted that the Cupertino man has his friend’s personal information, including phone number and address, which could escalate the danger of the situation. The harasser had been sending her threatening messages through the gaming app Discord prior to the confrontation, he added.
“She really only has three options: to stand up for herself, to just wish it goes away or to keep enduring it,” the victim said. “She isn’t the type to (bring it) to police.”

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Ad

From Page 4

code requirements that need to be met and construction details that need to be provided.”
A challenge both staff and residents face is that much of Los Altos is nonconforming; a majority of the homes were built prior to the city’s established zoning regulations.
“To me, it kind of makes Los Altos,” Biggs said. “I often tell people that if you take out our zoning code and pull it off the shelf and you compare it to what is actually the town that they love, they’re two different towns.”

To read the long-form version of this article, visit losaltosonline.com.

Los Altos resident Jacque Rupp, has rented her accessory dwelling unit, above, to two tenants over the past five years, both of whom she now counts as friends.
LEASE
From Page 1

same wavelength.

“We stay or we go, let us
know,” MacMillan said, alluding
to one of a handful of options the
organization has considered as it
awaits its fate: dissolving and do-
nating funds in reserves to the Los
Altos Library Endowment.

Lack of consensus

The city staff report stated that
the ad hoc committee could not
agree on which of the four final
options presented should be used
as space for Friends. In the end, no
recommendation was provided to
the council other than to hear out
city staff’s presentation and give
direction on what the next steps
should be.

Members of Friends submitted
a revised report with comments
on committee staff liaison Manny
Hernandez’s draft, claiming that
the ad hoc committee was not
given the opportunity to review
the option that ultimately would be
brought before the council Jan. 28.

Friends president Margaret
Brooks and vice president Catha-
rine Kristian presented the case
for their organization, which
raises an estimated $150,000 an-
ually for the Los Altos librar-
ies. If moved off-site or forced to
pay rent or additional operational
fees, Friends would at a minimum
have to change its business model
to eliminate quarterly book sales.
Those sales generate approxi-
mately 40% of the organization’s
revenue, Kristian said, noting that
the group was recently deemed
the highest-grossing branch of all
Friends of the Library groups in
the Bay Area.

A Change.org petition Friends
launched a few weeks ago asking
the council to keep the group on
the civic center campus with suffi-
cient room to function and enough
money to maintain its charitable
output has garnered approximate-
ly 4,500 signatures.

A few council members dis-
agreed with what they felt was an
emerging narrative that lack of
support for Friends’ exact wishes
meant they did not appreciate the
service the organization provides
for the community.

“We are supporting the Friends
no matter what,” Lee Eng said in
remarks that met with laughter,
groans and shouting from Friends
volunteers in the audience.

Other action

In other action, the council:
• Authorized Jordan to accept a
$160,000 Senate Bill 2 grant from
the state, which staff members Jon
Biggs and Guido Persicone said
would be used to hire a consultant
to formulate objective design and
development standards for the city
of Los Altos.
• Introduced and waived fur-
ther reading of amendments for a
noticing radius increase to 1,000
square feet for development proj-
ects, as well as miscellaneous
zoning code and planning pro-
cess amendments recommended
by the Los Altos Planning Com-
mission.
• Received an update on Santa
Clara County’s Foothill Express-
way Widening Project, which
will affect Los Altos commut-
eers traveling on the San Antonio
Road to El Monte Avenue stretch,
and approved a permit fee waiv-
er to the county on the day the
county’s Board of Supervisors
approved contracts and funding
for the project.

FOOTHILL
From Page 1

Santa Clara County plans
to start construction along Foothill
Expressway, left, in early March, a
project that will widen the heavily
used thoroughfare.

TOWN CRIER FILE PHOTO

by the county.

Funding was held up for the project
due to a legal challenge over the validity
of Measure B. After a series of rulings and
appeals, the challenge was dropped early
last year. County officials expect project
completion by November.

In approving the contract and funding,
Simitian urged county staff to:

• Minimize the traffic impacts of con-
struction.
• Conduct “robust” public awareness ef-
forts to help local residents plan their travel.
• Ensure that the contract contains pro-
visions assuring timely completion.

County staff is working with the city
of Los Altos to limit the traffic impacts on
residents.

Redgwick Construction was selected af-
after a competitive request-for-proposal pro-
cess that began in December.

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News

Public meeting scheduled to address controversial Lehigh quarry plans

Town Crier Report

Lehigh Southwest Cement Co.’s latest proposals to expand operations likely will be discussed at an upcoming public information meeting scheduled 7-9 p.m. Feb. 13 at Cupertino Community Hall.

Officials with the Lehigh cement plant and quarry, located in the Cupertino foothills just south of Los Altos, are proposing to dig a second pit as part of “reclamation plan” amendments and to import material from outside the quarry to fill the existing pit rather than use material on-site. Lehigh critics are concerned plans could worsen a ridge line “viewshed,” in violation of a 1972 agreement, and create more pollution through increased truck traffic importing material into the quarry.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, who arranged the meeting, said it would include a “multi-agency, informational update” related to cement plant and quarry operations.

“Given that almost a dozen regulatory agencies have a role to play at the site, I thought it was a good idea to create a forum where the agencies can all talk to each other,” Simitian said in a statement.

Simitian said the meeting’s purpose is to review and discuss the status of various local, state and federal agency oversight efforts, permitting processes and pending applications for cement plant and quarry operations. Agency staff will be available to provide information in response to questions from the public.

Los Altos resident Libby Lucas, a longtime observer of Lehigh activities, is concerned about expansion plans impacting local watersheds. She plans to attend the meeting.

“Aside from grim visual impacts to scenic ridge line, there is critical concern in quarrying through ridge into Stevens Creek watershed, which will connect it with Permanente Creek watershed to result in permanent diversion of surface and underground stream flows,” Lucas said, noting that it could increase flooding potential for Permanente in Los Altos.

Simitian said that given the fact that Lehigh has recently submitted two applications for reclamation plan amendments, “I expect the level of public interest will be high.”

cupertino Community Hall is located at 10350 Torre Ave.

For more information, visit supervisor.simitian.com.

TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

The Town of Los Altos Hills City Council invites applications from interested residents to serve on the Planning Commission. There is one (1) vacancy due to a resignation; the newly appointed Commissioner would serve the remainder of this term, which expires on June 30, 2020. The term begins upon appointment by the City Council on February 20, 2020 and concludes on June 30, 2020.

The Commission typically meets once a month to review and decides on planning permits for routine and complex or controversial development projects. The Planning Commission also advises the City Council on matters pertaining to the Zoning and Site Development Ordinance and the General Plan. The City Council will interview candidates and make an appointment at their Regular Meeting on February 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Applications can be downloaded from the Town’s website: http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov or by contacting the City Clerk’s office at 650-941-7222 or dpadovan@losaltoshills.ca.gov.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO: Deborah Padovan, City Clerk
Town of Los Altos Hills
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greentownlosaltos.org/500-trees
‘Yes’ on Foothill-De Anza initiatives

Let’s face it, many of us take our community colleges for granted. But for thousands of students throughout Los Altos, the Peninsula and the South Bay, Foothill and De Anza are launching pads for careers that will set them up for life. For others, they are new beginnings leading to encore careers. And for still others, they are economic and viable alternatives to attending expensive four-year universities. Furthermore, Foothill and De Anza are among the best in the state at what they do.

For these reasons and more, we encourage “yes” votes on two Foothill-De Anza funding measures on the March 3 ballot. Measure G is an $898 million bond that would cost property owners roughly 1.6 cents per $100 of assessed value. The measure, which requires 55% approval to pass, would fund construction of and updates to facilities. Measure H is a $48 parcel tax levied for five years that would raise $5.6 million annually for personnel and programs. It needs a two-thirds vote to pass.

On the surface, measures G and H sound like big asks. But the needs are greater than ever. Preparing students for the ever-changing tech industry requires upgrades and expansion of STEM centers. And don’t forget, De Anza is more than 50 years old, Foothill more than 60. Facilities naturally deteriorate. Campus-wide roof repairs and replacements don’t sound exciting, but they’re necessary.

The parcel tax addresses needs educators didn’t have to worry about decades ago: lack of housing, student hunger, mental health issues. Funding is crucial to help students and employees alike with housing assistance in collaboration with foundations and nonprofit groups. Mental health and counseling services are in need of expansion. More services are needed to address student hunger and homelessness. And more funding is needed to attract and retain a high-quality faculty as the community college district competes in one of the world’s most expensive areas.

Critics of such bond and parcel tax measures for local schools often have cited a lack of specificity. But Foothill-De Anza officials, in their proposals, have been specific about where funds will be directed. See for yourself at fhda.edu/MeasuresGandH. Then go vote “yes” on these much-needed initiatives.

Letters to the Editor

Open Boronda Lake to nonresidents

A Palo Alto friend told us their city is again considering the pros and cons of opening Boronda Lake to nonresidents. Palo Alto editorial websites have mostly expressed the sentiment that Los Altos residents long ago lost their opportunity and should live without access or pay a substantial sum to gain it.

I’m familiar with the history of how this came to be a “closed” park, but I’m also aware of how underutilized the resource is. We live near the lake and seldom see more than a handful of people in the park.

Perhaps this has been proposed before, but can we not find a win-win compromise? Westwind Community Barn, Byrne Preserve and Hidden Villa are all within proximity to Boronda Lake, Foothills Park and the city of Palo Alto. With imaginative planning and limited investment, these combined resources could become invaluable to the citizens of Palo Alto, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

For example, Westwind Barn sees narrow use as a horse boarding and training facility. Its glorious views and historic charm should be shared for expanded use as a facility for meetings, weddings and town gatherings. Hidden Villa depends on volunteer help, rental of on-site venues, etc., but could be so much more for teaching schoolchildren and hosting larger events. Much of the farm acreage is actually untouched. Existing buildings on both of these parks are aging and will need focused preservation.

Los Altos and Palo Alto could agree to a combined use and cost-sharing plan.

Boronda Lake should always belong to Palo Alto, but shared, as it is virtually every other city park in the Bay Area, including those in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

Tom Battle
Los Altos Hills

Glew talked sense on environment

The Town Crier’s “Crowded field in the running for State Senator seat” article (Jan. 22) provided a useful summary of candidates’ positions on a variety of issues. I want to call readers’ attention to the California Senate District 13 Climate and Environment Forum Jan. 15, sponsored by an impressive array of environmental organizations. All of the candidates participated.

One of my biggest takeaways was that Alex Grew, a GOP candidate, was talking sense on how we can address the climate crisis. How refreshing! He upstaged his Democratic peers.

David Cain
Los Altos

Don’t sacrifice space for dog park

Let’s protect the limited open space that we have in Los Altos for all to enjoy.

Fenced-in dog parks are unsanitary for pets and for humans. The excess water needed to hose them down will harm our heritage oaks and redwood trees. And the cost of building a fenced-in dog park would be better spent on repairs and maintenance at our Parks and Recreation properties.

Removing playground structures and trees at McKenzie Park does not serve Los Altos residents. Patents and staff at the Los Altos Sub-Acute and Rehabilitation Center will suffer if their nearby oasis in McKenzie Park is sacrificed for a fenced-in dog park.

To everyone in Los Altos, let’s protect our precious open space for future generations and for mixed use now by all creatures two-legged or four.

Barbara Adey
Los Altos
**Community**

**Save the Date**

**March 6**
Mountian View Chamber of Commerce's Celebration of Leaders Awards, 6 p.m. at the Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd. Information: chambermv.org.

**March 13**
Los Altos Village Association's St. Paddy’s Beer Stroll, 6-9 p.m. downtown Los Altos. Information: downtownlosaltos.org.

**April 4**
57th annual Downtown Los Altos Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. to noon. Information: downtownlosaltos.org.

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**Giants’ Dravecky describes cancer battle for Rotarians**

By Marlene Cowan
Special to the Town Crier

During a Rotary Club of Los Altos meeting Jan. 23, former San Francisco Giants pitcher Dave Dravecky recalled how his bout with cancer ended his Major League Baseball career and cost him his left arm.

Dravecky said he was “on top of the world” until 1988, when he felt a lump in his pitching arm. He needed surgery to remove a tumor in his deltoid muscle, and doctors warned he would never pitch again.

“That was a very difficult, scary time,” Dravecky told Rotarians, noting that he appreciated the Giants’ way of caring so deeply for him. “My faith is an important part of my story.”

His wife, Jan, and his Christian faith helped him through his recuperation period. After undergoing rehabilitation for more than a year, he returned to Major League action with the Giants in 1989—the year they won the National League pennant. But he broke his arm again that year, ending his career. Worse yet, in 1991 doctors confirmed his cancer had returned. To save his life, Dravecky opted to have his left arm and

See DRAVECKY, Page 11

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**Mothers Against Murder takes action**

Local nonprofit seeks justice for victims’ families, one hearing date at a time

By Melissa Hartman
Staff Writer/melissah@lat.com

Former Silicon Valley Bank CEO Roger Smith had been retired for a few years when he and his wife became tired of the negative aspect of today’s 24/7 news cycle. They especially lamented the number of murders reported in the local newspapers every morning.

“We were sitting there, reading and bitching, and finally we said, ‘We have to quit bitching or do something,’” he said.

Smith and his wife Judy, who live in Palo Alto, chose to do something. In 2003, they founded two nonprofit organizations at the same time: Mothers Against Murder (MAM), inspired by the name Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, and Friends of the Palo Alto Parks.

“To be totally honest, we were truly limping along because we didn’t have any idea what we were doing,” Smith said. “But the purpose was to help families of (murder victims).”

Through learning about the cause, Smith realized that one of the biggest obstacles for people who have lost someone through an act of senseless violence is navigating the court system. He said a “lack of customer service” leaves many families confused and waiting around, as hearings get delayed for a variety of reasons – reasons that trump even locking someone up for life for taking the life of another.

Joe Yontov, former director of the Victim Witness Assistance Center in San Jose, introduced Smith to longtime victims’ rights advocate Margaret Petrov. Soon after Yontov and Smith struck up a conversation about the future of MAM at the Victim Support Network’s Unsung Heroes event in 2009.

“When Margaret came into our lives, we became a professional organization,” Smith said. Petrov, a Los Altos resident who has been a professional advocate for 34 years, specializing in state victim compensation.

“I wanted to join MAM because of the mission of paying close attention, making systemic change and not being bureaucratic,” said Petrov, MAM executive director.

“You’re not really having to answer to a state agency while doing something that is absolutely right for crime victims.”

The work

Petros has fought on local and state levels for legislation to support victim compensation, and has been appointed to multiple commissions that aim to study and stop other forms of assault, including child abuse and domestic violence. She’s the “main engine” when it comes to compensation, often used by families to pay for the burial of their loved ones, Smith said.

“No one is prepared for murder,” Smith said. “Many times it’s poor people who have to make rent on Monday. … It’s a little bit frustrating to us because murder is so personal, but we like to make contact with the family immediately to help them start the process.”

The work undoubtedly takes a toll on advocates too. Petrov said, but her advocacy matters enough to make it manageable.

When the state was in a fiscal crisis a few years ago, the first things that were chopped were benefits for funerals and burials for victims, she noted.

“They reduced it to $5,000 even though the law says $7,500, so I was one of two advocates in the state of California to go up to Sacramento,” Petrov said, adding that she flagged the attention of East Bay Assemblyman Rob Bonta, who helped increase the funding.

If there is a reward, it’s keeping in contact with families that she has sat through every kind of hearing with until the killer is sentenced. Despite the pain, the families know the services MAM provides make a traumatic experience a little bit less traumatic.

See MOTHERS, Page 19
Rotary speakers lauded

Four local high school students competed in the annual Rotary Club of Los Altos speech contest Jan. 16.

Ethan Huang, a junior at Mountain View High School, won first place with his speech “Magic of Connection”; Rose Liu, a sophomore at Los Altos High, took second with “Confimation Bias”; Los Altos High senior Jayaan Luo captured third with “Strawberries”; and Franklin Ruan, a senior at Los Altos High, presented his speech “Dishwashing: My College Application.”

The four- to five-minute speeches each included a reference to the Rotary Club’s theme, which this year is “Rotary Connects the World.” Contest winners advance from the single-club competition to the area level, then the regional level and finally the Rotary District level, scheduled March 28. At the club level, first place winners receive $100, second place $50 and third place $25.

For more information on next year’s Rotary Club speech contest, students should email Kamal Della at Kamaldistrict5170@gmail.com.

COURTESY OF ROTARY CLUB OF LOS ALTOS
Rotarian Jack Kelly, left, awards Ethan Huang, a junior at Mountain View High School, a certificate for winning first place in the Rotary Club of Los Altos’ speech contest.

Museum’s historical essay contest launches, open to local students

The Los Altos Historical Commission and the Los Altos History Museum are accepting entries for the 36th annual Margaret Thompson Historical Essay Contest from local students in grades 5-12. This year’s theme is “Peek into Your Past.”

Contest organizers offer a writing prompt: “A photograph can capture a moment in time and preserve it for future generations. Talk with your family about some of the photographs you have in your home. Ask about the stories that are behind these photographs. Think about the family photos you have seen and select one old photograph of your parent, your grandparent or other family members from previous generations.

“Begin your essay by telling us about this person or persons and their relationship to you. Write about the story or stories you learned when choosing this photograph. Tell us why this photo is important to your family history. How are you similar to this person and how are you different? In conclusion, what is the most valuable information you learned from connecting with this photograph? As you write, use interesting vocabulary and communicate your ideas in a creative manner.”

Essays should be no longer than 300 words and are due to students’ teachers by March 6. Students should attach a copy – not the original – of the photograph when submitting their essays.

Prizes are $50 for first place, $30 for second and $20 for third place. Three winners will be chosen per grade level.

An ice cream social is scheduled 6 p.m. May 12 on the History Museum patio at 51 S. San Antonio Road for all essay writers, their parents, teachers and principals.

Following the ice cream social, winners will be recognized at 7 p.m. at the Los Altos City Council meeting.

For more information, visit losaltoshistory.org.

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
February 11th, 2020 - 7:00 P.M.
LOS ALTOS YOUTH CENTER
1 N San Antonio Road

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Council Minutes: Approve the minutes of the October 1, 2019 Special Meeting; October 29, 2019 Special Meeting; November 19, 2019 Special Meeting; December 3, 2019 Special Meeting; and January 28, 2020 Regular Meeting.

2. R3-4.5 Zoning amendments: Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 2019-467 to amend Chapter 14.16 of the Los Altos Municipal Code regarding the R3-4.5 Multiple-Family District.

3. Continuation of the 444-450 First Street Development Application: Applicant requests continuation of this item to March 10, 2020 (Continued from January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting)

4. Approval of Contract for City Attorney Services: Approve the agreement for City Attorney Legal Services with Berliner-Cohen LLC (J. Jordan)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Approval of Consultant Services Agreement with Alta Planning + Design for Development of the Los Altos Complete Streets Master Plan: Authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement in the amount not to exceed $165,426 for the development of the Los Altos Complete Streets Master Plan.


7. Pedestrian “See Me” Flags: Review and receive an informational update on pedestrian flags as safety treatments.


9. EOC/Police Station: Status Update for Emergency Operations Center (EOC) & Police Station Building Upgrades (Project CF-01003).

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

USED BOOK SALE
2 NEW LOCATIONS
Los Altos Youth Center and Children’s Books: Los Altos Library Orchard Room
Extended hours Saturday until 4 pm

FRIENDS OF THE LOS ALTOS LIBRARY
Fri. February 7th 6:30 pm to 9 pm
Members’ Night! Join at the door $10
Sat. February 8th 10 am to 4 pm
Open to the Public – Prices as marked
Sun. February 9th 12 pm to 3 pm
Books sold by the Bag - $5/Bag
Over 30,000 books in 25 categories including: many audio books and CDs, children and teen, mysteries and large selection of sheet music, especially guitar.

2 NEW LOCATIONS
Children’s Books: Los Altos Library Orchard Room
All others: Los Altos Youth Center, 1 N. San Antonio Road
CASH ONLY
For more info visit: http://losaltoslibraryfriends.org
PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE LOS ALTOS LIBRARIES
Museum celebrates language diversity with bilingual film screening

Special to the Town Crier

The Los Altos History Museum is scheduled to observe International Mother Language Day with a screening of the Japanese documentary “Paper Lanterns,” followed by messages of peace in languages from around the world, 5-7 p.m. Feb 21 at the museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization launched International Mother Language Day in 2000 to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity, and to preserve languages before they disappeared.

“At the Los Altos History Museum, we know that language carries so much of our international art and culture,” said Elisabeth Ward, executive director. “Last year, we participated for the first time in this annual event, sharing poems in our native tongues. Everyone enjoyed hearing languages ranging from Mongolian to French, all right here in our local community.”

This year’s theme is “Peace Around the World.” Local residents are encouraged to share messages of peace in their native languages, and attendees will receive an English translation.

Food and drinks from around the world will be served. “Los Altos residents possess a global perspective, having moved here from other parts of the world or having traveled to other countries,” Ward said.

“This event is meant to appreciate our international heritage.”

“Paper Lanterns” follows Shigeaki Mori, a resident of Hiroshima and an atomic bomb survivor, as he tracks down the stories of 12 U.S. prisoners of war who perished, along with tens of thousands of Japanese, in the attack. His journey to bring closure and solace to the families of the POWs is one of reconciliation and healing. Producer Nobuko Saito Cleary, a Los Altos Hills resident, will be on hand to introduce the film.

To register and for more information, visit losaltoshistory.org/motherLanguageDay.

DRAVECKY
From Page 9

shoulder amputated.

Before cancer struck, Dravecky had a successful run as a pitcher. The lefty compiled a career 64-57 record with a 3.13 ERA with the Giants and San Diego Padres before that.

The Pittsburgh Pirates drafted Dravecky in 1978 in the 21st round. He started out earning $500 a month.

“I stank in my first year with the Pirates,” he said, but the team’s faith in him fired up his confidence.

He said he enjoyed the bus rides with his teammates and the small coaching staff, reminiscing that “it was even fun when the bus broke down.”

After losing his pitching arm, Dravecky fell into a clinical depression, leaving him a “very angry man.” He admitted to being verbally abusive to his family. But Jan stuck by him. Together they faced lengthy anger counseling. Now, he said, after 41 years together, they are “more in love than ever.” These days, Dravecky makes the rounds as a motivational speaker.

Dravecky’s longtime friend Mario Alioto, executive vice president of the Giants’ business operations, invited him to become the Community Ambassador for the team.

“Being a Giant is amazing,” said Dravecky, who has served 10 years in that role.

With fans’ support and encouragement, he was inducted into the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame, which he said “means so much” to him and his family.

Tony Savice, vice president of the local Hall of Fame, accompanied Dravecky and Alioto to the Rotary Club speaking engagement.

The next time you enjoy a bobblehead, Alioto said in closing, “remember that Dave Dravecky invented them!”

Marlene Cowan is a member of the Rotary Club of Los Altos. For more information, visit losaltosrotary.org.

San Antonio Hills residents set to meet

Town Crier Report

The annual San Antonio Hills Homeowners’ meeting is scheduled 7 p.m. Feb. 12 at Los Altos Golf & Country Club, 1500 Country Club Drive.

Speakers will include Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian on how county government affects San Antonio Hills; county associate planner Valerie Negrete on the state’s new construction requirements for accessory dwelling units; and resident Richard Blanchard on what residents can do before the lights go out due to a power outage. A question-and-answer period will follow.

The meeting also will feature the election of new directors and a special tribute to Pete McSweeney, a San Antonio Hills board member for 40 years who recently died.

The meeting is open to all San Antonio Hills area residents.

For more information, visit sanantionohills.com.
Silicon Valley Reads 
comes to LA Library

Town Crier Report

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of U.S. women’s suffrage, Silicon Valley Reads 2020 will celebrate the achievements of women with its theme “Women Making It Happen.”

Silicon Valley Reads is an annual community engagement program presented by the Santa Clara County Library District, the Santa Clara County Office of Education and the San Jose Public Library. It selects books that reflect a theme relevant to the region and asks residents to read, think, discuss and share their diverse perspectives.

In conjunction with the program, the Los Altos Library is set to host the following programs and events. All events are scheduled in the Orchard Room of the main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road.

- 7:30-9 p.m. Feb. 28: “Alpha Girls” author Julian Go to chine in conversation with Abe Kleinfield
- 2-4 p.m. March 8: Screening and discussion of the documentary “Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time” with author Tanya Lee Stone, who wrote a young adult book by the same name inspired by the film
- 7-9 p.m. March 9: Screening of the film “RBG”
- 7-8:30 p.m. March 11: Discussion of “Paving the Way: Women’s Struggles for Political Equity in California” with authors Steve Swatt and Susie Swatt
- 2-3:30 p.m. March 14: Discussion for children and parents on the entrepreneurial mindset, “Learning from the Lemonade Stand,” with author Brian Weisfeld
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 28: Silicon Valley Reads Day at the Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View

For more information on library programs, visit scclld.org.
For more information on Silicon Valley Reads, visit siliconvalleyreads.org.

LA Senior Program provides free tax prep assistance

Special to the Town Crier

The Los Altos Senior Program has scheduled a free tax-return preparation service Monday mornings through April 13.

The Tax-Aide service, sponsored by the AARP Foundation, is the nation’s largest volunteer tax assistance program, and Los Altos has hosted a Tax-Aide site since 1997.

Trained, IRS-certified volunteers meet with clients, review their tax forms and records, then prepare and electronically file both federal and California tax returns.

The volunteers are not certified to prepare returns involving rentals with depreciation or some other more complex returns. They will, however, handle simpler returns for sole proprietorships that don’t involve depreciation.

Tax-Aide also can file extensions with the IRS if a taxpayer does not have all needed tax documents before April 15. All taxes due must be paid by April 15, even if a completed tax return is filed later.

Clients should bring photo ID, Social Security card or statement, their 2018 tax return, all 2019 tax information and evidence of health-care coverage if available.

This year Tax-Aide will be preparing tax returns at the Mountain View Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Ave., because the previous site, Hillview Community Center, was demolished to make way for a new facility.

Appointments for tax services are required.

To make an appointment or to inquire if your tax return qualifies, call the Los Altos Senior Program at 947-2797.
Community

Avenidas honors community volunteers

Local awardees include
Fran Codispoli of Los Altos and Bill and Gay Krause of Los Altos Hills

Special to the Town Crier

Avenidas, a nonprofit organization that offers longevity and wellness services to Peninsula residents, annually honors a group of older adults for the contributions they make to the community with the Avenidas Lifetimes of Achievement Awards.

Three of the nine awardees in 2020 are from the Los Altos area.

This year’s honorees include Fran Codispoli of Los Altos and Gay and Bill Krause of Los Altos Hills. Also honored are Eliane and Armand Neu- kernans of Portola Valley and Palo Alto residents Betsy Gifford, Steve Player and Alma and Jim Phillips.

Codispoli has served on the Avenidas Board of Directors for 21 years and has volunteered with the Stanford Cancer Council, the Foundation for a College Education, Bay Area Cancer Connections, Human Rights Watch, the Stanford Women’s Cancer Center, Gunn High School and the Palo Alto Unified School District.

Gay Krause is executive director of the Krause Center for Innovation and has worked with more than 21,000 educators over the center’s 20 years. She serves on six nonprofit boards, including the YMCA of Silicon Valley, the Foothill-De Anza Foundation, Children Now, the Mountain View/Los Altos/Los Altos Hills Challenge Team, the Palo Alto Medical Foundation Community Board and the Los Altos Chamber of Commerce.

Bill Krause has served as chairman of the American Electronics Association and the Junior Achievement Silicon Valley Business Hall of Fame, and was The Citadel’s Alumnus of the Year. He gives back to the community through mentoring and philanthropy.

“The treasure trove of outstanding seniors who have made so many contributions to our community makes our honorree selection process very challenging, and this year was no exception,” said Avenidas President and CEO Amy Andonian. “Each individual’s story is so interesting and rich, and their accomplishments give us all quite a high standard to shoot for in our own lives.”

The award recipients will be honored at a garden party fundraiser 3-5 p.m. May 17. Admission is open to all. Tickets are $85. Proceeds support Avenidas programming.

For tickets and more information, call 289-5445 or visit avenidas.org.
LA veterans look to preserve hall with historical designation

Town Crier Staff Report

Members of the local American Legion are working with the city of Los Altos to secure a historical designation for the Legion’s 80-year-old building on First Street. Doing so would protect the structure from being sold and razed for redevelopment.

Legion Post 558 members, led by William Bassett of Los Altos, continue to hold meetings and events, and rent out space in the facility, located at 347 First St. The 3,920-square-foot American Legion Hall was built in 1940 by World War I veterans for approximately $3,300, according to Legion records.

Bassett said the city had approached Post 558 approximately 25 years ago about a historical designation for the building when city officials were undergoing a historical resource inventory.

“Unfortunately, the leadership at that time did not appreciate the importance of such a designation to the community, and the offer was not accepted,” Bassett wrote in his new application to the city.

Why now? Bassett said the Legion has been approached at least twice in recent years with offers to purchase the building and property.

“It’s the last thing we want,” said Bassett, a Vietnam War veteran. “We want to preserve this structure forever.

A historical designation would require permission from the city for any exterior remodel, no matter who owns the property.

The structure, built on a cement foundation with wood framing, a pitched roof, exterior wood siding and lath and plaster on the interior, is similar to a “military-style structure,” as Bassett described it. Inside is a large gathering hall with natural wood, a vaulted ceiling and a stone fireplace.

Construction of the Legion Hall occurred approximately two years after the 1938 launch of Post 558. Early in its history, it served as space for citizens’ meetings that led to the incorporation of the city of Los Altos in 1952. The structure also has housed meetings for local youth programs, PTAs, the Red Cross, first aid and home defense presentations, and the local garden club.

Post 558 received a visit from former President Jimmy Carter, who made an appearance at the Legion Hall May 4, 2001.

Documenting history

Legion members said they hope to submit their completed application to the city by Friday, in time for the proposal to be heard at the Feb. 24 Los Altos Historical Commission meeting.

According to Jon Biggs, community development director, the report must be conducted by a professional with expertise in historical structures and include supporting documentation and evidence for a historical resource evaluation report.

“Once all the background information and supporting documentation are provided, the request can be scheduled for a meeting and the Historical Commission will consider the appropriate designations and/or recommendations,” he said.

Veterans William Bassett, left, and Ken Newman of American Legion Post 558 hope to preserve the American Legion Hall on First Street.

Fundraiser supports local Alzheimer’s Association

Special to the Town Crier

The Alzheimer’s Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada has scheduled its 17th annual Memories in the Making Auction fundraiser 6 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View.

The event will feature live and silent auction items including travel experiences, rare wines, and sports and theater tickets. Artwork from the Alzheimer’s Association’s Memories in the Making program, a therapeutic art class for people living with Alzheimer’s disease, will be on display.

According to Diane Koumalakis, chairwoman of this year’s event, a highlight of the Memories in the Making benefit is hearing from people who are either living with dementia or Alzheimer’s or their caregivers, usually children or parents, who share their personal struggles.

“The moment you hear them speak, you can’t find a dry eye,” she said. “Their stories are relatable and powerful.”

Koumalakis lost her mother to Alzheimer’s in 2017.

“It is my mission, every day, to work tirelessly for those who have lost their voices,” she said. “We all need to speak for those who no longer can.”

The Memories in the Making event annually raises more than $250,000 for the Alzheimer’s Association.

Tickets are $150.

For tickets and more information, visit alz.org/norcal/events/memories-in-the-making-auction.
Community

Morning Forum of Los Altos winter-spring lectures underway

Town Crier Report

The annual Morning Forum of Los Altos lecture series continues into 2020.

Founded in Los Altos in 1950, the Morning Forum boasts 450 local members. The series features 16 speakers who appear 10 a.m. every other Tuesday from September through the beginning of June at Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave.

Speakers and their topics for the winter and spring:
- Feb. 18: Mark Lapadula, playwright, screenwriter, film producer and senior lecturer in the Yale University film studies program, “The Greatest Romantic Moments in Movies”
- March 3: David Troxel, 30-year career in dementia care, “The Art of Dementia Care”
- March 17: Caroline Cocchiardi, author and student of all things da Vinci, “Leonardo’s Knots”
- April 7: Sean Harley, expert on the history of the Broadway musical, “Four Musicals That Changed Broadway”
- April 21: Michael Kodas, author and photojournalist, “Living with Megafauna”
- May 5: Elizabeth Cobbs, Melbern G. Glasscock professor of history at Texas A&M University, “Defender of the Nation: Harriet Tubman and the Civil War”
- May 19: Carl Raymond, professionally trained chef, “From Dickens to Downton: The World of Victorian and Edwardian Food”
- June 2: David Kennedy, Stanford University professor emeritus of history and founder of the Bill Lane Center for the American West, “The Transcontinental Railroad at 150: Reflections on the History of the American West”

Membership is open to all.

For a series subscription and more information, visit morningforum.org.

BELMONT VILLAGE IS OUTSMARTING MEMORY LOSS

Award-winning Circle of Friends delivers positive results for Assisted Living residents with mild to moderate memory loss

Available only at Belmont Village, Circle of Friends was pioneered to curb the effects of cognitive decline through a unique program that builds brain fitness. Developed by a nationally recognized gerontologist, Circle of Friends is rooted in evidence-based research in collaboration with UCLA and Vanderbilt University. And it works. Residents engage in small groups and enjoy a rich, therapeutic program of physical and mental activities designed to maintain brain function, build self-esteem and increase confidence in social settings.

Learn more about how we tackle memory loss at BELMONTVILLAGE.COM
Call 408-720-8498 to schedule a personal tour today.

Pet of the Week

Kippur is a 15-year-old, male domestic shorthair available for adoption through Pets In Need. He came to the organization when his owner passed away. “The transition has been a bit of a shock for this sedate older gentleman, and so far he’s been quite shy with our volunteers, but we know that given time to settle in and plenty of love, he will open up and show his true colors,” a PIN rep said. For more information on Kippur and other animals available for adoption, call Pets In Need at 496-5971, visit petsinneed.org or stop by the facility at 3281 E. Bayshore Road, noon to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

Attention, wordsmiths! The Town Crier Crossword Puzzle is back and on page 26.
**BRIGHT AND SPACIOUS WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEWS**

10776 Mora Drive, Los Altos Hills

Stunning views stretch for miles from this 4-bedroom, 2-bath home on a 1.23 acre lot (per survey) in sought-after Los Altos Hills. Offering 2,166 sq. ft. (per county) of light, bright living space over two levels, this home is ready to meet a variety of lifestyle needs. Large formal rooms afford plenty of space for entertaining, including the fireplace-centered living room crowned by a beamed, coved ceiling, while natural light pours in through numerous windows that showcase the home’s spectacular surroundings. Feel miles away from it all in the peaceful, private backyard, where an expansive brick patio and built-in brick grill provide an enchanting setting for outdoor enjoyment while dazzling Bay vistas shine in the background. Topping it all off, this home enjoys a location just steps to nature trails through the Rancho San Antonio Preserve, a short trip to the excitement of downtown Mountain View, and provides access to sought-after Los Altos schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

**OPEN HOUSE**

Sunday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Los Altos Hills.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics* using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Los Altos Hills, All Residential Properties.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: [www.10776MoraDrive.com](http://www.10776MoraDrive.com)

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25621 Vinedo Lane, Los Altos Hills

Resort-Like Estate in Los Altos Hills

On a lot of over 1 acre (per county) in peaceful and private Los Altos Hills, this spectacular estate presents the absolute best of luxury, sophistication, and elegance, offering 6 bedrooms, 8 baths, and 3 half-baths, all on 9,348 sq. ft. of living space (per county). Sumptuous appointments are everywhere, from the stylish formal rooms and superb kitchen, to the marvelous bedrooms including the retreat-like master suite, to the downstairs recreation room perfect for movie nights. Experience the convenience of home office space and a fitness center, or unwind with your favorite vintage in the wine cellar with tasting room. Enjoy grounds befitting of a five-star resort, with an outdoor fireplace, barbecue center, a magnificent pool and grotto, and a cabana fully appointed with a kitchen. Feel a million miles away from it all, yet be just a short trip to downtown Los Altos, close to Interstate 280, and have access to acclaimed Los Altos schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.25621Vinedo.com
Offered at $11,988,000

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Los Altos Hills.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, Los Altos Hills, All Residential Properties.

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Community

Los Altos singer-songwriter launches new career focused on the upbeat

Town Crier Staff Report

After 30 years in marketing for companies like Apple, Los Altos resident Mary Gospe knew there had to be “life after tech.” So she left the corporate world two years ago and embarked on an encore career as a singer-songwriter.

The result is a new album, “Time to Soar,” released in November, that already has one critic across the pond dubbing it “one of the albums of the year.” She proves a captivating vocalist and songwriter, unfailingly upbeat – even when inspired by Syrian women refugees on the catchy “We Are One.”

Gospe, 56, may have started a new genre with what one critic dubbed “new-age rock,” an amalgamation of classic pop rock and new-age sensibilities revealed in life-affirming lyrics.

Residents won’t have to travel far to witness Gospe’s talents. She has been performing with fellow singer-songwriter Corrie Dunn under the name Song Garden at friend Carol Garsten’s Nature Gallery at 296 State St. during First Friday events in downtown Los Altos. She plans to be there again 6-8 p.m. Friday when First Friday activities are combined with the Los Altos Village Association-sponsored Valentine’s Stroll.

Early influences

Gospe’s musical journey began in childhood. Her father was a musician and multi-instrumentalist.

“I grew up with my parents listening to the Big Bands, and my brothers were listening to The Who and the Doors,” she recalled.

She took up clarinet before picking up guitar. She wrote her first song at 16. But music took a backseat as she pursued an MBA and a career in marketing.

Music kept calling and remained pervasive in her life. Gospe is still part of a musical family – her husband plays piano and her son Zach is a musician and songwriting (the Town Crier profiled him in 2013). She also took up alto saxophone and drums, and attended songwriting classes at Poothill College.

“I’ve always had a desire to write my own music,” Gospe said.

So two years ago, burned out in her marketing career and having paid her final college tuition bill, Gospe poured herself into music full time. She began performing at various social events and through Garsten, hooked up with Dunn. Then in summer 2018, she met award-winning music producer Vito Gregoli. They hit it off musically. Gregoli worked with Gospe on nine of the 12 songs on “Time to Soar.”

A regular practitioner of meditation, Gospe finds a constant source of inspiration in universal spirituality. The song titles say it all: “Time to Soar,” “I Choose Love,” “Free to Be Me,” “Unity” and “Live from Your Heart.”

“These songs are affirmations to myself of how I want to proactively create my life experiences,” she said in a statement. “I hope to inspire others with my lyrics and my story, that at any age you can pursue your big dreams. Believe in yourself, let go of the fear of being judged and share the gifts you’ve been given.”

Gospe’s music is available on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Spotify, YouTube and Apple Music, as well as her website, marygospe.com.

Orchardist’s photos on display at J. Gilbert Smith House

Town Crier Report

Local orchardist J. Gilbert Smith’s photographs of the natural world, and of Los Altos in days gone by, are the subject of a new exhibition, “The Photography of J. Gilbert Smith,” slated for display through May 24 in the Los Altos History Museum’s J. Gilbert Smith House.

The photography exhibition complements an art exhibition on display in the museum’s main gallery, allowing visitors to see artistic expressions created in various genres over the past 100 years. The Los Altos History Museum is located at 51 S. San Antonio Road. Admission to the exhibition and museum is free. Hours are noon to 4 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays.

For more information, call 948-9427, ext. 14, email hello@losaltoshistory.org or visit losaltoshistory.org.
Los Altos announces awards of emergency preparedness grants

Town Crier Report


"This latest grant cycle brought in two newly registered Block Action Teams, and over half of the neighborhoods were new grant applicants," said Ann Hegenring, community emergency preparedness coordinator. "We're excited to see each neighborhood's plans in improving their resiliency and emergency preparedness, and to provide the motivation and funding for these ideas."

The submitted applications included a range of project proposals, including neighborhood events for preparedness training, Family Radio Service radios and amateur radio equipment, Community Emergency Response Training registration, a neighborhood directory and emergency supplies.

The Community & Emergency Preparedness Grants Program is designed to encourage residents and small businesses to improve emergency preparedness, build community and strengthen neighborhood ties. Qualified projects must support the program's goals to:

- Enhance community resiliency by proactively preparing for emergencies and strengthening the community's ability to respond to and recover from emergencies, disasters and crime.
- Increase communication and strengthen connections within the Los Altos community.

Hegenring said the city plans another grant cycle, with applications due Feb. 26. Eligibility requirements will be announced soon and posted on the city's website at losaltos.ca.gov.

For more information on the projects, visit losaltos.ca.gov/cig.

Further info

- For information on grants and the Los Altos PREPARES program, call Hegenring at 947-2639 or email ahegenring@losaltos.ca.gov.
- For information on Block Action Teams, a managed program of Los Altos Community Foundation in partnership with the city of Los Altos, visit losaltosbat.org.
- For information on Neighborhood Watch, visit losaltosca.gov/police/page/neighborhood-watch.

County offers grants for charitable meal preparation

Special to the Town Crier

The Santa Clara County Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency charitable feeding pilot program is accepting grant applications through March 18. The grants are designed to alleviate some of the costs for using permitted commercial kitchens for nonprofit organizations that prepare meals.

Grants will be awarded for up to $1,000 to organizations to pay for costs associated with renting a permitted commercial kitchen in Santa Clara County for preparing charitable meals.

Many organizations that prepare charitable meals do not own or have access to permitted commercial kitchens, which can result in operating out of compliance with state law, significantly limiting the type of food they are able to serve.

The goal of the pilot program is to improve the quality, quantity and availability of food to residents who may not have the resources to feed themselves.

For applications and more information, visit sccgov.org/sites/ca/pea/Pages/cepa.aspx.

MOTHERS

From Page 9

Petros receives text messages at Thanksgiving and thank-you cards every now and again.

For Smith, the emotional toll affects the business side of his brain: How can a system be so ineffective? Is there a better way to immediately serve the victims’ families? Petros is accustomed to the delays, but she understands that many share Smith’s perspective.

“You heart just breaks, and you think to yourself, ‘The system can’t be this bad,’” Smith said.

A new strategy

MAM has recently offered rewards for information on local murders in an effort to assist law enforcement agencies and bring light to a dark situation. Smith donated up to $20,000 of her own money for details on who killed San Jose resident Arman-do Montelongo Espinoza, 52, in a Palo Alto parking lot Jan. 21.

Most of the money put toward the charity is Smith’s own cash, Petros said, because they want to use their time as resourcefully as possible. MAM has no office, only a post office box; so Petros travels to each family to have tough conversations from the comfort of their own homes.

Smith isn’t sure what the future holds for MAM. His original vision, a charity that could connect mothers of murder victims with one another to act as a support system, failed upon the realization of how “hurtful and individualized” the experience is. He dreams of a society that needs no MAM, despite knowing how impossible that seems.

“Eventually, we want to be out of this work,” Petros said. “But that’s not real.”

For more information on MAM, visit the charity’s website at mothersagainstmurder.org.
Community

Community Briefs

World Affairs spotlights ungoverned countries

The Peninsula Chapter of World Affairs has scheduled a presentation on “The Dilemmas of Ungoverned and Misgoverned Spaces: From Afghanistan to India to Iraq” 7:30 p.m. today at the Los Altos main library, 13 S. San Antonio Road.

Stanford University Professor Erik Jensen, an expert in state-building and the political economy of reform, will provide an overview of the perils and promise of working in ungoverned, misgoverned and reasonably governed countries. Jensen will provide data and personal anecdotes from his on-the-ground experiences in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Iraq.

The Los Altos Library is co-sponsor of the event.

To volunteer to help set up chairs and tables, email Katie Zoglun at peninsula@worldaffairs.org.

For more information, visit worldaffairs.org/events/chapters/peninsula-chapter.

SIR hosts luncheon, Alzheimer’s talk

Sons In Retirement Los Altos Branch 35 has scheduled a luncheon 11:30 a.m. Feb. 19 at the Palo Alto Elks Lodge, 4249 El Camino Real.

Guest speaker Cutter Lindbergh, Ph.D., of UC San Francisco will discuss “Early Indications of Alzheimer’s Disease.”

SIR is a social organization open to active, mature men. Activities include bowling, golf, hiking, bocce ball and investments.

For more information, call Paul Schutz at (408) 331-6852 or visit sirinc2.org/branch35.

PA Philharmonic offers ‘Love Stories’


The concert, conducted by musical director Lara Webber, is set for an 8 p.m. start at Cubberley Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road.

The featured musician, violinist Elizabeth Pitcairn, will perform Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto.

Tickets are $10-$22. For tickets and more information, visit paphil.org.

Los Altos Art club looks to expand

The Los Altos Art Club seeks to expand its membership by reaching local artists in all media categories.

The club meets 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at the Grant Park Senior Center, 1575 Holt Ave., Los Altos.

Founded in 1945 as a non-profit organization, the Los Altos Art Club is both a charitable and educational organization. Its goals include increasing the awareness and appreciation of art in the community and supporting the personal and artistic development of members.

For more information, visit losaltosartclub.org.

See BRIEFS, Page 24
Celebrate Valentine's Day

Valentine's Dinner
Friday, February 14th, 2020

Choose One:
- BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP
  coconut milk, kefir, lime, ginger, lemon grass
- CAESAR SALAD & PRAWNS
  filo wrapped prawns, lemon garlic dressing, parmesan cheese
- PAN SEARED SCALLOPS
  roasted kabocha squash puree, wild mushrooms, berries gastrique
- DINAH’S SALAD
  mixed greens, goat cheese, roasted grapes, hazelnuts, sherry vinaigrette

Choose One:
- PAN ROASTED SKUNA BAY SALMON
  pea vichyssoise, smoked trout Roe, purple potatoes, lemon-pesto shoots
- LAMB CHOPS
  herb fingerling potatoes, creamed spinach, rosemary demi glace
- FILET MIGNON
  potato-gorgonzola brick, demi-glace, broccolini crumbs
- RISOTTO PAELLA FLAVORS (VEGETARIAN OPTIONAL)
  saffron risotto, tomatoes, peppers, chorizo, peas, rock cod, prawns, chicken

Choose One:
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Community

BRIEFS
From Page 20

Gallery 9 celebrates 50 years with display

Gallery 9, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, is the subject of a special exhibition, “Gallery 9: Celebrating Art in Los Altos,” set to run through March 8 at the Los Altos History Museum.

Visitors can meet the artists and learn about their processes and inspiration 6-8 p.m. Feb. 13.

The Los Altos History Museum is located at 51 S. San Antonio Road.

To register for the events and for more information, visit losaltoshistory.org/gallery9.

Viewpoints Gallery opens new exhibition

Landscape painter Teresa Russo is this month’s featured artist at Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos.

Russo’s work features big skies, ocean views and peaceful country scenes, all in her signature soft pastels.

“Painting is a way for me to explore the natural world that I love with all its mysteries and beauty,” she said.

Russo’s exhibition runs through Feb. 26. An artist’s reception is scheduled 3-5 p.m. Saturday at the gallery.

For more information, call 941-5789 or visit viewpointsgallery.com.

LAH art committee issues call for artists

The Los Altos Hills Public Art Committee encourages local artists to submit applications for inclusion in a new digital art gallery project.

The gallery, available at losaltoshills.ca.gov/417/Digital-Gallery-Art-by-Local-Artists, aims to complement the physical public art the committee places on town lands and is intended as a nod to the town’s place in Silicon Valley — “where tech and culture sometimes blend,” according to committee members.

Although Los Altos Hills residents will receive priority, artists from other cities will be considered.

To review submission guidelines, visit losaltoshills.ca.gov and enter “digital art gallery artist submission guidelines” in the search bar.

To submit applications and for more information, email CommitteePublicArt@gmail.com.
People

Anniversary

William and Helga Waterfield, 60 years

Dr. William Waterfield Jr. and his wife, Helga, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

The couple met in Helga’s hometown of Kitzingen, Germany, where William was stationed during his time in the military. The Waterfields married in Kitzingen Jan. 19, 1960.

“My mom’s father owned a book and stationery store on the main street in Kitzingen,” said daughter Heidi Waterfield, recalling how her parents met. “One day my dad was at the store and was having trouble communicating his needs, so someone in the store said, ‘Get the owner’s daughter (who also worked there). She speaks English.’ So my mom was heralded to the rescue. Later in their relationship, they went back to find the receipt from that day to determine the date, and it turned out it had been Valentine’s Day.”

After marrying, the Waterfields moved to William’s hometown of Fort Wayne, Ind., before relocating to Palo Alto. From there, they moved to Mountain View and then to their current home in Los Altos, where they have resided for more than 50 years. William is a psychiatrist in private practice.

In addition to daughter Heidi, the Waterfields have a granddaughter, Cassie.

Wedding

Laura Phillips Bence and Stephan Joffe

Laura Phillips Bence and Stephan Alan Joffe were married Dec. 30 at Picchetti Winery in Cupertino. A reception followed at the winery.

The bride is the daughter of Barbara and the late Howard Edward Phillips of Los Altos. She graduated from Los Altos High School and earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education from San Jose State University. She is employed as a transitional kindergarten teacher at Springer School in the Los Altos School District.

The groom is the son of the late Howard Nathan and Helen Greenbaum Joffe of Rochester, NY. He graduated from Eastridge High School in East Irondequoit, NY., and earned a bachelor’s degree from Smith College School for Social Work in Northampton, Mass. He has a private practice in coaching and consultation for couples, families and individuals.

The couple honeymooned on Santa Catalina Island in Southern California and plan to live in San Jose.

Email engagement, wedding and anniversary announcements to bruceb@latc.com.

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www.stnicholasandstwilliam.org
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February 5, 2020 / Los Altos Town Crier / Page 25
Town Crier Crossword

By Myles Mellor

Across
1. Nobel Peace Prize city
2. Soul singer Corinne Bailey
3. 8. Colo. is on it
4. West Coast sch.
5. Bear's advice
6. Bar beverage
7. Lee cakes
8. Grammy winner Redding
9. Physics particle
10. Road journal
11. Meshed fabric
12. Loyola
13. Escalate, with "up" 27. Musical Miller
14. Remove a disguise from
15. Most wise
16. Sister's daughter
17. Nightwear
18. TC s Pete and MV
19. Way
20. Opposite of "post"
21. Protecting
22. Mauna volcano
23. Hawaiian volcano
24. Attorney general

Down
1. Dethrone
2. Lasting mark
3. " ___ Croft: Tomb Raider" (2001 movie)
4. Royal name in Norway
5. Return accusation
6. Put in order
7. Choices for Chicago commuters
8. Trunk
9. Blackthorn
10. Big Top
12. Performed alone
13. Sound reflector
21. Key of Haydn's
27. Symphony No. 12
33. "My stars!"
36. "Not guilty," e.g.
37. Doesn't keep
39. Stopped working
40. ____-bitty
41. Day's opposite, in commercials
42. African antelopes
44. Evil

--- Los Altos related clues bolded ---

--- Answers on Page 31 ---

Sudoku

By Myles Mellor and Susan Flanagan

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult. Level: Medium

Find A Word

Fifteen words related to outer space are listed by this puzzle. They may go across, up and down or diagonally in the puzzle. Circle each one when you find it.

Arcturus
Asteroid
Comet
Earth
Galaxy
Jupiter
Mars
Orion
Redgiant
Saturn
Skies
Stars
Uranus
Uranus
Venus

Page 26 / Los Altos Town Crier / February 5, 2020
LASD prunes facilities options for Bullis Charter School

By Zoe Morgan
Staff Writer/zoeem@latc.com

The Los Altos School District Board of Trustees has begun to winnow the long list of long-term facilities options for Bullis Charter School, aiming to reach an agreement by the end of the school year.

Distrct trustees have narrowed down the list of options from the 55 that local residents weighed in on at workshops in November to just over a dozen choices slated for further investigation.

At a Jan. 27 meeting, the board directed staff to analyze 13 choices further, based on a set of guiding principles the district created.

The 13 are the ideas that received above 30% overall support at the workshops, plus the five most popular options each from school district parents, charter school parents and those without school-aged children. Some of the ideas overlapped among the lists.

A representative from MCG, the consultant the district hired to run the public outreach campaign, presented the results from the workshops at last week’s meeting.

Opinion was split: Ideas that were popular with school district parents were generally opposed by charter school parents, and vice versa. Out of 55 options, only two garnered more than 10% support from both groups.

No option managed to reach 15% with both parties.

“The one thing that is clear … is that there is no multiple-moving-part, bank-shot solution that nobody has thought of that will make everybody happy,” board president Bryan Johnson said at the meeting.

Charter school communications director Alan Simpson said in an interview that he wasn’t sure how much progress was being made with the whittled-down list.

“If the LASD trustees really want to find community consensus, we should start with proposals that are legally, practically and financially viable,” Simpson said.

The district’s trustees embarked on a public engagement process last spring after parents protested a proposed 10-year agreement with Bullis Charter School that would put the charter school on the Egan Junior High School campus and move Egan to the 10th school site in Mountain View.

The district hosted a series of public meetings last fall where attendees brainstormed solutions to the facilities dilemma. That resulted in the list of 55 options, which residents had the opportunity to discuss over the course of three November workshops.

In all, 965 people participated in the workshops. Overall, 52% of respondents reported being parents of children enrolled in district schools. 22% were charter school parents and 17% did not have school-aged children. The remainder either had children in private or parochial schools.

See FACILITIES, Page 28

Foothill Middle College expands to meet demand

By Zoe Morgan
Staff Writer/zoeem@latc.com

When Caroline Kemp was a sophomore at Mountain View High School, she felt unsatisfied socially and academically, longing for a more supportive environment and greater freedom to choose her classes. Then she found the Foothill Middle College program, which allows local high school juniors and seniors to take all of their classes on the Foothill College campus.

“It’s the best decision I’ve ever made,” said Kemp, who is now a senior. “I think it was the first time I ever really made a decision for myself.”

Soon, many more students will get to make that same decision. The middle college program will double next school year, from the roughly 65 students currently enrolled.

The Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District created the program in 1993 in partnership with the Palo Alto Unified School District. Approximately half of the students come from each district.

“The demand is there and the two districts have the resources, so we want to meet the needs of the kids,” said Bill Pierce, who oversees the program.

The MVLA Board of Trustees approved the expansion last month, which is expected to cost $600,000 annually. The cost includes hiring two additional teachers.

Middle college students take English and social studies classes taught by high school district teachers but held at Foothill. The rest of their courses are community college classes.

Over the past few years, the waitlist for the program has been growing. Approximately 80 students were put on the waitlist this school year, according to Mike Wilson, the program’s English teacher.

Kemp once spoke at an information night for the program where she estimated 200 people showed up. She said she was happy to see the high interest, but that it was “heartbreaking” to know how many got turned down.

Fellow middle college student Ava Miller, who originally attended Gunn High School, said she knows quite a few people who applied but didn’t get in because of space constraints.

“It’s really sad,” Miller said. “So many people definitely could benefit from this program.”

The expansion will enable more students to experience the program. However, students and teachers both say an integral part of what makes middle college special is its small, tight-knit environment. To maintain that, the plan is to run two parallel programs rather than combining into one large group.

“It’s not like now we’re just going to have a bigger middle college – we’re going to have two middle colleges,” social studies teacher Trish Langdon said.

See EXPANSION, Page 28

MVLA suffers ransomware attack

By Zoe Morgan
Staff Writer/zoeem@latc.com

The Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District was the victim of a ransomware attack last week, which locked some teachers and staff out of their computer files and took down the district’s phone system.

District officials discovered the attack Jan. 29. According to Bob Fishrom, the district’s director of information technology services, there isn’t evidence thus far that any student or staff data was compromised, though he said it hasn’t yet been confirmed.

See RANSOMWARE, Page 29
Foothill Middle College teacher Mike Wilson works with Emma Staye, left, and Kimbal Williams on a project.

EXPANSION From Page 27

The district plans to hire two more teachers – one for social studies and one for English – who will lead the other half of the program. The two groups will largely operate separately, though all four teachers will work and plan together.

“The beauty of the program is the student experience, and we’re doing whatever we can to try and preserve that,” Wilson said. “Rather than just getting bigger, we’re thoughtfully doubling.”

‘Close-knit’ community

According to Pierce, the middle college program attracts a variety of students, but the common theme is that they want to experience education in a different way and don’t thrive in the typical daily high school routine.

Langdon and Wilson work with the students throughout their time at middle college, acting as teachers, administrators and counselors, enabling them to get to know the students in many different capacities.

“We have much closer relationships with our students than a traditional high school would allow,” Wilson said.

Middle college provides “an individualized education in a really close-knit community,” Langdon said, providing students the opportunity to take a wide variety of classes while also receiving personalized support.

“It’s a program for kids that, for one reason or another, the high school experience just wasn’t satisfying them,” Langdon said. “Either it wasn’t working socially, it wasn’t working academically or a combination of those things.”

Miller said she was looking for a chance to “personalize” her student’s education and pick classes tailored to her interests.

Finally, she took four English classes. Taking two classes each day with her middle college peers creates a sense of consistency, Miller said, while still allowing her to take more specialized community college courses.

“I feel really supported here and really independent there,” Miller said. “It’s just a perfect mix for me.”

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FACILITIES From Page 27

school, a combination of school types, or selected “other.”

Culling the list

District trustees debated last week on how to narrow down the list of options to a more manageable number that district staff could analyze further. Ultimately, they decided to take the 11 proposals that received more than 30% support, plus the top five each from charter school parents, district parents and those without school-aged children.

District parents’ top five choices were all in the list of the most popular ideas, as were the top five for those without school-aged children. Three of the five most popular with charter school parents were on the overall list. That left just two additional options, for a total of 13.

Eight of the options involve placing the charter school at least partly on the 10th school site, which is at the corner of California Street and Showers Drive in Mountain View. However, the charter school said it is not in favor of being placed either entirely or partially on the 10th site.

The remaining five options involve putting Bullis Charter School entirely at either Covington or Egan. When the prospect of placing the charter school solely at Egan and moving Egan to the 10th site was raised in the 10-year agreement, parents staged protests outside district schools, holding signs sporting slogans such as “Save Egan.”

The district will analyze the 13 choices based on six guiding principles the board presented at the workshops. They include protecting the district’s small, neighborhood school model, providing long-term facilities for the charter school and protecting the district’s long-term viability.

Superintendent Jeff Baier said the district staff will try to get as much done as possible before a meeting set for Monday, when the board plans to discuss the topic again.

After hearing the report from MIG on the workshop data, Johnson said it was clear there wasn’t a solution popular with both groups.

“You can see in this data why we have had a stalemate for the last 15 years,” he said. “And I don’t think we can really continue with that indefinitely.”

13 facilities options slated for further review

Below are the 13 options the Los Altos School District Board of Trustees has directed staff to analyze. The ideas below, grouped by site, are taken verbatim from the materials used at the workshops in November, where local residents weighed in on the proposals.

Group 2: BCS sharing junior high site(s)

- 2.3: BCS & LASD 6-8 or 7-8 share Egan; LASD & BCS K-5 or K-6 share 10th site

Group 3: BCS at single junior high site

- 3.6: BCS at Egan, Egan to 10th site
- 3.8: BCS at Egan, Egan moves to Covington
- 3.9: BCS at Egan, consolidate Egan/Blach/Covington, consolidate NEC K-6 at 10th site

Group 4: BCS at elementary school site

- 4.1: BCS K-5 at Covington, with a new LASD elementary at 10th site

Group 6: BCS at 10th site

- 6.1: BCS K-8 with neighborhood preference
- 6.2: BCS K-5 or K-6 only
- 6.3: BCS K-6 at 10th site, BCS 7-8 at Egan share
- 6.4: BCS K-5 at 10th site, BCS 6-8 at Egan share
- 6.11: BCS & LASD at 10th site, BCS share with Egan
- 6.12: BCS K-6 & LASD share 10th site, BCS 6-8 or 7-8 at Egan
- 6.13: BCS share with K-5 LASD school at 10th site
At county’s urging, Bullis Charter suspends enrollment preference

By Zoe Morgan
Staff Writer/zomm@latc.com

Bullis Charter School has reached an agreement with the Santa Clara County Office of Education to fully suspend its enrollment preference at all grade levels for students living within the former Bullis-Purissima School attendance boundaries.

In October, the charter school agreed to suspend the preference for students enrolling in kindergarten. The formal agreement with the county, which took effect Jan. 1, extends the suspension to all students for the rest of Bullis Charter School’s current charter, which runs through June 2022. To reinstitute the preference, the charter school would need to receive explicit approval from the county office of education or its board.

According to Alan Simpson, the charter school’s chief communications officer, there are no plans to revisit the preference, and the agreement formalizes what Bullis Charter School had agreed to last fall.

“Originally (the preference) dates back to the founding of Bullis as what was the revival of a neighborhood school, so it’s a historically based preference,” Simpson said. “But for a long time, BCS has been focused on serving students all over the district.”

Charter school board president Joe Hurd referred a request for an interview to Simpson, who said he would be responding to media inquiries.

Debated preference

The five-year facilities agreement signed by the Los Altos School District and the charter school in 2014 called for the preference to be decreased for incoming kindergarten classes starting in 2015-2016, until it reached zero in 2019-2020.

School district officials contend that they thought the preference was being phased out permanently, while charter school leaders have said it was only ever restricted for those five years. Last June, charter school officials said in a letter to the school district that the preference would return for the 2020-2021 school year.

The school district wrote a letter to the county in September, asking it to reject the enrollment preference, calling it “a discriminatory admissions preference” that gives priority to students who reside in the wealthiest and least socioeconomically diverse area within LASD.”

In a letter to the school district, county Superintendent Mary Ann Dewan expressed “surprise and disappointment at the unnecessarily aggressive and confrontational tone” of the district’s letter and said it misrepresented the county’s position and actions.

However, Dewan also wrote to the charter school, saying the county was “concerned” the Bullis-Purissima preference could violate a state education code prohibiting enrollment preferences that limit access for certain groups, including economically disadvantaged students. Dewan gave the charter school the choice to either thoroughly explain why it wouldn’t violate the education code or not implement the preference.

The charter school chose the latter option, saying it would continue to suspend the preference for incoming kindergarten students, while also objecting to allegations that it discriminated against underserved students.

The school district wrote again to the county, asking that the preference be suspended for all grades.

Dewan responded to Bullis Charter School in December that the county was “surprised” to learn the charter school was proposing to suspend the preference only for kindergarten students and that it must be suspended in its entirety.

“Our concern was not limited to the application of this preference to incoming kindergarten students, nor could it be so limited since the potential impact on economically disadvantaged students would clearly not be restricted by student grade level,” Dewan wrote.

The charter school’s board approved an updated agreement with the county at a special meeting Dec. 23. Board members Clara Roa and Andrea Eyering were absent.

The county office of education responded to questions via email but did not make anyone available for an interview before the Town Crier’s print deadline.

RANSOMWARE

From Page 27

“Has not been a terrible disruption to our teaching and learning environment, fortunately,” Fishstrom said. “Besides that, our number one priority is student safety and the safety of student data and the privacy of student data.”

He declined to say how the attackers accessed the district’s network, noting that the district isn’t yet positive and he wants to refrain from commenting until the source is known definitively.

According to Fishstrom, the district appears to have been the victim of a “Sodinikibi” ransomware attack, a form of ransomware he said has been around since last April.

“It encrypts files and then asks for a ransom in order to get the cipher in order to unencrypt,” Fishstrom said. “It’s almost like a ‘National Treasure’ movie.”

The district has cybersecurity insurance, which is covering the costs of responding to the attack, beyond a $50,000 deductible.

District officials are working with an outside firm, Kroll, that is investigating the breach. The firm also has a third-party negotiator, who can help negotiate the ransom if the district decides to go that route.

“We’ll have to cross that bridge when we get there,” Fishstrom said. “And that’s going to be a decision that our leadership and board of trustees will have to work on collectively, based on the advice that Kroll will be giving us.”

Of the roughly 600-700 Windows machines in the district, Fishstrom estimated 40-50 were encrypted by the attack. The district’s phone system is also down. Calls can still be made internally, but calls can’t be made to numbers outside the district, and incoming calls can’t be received.

The impact of the breach has been limited because teachers and students do much of their work in Google Drive, which doesn’t appear to be affected, Fishstrom said.

The student information system, which is used for grading and recording attendance, is cloud-based and there is no evidence it has been compromised, according to Fishstrom.

Anyone whose system was breached will have more sophisticated passwords going forward, Fishstrom said. The district has been able to reset passwords and restore access for teachers who were locked out.

The district has thus far not engaged with a ransom note that was left in a text file on the affected computers. The note indicates a website to visit, but Fishstrom said doing that typically starts a timeline, putting a deadline on when ransom must be paid. The district’s insurance would cover the ransom if the district chose to take that route, Fishstrom said.

To read an extended version of this article, check out losaltosonline.com.

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Sports

Panthers’ D leads to ‘W’
Pinewood holds Menlo to 36 points in rematch
By Pete Borello
Staff Writer/peteb@latc.com

The Pinewood School girls basketball team may not have the same caliber of 3-point shooters as last year’s squad, which reached the state final, but these Panthers are in the same league defensively.

As it’s done on several occasions this season, Pinewood Friday overcame a poor shooting night from behind the 3-point line (7-of-27) with a dynamic defensive effort. The host Panthers prevailed 43-36 over Menlo, held to its lowest output of the season.

“Our defense is huge – always has been,” said junior guard Annika Decker, who had a game-high 16 points. “That’s something that makes Pinewood, Pinewood.”

Menlo has been well aware of that, suffering lopsided loss after lopsided loss to the Panthers before upsetting them 46-45 three weeks ago. Pinewood, playing in front of a near-capacity crowd Friday, clamped down on the Knights to start from finish.

Menlo’s lead just 13 of its 62 shots (21%), with eight of those attempts blocked by the Panthers. “We rushed their shots, we blocked their 3s,” Pinewood coach Doc Scheppler said. “We had a great game plan that the girls followed as far as identifying people that are shooters only, for the most part.”

That’s how the Panthers survived their own shooting woes (33% from the field) to improve to 5-1 in the West Bay Athletic League. Although Pinewood slipped to 16-2 overall with Saturday’s 49-39 non-league loss to Salesian, it’s still allowing a stingy 37.5 points per game.

The addition of 6-foot-3 junior Maia Garcia, a transfer from Santa Clara, has helped the cause by providing length the Panthers lacked last year. The team’s top rebounder and shot blocker this season, she grabbed 13 boards and swatted three shots Friday.

“Maia just had her hands up and she’s just there – perfect timing for her blocks,” Decker said in complimenting Garcia’s efforts.

While Pinewood’s defense was close to perfect in the first half – limiting Menlo to a mere 13 points – the Panthers’ offense was far from it, which is why they struggle.

See PANTHERS, Page 31

LA boys edge MV 1-0 in boys soccer
By Pete Borello
Staff Writer/peteb@latc.com

In the first league game between rivals Los Altos and Mountain View High this year, neither boys soccer team scored and they settled for a tie. Friday’s rematch was nearly as close, with the lone goal coming on a penalty kick by the Eagles.

Junior Jimmy Dessouki drilled the PK at the end of the first half of the SCVAL De Anza Division game.

Spartans’ Jim McGuirk said the contest was a “very similar game to last time, where both teams played really good defense and really limited the number of chances.”

Visiting Los Altos improved to 4-2-2 in league and 6-3-4 overall; Mountain View dropped to 2-2-3 and 8-3-4.

Girls soccer
Host Mountain View topped Los Altos 4-1 Friday behind two goals from Sistine Noel. Janvi Subramanyam added a goal and an assist, and Isabella Walker scored the Spartans’ other goal.

Mountain View went to 3-1-3 in the De Anza and 7-4-3; Los Altos fell to 0-6-2 and 1-10-4.

See SUMMARY, Page 31

Girls softball camp set for this month
Spartans Sports Camp’s Girls Winter Softball Mini-Camp is slated 9 a.m. to noon Saturday and Feb. 15 at Mountain View High. Open to girls in grades 3-8, the camp will stress fundamentals such as hitting, throwing, and base-running. Cost is $60 for one session and $110 for both; scholarships are available. To register and for more information, visit SpartansSportsCamp.com.

Los Altos High seeks coaches
Los Altos High seeks coaches for girls lacrosse, boys golf and girls golf. To apply and for more information, contact athletic director Michelle Noeth at 960-8857 or michelle.noeth@mvla.net.

LA grad leads Hopkins to first NCAA title
By Julia Wagner
Town Crier Editorial Intern

After playing four years of varsity volleyball at Los Altos High School and falling just short of winning section and regional championships, Louisa “Lulu” Kishston recently claimed a title trophy in the sport.

In her senior season at Johns Hopkins University, Kishston led her school to its first NCAA Division III title. The straight-set win over defending champ Emory University completed a perfect fall season for the Blue Jays – and they did it with only 10 players.

“We worked hard in the offseason and the season prior, and we knew that if we could stay healthy with our small roster, we had a really good shot,” Kishston said. “Going into my last season, I just wanted to leave it all on the court.”

While the small number of players limited the number of drills the team could run and how many injuries it could withstand, Kishston said she largely attributes Hopkins’ success to the close-knit community created by the players before her.

“They showed us what it looks like to be a good teammate, a good upperclassman and a great leader, in addition to encouraging us to give more, work harder and put in the effort,” Kishston said, referring to players she met at a freshman at the Baltimore-based university.

The outside hitter said she gained valuable experience during her first three years on the team under head coaches Tim Cole (freshmen year) and Jenn Feldmann (sophomore and junior years). Her senior season, Matt Troy returned as coach after six years at Mary Washington University.

When Troy returned, the team wrote a list of goals for the season that included treat every game like a championship, exemplify the positivity they want to see in their teammates and build a genuine relationship with trust and respect with every player and coach.

Troy said Kishston – one of the team’s two seniors – played a major role in helping the
Sports

**PANTHERS**

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only led by four at the break.

"I thought we were a little edgy on offense," Scheppeler said.

"I thought edgy as far as missing some shots—you know, 'Come on, that should go in'—and it’s hard to transfer your defensive intensity into offensive execution, calmness, belief."

After Courtni Thompson made the game’s first points on a 3 with 6:22 to go in the opening stanza, Pinewood missed 11 straight shots from beyond the arc. Una Jovanovic ended the drought with a top-of-the-key swish that put Pinewood up 10-7 with 5:12 left in the second quarter. Decker scored the Panthers’ final seven points of the period, starting with a layin off a steal.

Menlo’s Avery Lee barely beat the shot clock on a 3 in the last minute that cut Pinewood’s advantage to 17-13 at halftime.

Valentina Saric opened the third quarter with a 3—the start of a 7-3 run by the Panthers—and capped it with another trey to put her team up 30-25. That sparked a 10-0 spurt by Pinewood, with Decker’s midrange push shot making it 38-25 with 6:06 to play.

But Menlo (4-2 league, 16-3 overall) wouldn’t go away. The Knights scored the next six points and, after Jovanovic hit two free throws, cut their deficit to six on Coco Layton’s 3 with 2:07 left. Jovanovic made sure they didn’t get any closer, burying a 3 with 57 seconds to go that Scheppeler called “the dagger.” The junior totaled 10 points.

“Was that so exciting,” Decker said of Jovanovic’s key 3. “I was so happy she got that one.”

**Boys basketball**

Second-place Los Altos survived a scare from last-place Milpitas, rallying for a 46-44 De Anza victory Friday.

The host Eagles (7-1 league, 18-2 overall) trailed the Trojans (1-6, 9-10) by two at halftime.

**Girls basketball**

Mountain View beat Gunn 58-30 and Santa Clara 60-49 last week to reach 6-2 in the El Camino Division and 13-6 overall.

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**LU卢**

**From Page 30**

Blue Jays fulfill those goals.

“She’s such a phenomenal player, and she’s so humble,” he said. “At the same time, you know she never wants a whole lot of attention, she just wants to do what she can to help the team and the program. I think the maturity level she brought to the team this year helped us in achieving our goals.”

He added that many of the younger players looked up to Kishston, who led the team in digs and was second in kills.

“(She) is never afraid to be herself,” he said. “And I think because of that she gets such a great amount of respect from everyone around her.”

Winning was also on their minds when the players set their goals, which included capturing the regional championship, qualifying for the NCAA tournament and winning at least 20 matches.

Kishston noted one of her favorite memories of the season occurred at Hopkins’ only five-set match, when the team’s right-side hitter had to leave with severe leg cramps, replaced by a freshman setter.

“She just came out and it wasn’t really her position, but she just did her job and that was a really cool moment for her, and also for the rest of the team to see her step up like that,” Kishston said. “The team proved to be successful off the court as well. With a cumulative grade point average of 3.66, Hopkins earned an AVC Academic Team Award for posting at least a 3.0 GPA.”

Off the court, Kishston is a chemical and biomolecular engineering student with a 3.97 GPA.

“For (her) to be able to do what she did on the court and off the court just speaks volumes about her as a person,” Troy said.

After she graduates in May, Kishston said she plans to work in the biotechnology industry before entering graduate school.

Troy said Kishston will be missed next season.

“It’s going to be certainly hard to find someone to come in and replace a lot of what (she) brought to this team,” he said. “It was an absolute joy to coach her.”
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Food, drinks and cozy home tweaks help celebrate the joy of staying in this winter

By Christine Moore

Hygge (pronounced hue-ga) is a Nordic notion of cherishing the comfort of home and togetherness through the cold, dark months of winter. By nesting indoors and taking time to enjoy the simple things in life, the Danes use stormy weather as an opportunity to grow in closeness with loved ones and friends. Just in time for Valentine’s Day, I asked Los Altos resident and interior design consultant Joy Sheerer (Instagram: @joysheererdesign), for her top tips on hygge-ing the home.

**Winter’s long embrace**

The cold days and dark nights of the winter season call for wrapping one another in love. To encourage a state of hygge in your home, look to fill your nest with elements that compel loved ones to slow down and linger longer indoors.

Sheerer points out that many miss the greenery and twinkling lights of the holiday season. She advises bringing the outside back into the home in the months following December.

“For greeneries — storefronts or foraged from your yard — to mantels, bookshelves and dresser tops,” Sheerer said. Sheerer emphasizes that lighting can create tranquility and set the perfect mood for intimate times together. A candlelit dinner or conversations around a glowing fire are two happily hygge lighting options for Valentine’s Day. In fact, candles throughout the home provide the golden glow of cozy romance. Beyond actual flames, Sheerer suggests stringing twinkly fairy lights around.

“Cordless strands of lights with discreet battery packs are widely available these days. I like to have a large bowl of shells or other gathered organic items such as oak galls, pine cones, small branches or rocks on display with a light strand woven in,” she said.

For the final cozy addition to your home, add pillows and blankets made of plush fabrics in natural shades. Sheerer considers a sheepskin rug (available at IKEA for less than $30) draped over a chair especially inviting.

**Spoiling all the senses**

With your home aglow and layered in textured comfort, you’re ready to offer a meal that soothes. A laid-back menu, prepared collaboratively and on no particular schedule to keep.

See HYGGE, Page 34

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**Travel the world with beers from California’s breweries**

By Derek Wolfgram

While IPAs, especially hazy New England-style brews, continue to dominate tap lists, California breweries are also seeking inspiration from various clean (and clear), light, refreshing beer styles from around the globe.

California craft beer lovers can travel the world from the comfort of their home bars, thanks to the four craft beers highlighted below, all of which are readily available from local shops.

From Australia to Japan, the Czech Republic and Mexico, international beer styles provided inspiration for these brews. Each has a unique character highlighting its local agricultural components: The Australian sparkling ale showcases locally grown hop varieties, the Japanese lager is extra light and crisp from the rice that supplements the barley malt, the Czech beer features traditional pilsner malt and Noble hops, and the Mexican lager includes a mild sweetness from flaked corn in the malt bill.

**Boom Crash Hopera**

Boom Crash Hopera is a collaboration between Long Beach’s Beachwood Brewing and San Diego’s Alesmith Brewing Co. An imperial Australian sparkling ale, this beer includes roughly twice the alcohol and twice the IBUs of Coopers Sparkling Ale, the classic Australian sparkling brew. Brewed with “a bonzer of Summer, Galaxy, & Vic’s Secret hop vareitals,” according to the brewers, the beer’s tropical hop aromas of gooseberry, papaya and sweet pineapple leap out of the glass. Pouring a lightly hazy orange gold with a thick white head, the flavor was reminiscent of an English barleywine, with malty notes of bread crust and honey blended with pear yeast esters and a moderate hop.

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Food & Wine

BEER
From Page 33
bitterness. Interestingly, the prominent tropical hop character from the aroma was very subdued on the palate. With distinct alcohol heat, this medium-bodied brew with bright carbonation featured a balanced finish that integrated malt sweetness and hop bitterness.

Free Kittens
Berryessa Brewing Free Kittens Japanese Rice Lager from Winters showcased an aroma of clean crisp malt with a touch of herbal spiciness from Vanguard hops. The beer was crystal clear, with a very pale straw color and a tall, fluffy white head of foam. The flavor highlighted clean lager character with light sweet floral notes. The beer itself was quite dry and crisp – the suggestion of sweetness did not come from residual malt sugars, but likely from the jasmine rice that made up 25% of the grist (which also contributed to a very light color and body). With a gentle bitterness to provide balance, the brew was light in body and briskly carbonated, and it provided a crisp, dry, bracing, refreshing finish.

Bo Pils
Richmond’s East Brother Beer Co. won a silver medal at the 2019 Great American Beer Festival for its Bo Pils Bohemian pilsner, a style originating in the region that is currently part of the Czech Republic. Pale straw in color with a substantial mousy eggshell-colored head, the aroma highlighted grainy pilsner malt and grassy, herbal hops, with just a hint of lemon pith. The flavor balance favored a bitter spicy noble hop bite, but clean pilsner malt character was also present and enjoyable. Medium-light in body and brightly carbonated, the beer finished dry and crisp with a pleasant, lingering bitterness.

El Sully
El Sully Mexican Style Lager from San Leandro’s 21st Amendment Brewery poured a clear pale straw color with a dense white head, and the aroma combined mild sweetness from the flaked maize addition to the mash with light perfumy floral hop aroma from the American Golding hops.

The flavor profile was similar – light graininess that also left an impression of corny sweetness paired with mild bitterness and a gentle floral hop flavor. With a medium light body, crisp carbonation and a full, balanced, well-rounded finish, this brew would be a great companion to warm weather, spicy food, or a combination of the two.

Derek Wolfram is a Certified Beer Judge through the Beer Judge Certification Program and an officer of the Silicon Valley Sudzers homebrew club. For more information, visit sudzers.org.

HYGGE
From Page 33
will nourish body and soul. Cherish the process of cooking together with a special drink. I recently discovered a husband-and-wife duo producing high-quality, low-alcohol aperitifs that seem made for a hygge Valentine’s Day. Located in Sonoma County, Haus is sold direct to consumer from the company’s website (drink.haus). Citrus Flower ($35) is described as having crisp lemon and subtle elderflower flavors. Bitter Clove ($35) promises to appeal to the whiskey lover. Both offer beautifully balanced herbal and fruit flavors with less sugar than traditional pre-dinner cocktails. Serve Haus directly over ice or follow one of the recommended recipes from its website.

Fondue, the perfect dish for cold nights in, is made for romance. Serve the gooey goodness with classic sides: cubed bread, sliced pears or apples, poached shrimp, steamed broccoli, boiled baby potatoes and a green salad. Fill glasses with a perfectly pink Albrecht Cremaut Brut Rose ($25) or white German wine Gruber Roschitz Grouner Veltliner Handspoint ($18).

Swedish meatballs over noodles is a well-suited dish for fireside dining, too. The warming spices will fill your home with aromatic bliss. My recipe uses ground chicken and goes great with briny and crisp cucumber salad. A silky Pinot Noir from the Russian River Valley or a ripe and off-dry Washington state Riesling would both be wonderful to sip with dinner. Some of my favorites include the 2015 Teac Mor Pinot Noir ($36), which my family makes, or the 2017 Poet’s Leap Riesling ($16). Whether your Valentine is an old love, a new fling or a horde of family and friends, pairing Sheerer’s decor advice with a relaxed meal at home will have your love swooning in smugly romance.

Christine Moore is a Mountain View resident. To read her blog, visit sheepisssomeliers.blogspot.com.

Quick Pickle Cucumber Salad
- 1 large English cucumber, peeled on two sides and sliced thinly
- 1 medium shallot, diced
- 2 tablespoons fresh dill, chopped
- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- Add sugar and chopped shallot to vinegar and allow to marinate while you prepare the rest of the recipe. Slice cucumber and chop dill. Add cucumber slices to bowl, pour vinegar over, sprinkle with dill and toss. Allow to marinate at least 30 minutes and up to 5 hours.

Chicken meatballs prepared in a Scandinavian style pay homage to the Nordic spirit of hygge, coziness shared at home.

Meatballs
- 1 pound ground chicken
- thigh meat (can substitute ground turkey)
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup panko bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons parsley, finely chopped – plus 1 tablespoon for garnish, roughly chopped
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon allspice
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon grey sea salt or kosher salt
- 1 package egg noodles

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Le Petit Bistro

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Chicken Swedish Meatballs
- 1/4 cup creme fraiche
- 2-3 shakes of Worcestershire sauce
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Gray sea salt or kosher salt to taste

To make meatballs, add all ingredients to bowl. Mix well using hands. Set aside 30 minutes to an hour. Form mixture into small, roughly 1-tablespoon size, meatballs. In large heavy-bottom skillet, add 1 tablespoon olive oil and heat over medium. When oil begins to shimmer, add meatballs to pan, being careful not to overcrowd. You may need to cook meatballs in batches. Allow meatballs to brown 3 minutes before turning to brown for another 3 minutes. Remove browned meatballs and set aside.

Note: Meatballs will be added to sauce where they will finish cooking. Next, make sauce. Add butter to pan. When butter has melted, add flour and whisk to incorporate with melted butter. Slowly add chicken broth, roughly 1/4 cup at a time – stirring continuously until each addition of broth is incorporated (this will ensure no lumps). When all broth is added, whisk in Worcestershire sauce and creme fraiche. Bring mixture to low simmer. Add meatballs and simmer 10-15 minutes.

While meatballs simmer, cook noodles according to package directions. Serve meatballs over noodles on large platter with a sprinkling of parsley on top.
Stepping Out

Los Altos Stage Company’s ‘Oslo’ continues run at Bus Barn Theater
Town Crier Report

The Los Altos Stage Company’s South Bay premiere of “Oslo,” the 2017 Tony Award winner for Best Play, is scheduled to run through Feb. 16 at Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave.

The play tells the story of the back-channel talks, unlikely friendships and quiet heroics that led to the Oslo Peace Accords between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Gary Landis directs a 13-member cast comprising Mark Berman, Robert Scan Campbell, Josiah Frampton, Maya Greenberg, Mohamed Ismail, Marty Lee Jones, Keith Larson, Peter Mandel, Tanya Marie, Ronnie Misra, Michael Sally, Efsum Alper Sweet and Jonathan Wright.

Performances are slated 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are $20-$38. For tickets and more information, call 941-0551 or visit losaltostage.org.

Austin kicks off CSMA concert series
Town Crier Report

Jazz vocalist Tiffany Austin opens the Community School of Music and Arts’ Spring 2020 Community Concert Series with “A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald.” The free performance is scheduled 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Tatsuchi Hall at CSMA, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View.

“When I was growing up, my grandmother would play a lot of classic swing, and I heard the strains of Ella throughout my childhood,” Austin said. “When I got a little older, I stumbled upon a record in my brother’s collection: ‘Night in Tunisia.’ I put it on, and Ella’s voice soared out of the speakers. When she scatted over the vocal break, I couldn’t believe my ears. I didn’t know what she was doing, but I knew that I wanted to do it. The effortlessness, the mastery, the joy that she imparts with her voice was something I couldn’t get over, and something that I’m still enamored with to this day.”

A Bay Area native, Austin first performed in Tateuchi Hall in 2018. She appeared on the national scene in 2015 with the release of “Nothing But Soul,” and has now released her second album, “Unbroken.” The album received four stars from Downbeat Magazine, five stars from All About Jazz and reached No. 16 on Jazz Week Chart.

Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis; doors open at 7 p.m. For more information, call 917-6800, ext. 305, or visit arts4all.org.

Golabek retells her mother’s story of hope in TheatreWorks’ ‘Pianist of Willesden Lane’
Town Crier Report

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley’s production of “The Pianist of Willesden Lane” is set to run through Feb. 16 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.

A young Jewish pianist escapes Vienna and arrives in England at the outset of World War II. Concert pianist Mona Golabek recounts her mother’s saga of hope and resilience, underscored with music from Bach, Beethoven and many more.

Performances are slated 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 2 and/or 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2 and/or 7 p.m. Sundays.

Tickets are $45-$105; discounts are available for seniors, students, educators and children. For tickets and more information, call 903-6000 or visit mvcpa.com.

Pear no longer ‘Taking Steps’ after Sunday’s matinee show
Town Crier Report

Pear Theatre’s production of Alan Ayckbourn’s “Taking Steps” is set to close Sunday in Mountain View.

“Steps” is set in 1979 on three floors of an old and reputedly haunted house, but the stage is arranged so that the “stairs” are flat and all three floors are on a single level (hence the play on words in the title). The audience sits on three sides of the stage in an effort to make patrons feel a part of the action.

The play follows a hard-drinking tycoon, his wife (who is always considering leaving him), his lawyer, the builder selling the house, the tycoon’s brother-in-law and his in-law’s fiancée (possibly running away from the impending marriage) as they gather in the Victorian house.

Troy Johnson directs. His previous directing credits at The Pear include “Northanger Abbey” (adapted from Jane Austen’s novel), “Tribes,” “Intimate Apparel” and “Fifth of July.”

The cast includes Todd Wright (as businessman Roland Crabbe), Betsy Kruse Craig (Crabbe’s wife Elizabeth), Matt Brown (builder Leslie Bainbridge), David Boyll (Elizabeth’s brother Mark Boxer), Roneet Aliza Rahamin (Mark’s reluctant fiancée Kitty) and Max Tachis (inefficient lawyer Tristram Watson).

The design and crew team includes stage manager Kelly Weber Bararra, costume designer Trish Pires, lighting designer Meghan Souther and sound designer David Hobbs.

Performances are scheduled 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday at Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St.

Tickets are $20-$35. For tickets and more information, call 254-1148 or visit thepear.org.

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Thank You!
Lime bike-share program seeks comeback in local cities

By Melissa Hartman
Staff Writer/melissah@latc.com

Lime, the Bay Area electric bike and scooter rental startup, has reduced the number of cities it serves in an effort to prioritize profitability, but the company is keen to return to the Mountain View-area market.

“Financial independence is our goal for 2020, and we are confident that Lime will be the first next-generation mobility company to reach profitability,” CEO Brad Bao said in a statement sent to the Town Crier. “We are immensely grateful for our team members, riders, influencers, and cities that supported us, and we hope to reintroduce Lime back into these communities when the time is right.”

Despite pulling out of several cities across the area last summer and parts of the world last month, Lime is ready to work with Northern California cities to establish regulations amenable to both parties, communications and public affairs rep Alex Youn said. In addition to heavily pursuing the Caltrain corridor, the company is ready to make a new and improved version of Lime and find a home in the suburbs, including Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View.

“We are still in Oakland, San Francisco and San Jose,” Youn said. “Given our connection to the region, we are actively pursuing getting back in the suburbs.”

Safety first

Although Lime has not made its way to Los Altos or Los Altos Hills, it was one of two vendors — Chinese-owned startup ofo was the other — that signed on for the city of Mountain View’s bike-share pilot program in May 2018. Prior to the evaluation of the program in October 2019, both Lime and ofo had withdrawn their fleets due to “a shift in their business priorities or conditions,” city staff explained on the webpage dedicated to the program.

Within this period of time, Lime, formerly known as LimeBike, dropped half its brand name and refocused the company’s vision to push scooters rather than bikes. The reportedly experienced a financial downturn as it worked to expand to international markets; today, its website is nonfunctioning.

In February 2019, the Mountain View City Council banned electric scooters in the city just months after signing on with the rideshare companies to dock a maximum of 800 bikes. At the time, Mountain View city staff cited “an absence of regulation” as the primary factor in outlawing scooters within city limits.

“Shared mobility device operations present serious concerns related to parking, sidewalk riding, user behavior, equipment standards and maintenance that negatively affect public peace, safety and health,” city staff wrote.

The move pushed out competing startups that also sought to bring their fleets to Mountain View, such as Bird and Jump.

See LIME, Page 38

RedMarlin goes ‘phishing’ for fake websites

By Abby Porter
Town Crier Editorial Intern

Every second, millions of online shoppers click on “too-good-to-be-true” ads for such deals as deeply discounted iPhones, Tesla giveaways, and free Audible subscriptions. The number of these “phishing” schemes, which lure consumers to fraudulent websites posing as legitimate ones to steal customer data, increased by 1.5 million from 2018 to 2019.

The states are from RedMarlin, the Los Altos-based software company that aims to protect internet users from phishing scams. “Our mission is to clean up the internet,” said Abbishek Dubey, RedMarlin’s CEO and co-founder. “We believe that access to a clean and safe internet is a human right just like drinking water.”

RedMarlin’s software uses machine-learning technology to detect whether a site is legitimate; if it’s not, the program sends evidence to the user that the site is fake. Anyone surfing the internet can visit RedMarlin’s website at checkphish.ai, and type a URL in the search bar to find out if the site is legitimate or not. The service is free to consumers.

Dubey and Jason Alafgani, RedMarlin’s marketing director, said more people need to check the authenticity of a website before clicking a link.

“One of the most common examples is somebody trying to get your banking information, trying to get your username and password,” said Dubey, who co-founded the company with chief scientist Shashi Prakash in 2017. “Now we have new categories of scams where you are trying to buy Nike Jordans and you’re looking for a deal online and you land on this fake site where you give away your credit card and money.”

Alafgani added that oftentimes scammers may be targeting the employees of larger companies by posing as the real site to get login information and access company data. He said one of the most popular scams at the moment is fake pharmacy sites that advertise medications at extremely low prices and may mail their customers knock-off products, placing thousands of lives in danger.

Ensuring a ‘safe place’

Dubey noted that RedMarlin uses artificial intelligence to review the sites similarly to how a customer would, and analyzes the images and language of the page using an algorithm to understand the page’s intent.

“A lot of people would say, ‘It should have HTTPS’ (indicating a secure URL),’ but often, these fake sites have moved to HTTPS,” he said. “That is not the criteria.”

See PHISHING, Page 40
Anyone can soon invest in commercial properties to build wealth

By Jenny Huang

Over the past few decades since the 1970s, it has been increasingly challenging in the Bay Area for average Americans to save enough money to buy a home. For most Americans, home purchase is one of the largest equity investments they can make, and barriers to ownership can hurt their ability to build long-term wealth.

In recent years, home ownership has been further exacerbated by the lack of housing in California. While there are other alternative equity investments average Americans can tap into to build wealth, nothing could compare to private equity syndicates, which offer high returns on professionally managed commercial real estate. To date, these fractional ownership opportunities are available only to some of the wealthiest people in America.

Transforming the investment experience

Rettex, a young startup based in Mountain View, led by Chris Moris and John Bradley, is changing the game of private equity investment in multi-folds.

“We are working with a team of high-caliber developers and hatching an online, commercial real estate investment platform that automates the end-to-end investing process – from identifying deals and finding investors to managing the investor’s portfolio,” Moris said. “These online syndicates offer lucrative annual returns which often exceed 15%. Real estate syndication is an effective way for investors to pool their financial and intellectual resources to invest in properties much more valuable than they could afford or manage on their own. It’s a simple transaction between a sponsor and a group of investors.”

According to Moris, the typical select-invest-manage process of a private equity syndicate often involves general partners (also known as sponsors) and limited partners (passive investors), with lots of pencil-and-paper work in between: from identifying and selecting the buy, ensuring investor suitability, fundraising to get multiple fractional investors onboard, and obtaining exorbitant subscription to access and invest in deals.

The process can be time-consuming and overwhelming. Competitors such as Juniper Square and CrowdStreet are offering expensive enterprise investment management tools which require website integrations and setup fees,” Moris said. “Rettex is seeing a larger opportunity which benefits the majority of the market: local, small businesses managing real estate in the community, as its target today. Rettex eliminates the hassles and headaches for general partners and investors by moving them away from a set of disparate and antiquated tools and onto an integrated, efficient platform, with cost savings and accessibility.”

Over time, the Rettex platform will leverage machine learning and artificial intelligence to tap into local market information and past deal performance, to predict returns and access potential investors in the future.

Rettex is led by Chris Moris, left, and John Bradley, right.

Accessing wealth

Through working with general partners of the private equity

See RETTEx, Page 42

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Offered at $3,868,000
LIME From Page 36

Bird, according to a staff report provided to the city’s Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) last June, was one of the initial three applicants for the bike-share pilot program. Jump submitted an application for a business license just days before the ban, the report indicates.

At the time, it had been approximately three months since any bike-share provider had offered services in Mountain View. Not only were residents lacking access to scooters, but because of inactivity, they were being denied access to green-minded bikes the city was promoting online. While BPAC had concerns about electric scooters—including the dangers of doorjams, treating injured riders and the stability of e-scooters in general—members reported they would be comfortable recommending a scooter-share pilot program with “careful oversight and regulation,” the minutes from the June 26 meeting state.

Riding into the future

During the council’s evaluation of the bike-share pilot program Oct. 29, members directed staff to continue the bike-share pilot program and to initiate the concept of a similar scooter-share program. According to the city website, city staff are currently working to develop program requirements and fees before bringing the item back to the council. The project has not yet been placed on the agenda.

If the scooter-share program conditions are what Lime considers “agreeable,” Youn said the company would consider re-entering the city that once had approximately 350 of its bikes roaming throughout.

“As an industry, we have transformed a lot in how we operated since we first launched scooters,” Youn said. “We are working with cities and governments in order to operate. That’s why we are waiting on these regulations, and working with the city of Mountain View and others to determine what that looks like. We are very much diplomats.”

Although the Mountain View City Council banned electric scooters in the city in February 2019, months later the council directed staff to research a scooter pilot program. Lime hopes to re-enter the market pending new regulations.
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Business & Real Estate

Transactions

Los Altos
400 Orange Avenue, Larson Trust to Z. & P. Zhao for $3,100,000
540 Pine Lane, Hadid Family Trust to M. & R. Dariraki for $3,825,000

Los Altos Hills
12815 Deer Creek Lane, I. Bershine to S. Rahman for $2,550,000
12840 Lucero Lane, Buffer Trust to Liberty Trust for $4,300,000

Mountain View
786 Bond Way, Jones Family Trust to J.

Wang for $2,110,000
1522 Canna Court, S. Miao to B. & L. Zhou for $1,500,000
2212 Leland Avenue, Yue Yue LLC to H. & M. Tsai for $1,885,000
2221 Mora Place, Lennar Homes to W. & D. Wang for $1,925,000
2227 Mora Place, Lennar Homes to Z. & X. Zhao for $1,873,000
2241 Mora Place, Lennar Homes to Z. & C. Neikirk for $1,650,000
2243 Mora Place, Lennar Homes to Maximillian Family Trust for $1,725,500
2267 Mora Place, Lennar Homes to Z. & Z. Kou for $1,648,500

430 Mountain Laurel Court, Hristova

See TRANSACTIONS, Page 42

PHISHING
From Page 36

people should use. Pay attention to warnings.

RedMarlin works with not only the consumer, but with businesses as well. The company sells its services to large corporations often fighting fake websites made to look like theirs in an attempt to dupe customers. RedMarlin uses special software employing artificial intelligence to recognize the sites and alert their clients so that they can be taken down, according to Dubey. Alafgani added that 100 of the Fortune 500 companies use RedMarlin to secure their products.

Alafgani also noted that such success has led to a recent round of funding from investors that RedMarlin will use to meet future goals. The long-term goal is to make a difference in people’s internet experience and ensure a safe place for all.

“Leading this effort, we want to continue to help the community and the world,” Alafgani said. “Our future goal is to deliver on the mission, which is to safeguard the internet.”

For more information on RedMarlin, visit redmarlin.ai.

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Business & Real Estate

RETTEX
From Page 37
syndicate, the platform allows accredited investors with $200,000 in salary to be invited to invest in “on-market” deals, Moris said. For those who already know of a real estate sponsor, Rettex also offers access to online investment for “off-market” deals, enabling individuals or families with disposable income of less than $200,000 to invest as well.

“Millenials are one targeted demographic who can benefit from using Rettex,” Moris said, adding that he believes the company can democratize commercial real estate investment so that millennials can invest $5,000 to $10,000 of their savings to start building equity as an alternative to the purchase of a single-family home that may be out of their price range.

The model could lead millennials and future Gen Z’s to change their first property purchase to income-producing real estate as a tool to getting to a first home, Moris noted, by investing in commercial real estate in and outside the Bay Area, thereby helping them build and realize wealth by staying closer to their roots and families.

Rettx has general partners as initial users in the South Bay, including some in Mountain View and Palo Alto. The website is free for investors. Real estate businesses pay a nominal annual subscription fee to access the platform. The startup launched its beta last month and expects incremental uses continuing into early 2020. Once it reaches solid user adoption, Rettx aims to bring its platform to scale and get to Series A funding before the end of the year.

For more information on Rettx, visit rettx.com.

TRANSACTIONS
From Page 40
Trust to K. & S. Grigorova for $263,000
1945 Mount Vernon Court No. 10, Womack Trust to Q. & Y. Dai for $832,500
2067 Rialto Court, J. & E. Lai to V. & K. Mangalmurti for $1,355,000
1605 Villa Street, Tripiano Trust to A. & S. Palan for $1,730,000

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Page 42 / Los Altos Town Crier / February 5, 2020
Delightful Sunlit Home with Expansive Yard

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For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.1400HollyAve.com
MARGARET ANN BERKNER

June 29, 1938 - January 22, 2020

Margaret Ann ‘Mardi’ Berkner entered into peace with our creator on January 22, 2020 at Villa Sierra Skilled Nursing in Mountain View, California. Mardi was born in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, daughter of Robert F Berkner and Sarah-Cecelia Madden Berkner. Mardi, along with her sister Marian and their four brothers, Robert, George, Jim and Tom grew up within a close-knit Irish-German family in the small town of Mahnomen MN. The family-owned Mahnomen Milling Company bought and processed grain grown in the fertile Red River basin of northwest Minnesota producing feed and seed as well as selling fertilizer to farmers in the region with its processed bulk grain sold to the larger milling companies. Growing up Mardi was active in 4-H, played trombone in the HS band and was a strong swimmer, having swum across the 1 and 9 mile wide South Twin Lake in nearby Naya’tawaukah, where the family had a summer cabin. Mardi, graduated from Mahnomen HS in 1956 and earned her RN at College of St Catherine-St Mary’s Hospital School of Nursing in Minneapolis-St Paul, then joined its Nursing staff. After service as a volunteer nurse during a Mission year in the Bahamas, Mardi entered the Maryknoll Sisters order in St Louis, MO. Prior to taking final vows she left the order, earning BS and MS degrees in Nursing at St Louis University. Her nursing career then took her to Missouri Baptist and Barnes hospitals in the St Louis area, where as a Nursing Professor, she taught hundreds of young nurses the skills and care-taking techniques they would need as future nurses. She was a long-time resident of Ballwin and later Ellisville, Missouri in the western suburbs of St Louis, becoming a strong Cardinals fan while attending many games at Busch Stadium. Always a very spiritual person, she was admitted as an Auxiliary Member of the Conception Sisters and participated in their work at the Conception Centers in Chicago, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY; France and the Philippines. Diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease in 2012, several years after retirement, she made the decision to move west to Mountain View near sister Marian Verlot of Los Altos and her family. She spent three wonderful and happy years making many great friends at the Redwood Villa Independent Senior Living residence in Mt View. When more care became required, she then moved to Ave Maria Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing home in Monterey, CA, then finally to Villa Sierra Skilled Nursing in Mt View. Mardi was loved and wonderfully cared for at all three residences.

Mardi had a great circle of friends among fellow nurses, the Auxiliary and Conception Sisters, and those many friends made while a parishioner of Holy Infant church in Ballwin, MO, where she served in its Choir and Stephen’s Ministry. Although single throughout her life, she enjoyed visiting family, and travelling the USA and the world with many great friends. She loved her cats, her art and her photography.

Mardi was pre-deceased by mother Cecelia and father Robert of Mahnomen, MN and older brother, Robert of Billings MT. She is survived by brothers George Berkner of Menasha, WI and James Berkner of Verona, WI (Sharon), Tom Berkner of Coon Rapids, MN (Mary), sister Marian Verlot of Los Altos, CA (Frank), and sister-in-law Donna Berkner of Billings, MT along with 17 nieces and nephews and 28 great nieces and nephews. She loved and was loved by all. Mardi indeed led a full life and is now at Peace. Family & friends are invited to Mardi’s Memorial Mass at the St Vincent de Paul Daughters of Charity Chapel at Villa Siena, 1855 Miramonte Ave, Mt View, CA on Saturday February 7th at 9:30AM. Mardi will be interred in her hometown this coming spring alongside her parents at Mahnomen’s St Michael’s Cemetery.

SIDNEY J. EVERETT

Mar 31, 1945 – Jan 9, 2020

Longtime Los Altos resident Sidney (Sid) John Everett, age 76, passed away on January 9, 2020 after a five year battle with Lewy body dementia. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Becky Everett, and his three children, daughter Jamie De Lapp, son Greg (Aimee) Everett, granddaughter Jade Anaya, and daughter Annemarie Everett. Sid was born in Plainfield, New Jersey to Sidney Ellis Everett and Ann Sanghiuano. He spent his early childhood in Cranford, New Jersey and Sunbury, Pennsylvania before his family relocated to Detroit, Michigan. There he attended Wyandotte Technical High School and graduated in 1961. Sid inherited a fascination with aviation from his father, who was the superintendent of aircraft maintenance for the General Motors air fleet. Sid grew up listening to stories about the barons of the 1920s and learned about the beginnings of air mail and commercial aeronautics and mechanics who were part of it all. This exposure strongly influenced his early educational and professional choices. After high school, he went on to study at MIT, earning a B.S. (1965) and M.S. (1966) in Aeronautics & Astronautics. In 1966 he was hired by Lockheed in Sunnyvale to work on the NASA Space Shuttle proposal. In the 1970s Sid’s professional interests shifted from aeronautics to environmental systems. As a co-op student at Stanford, he earned an M.S. (1973) in Engineering-Economic Systems and a Ph.D (1978) in Environmental Analysis. He enjoyed a varied and exciting 25 year career with SRI International in Menlo Park as a program manager and consultant in their environmental practice. He traveled across the country and around the world to work on solutions to environmental issues facing large- scale projects like the Over-The-Horizon Backscatter radar and the NEXRAD weather radar systems. Before retiring, Sid earned a secondary education teaching credential and taught math at the high school level for five years. Sid bought his home in Los Altos in 1975 and raised his family there. He played softball and basketball in local adult rec leagues for over 35 years and was involved in youth sports with each of his children. He loved being out in the wilderness hiking and backpacking in the Sierra. He was an active volunteer in his church community at the Los Altos United Methodist Church. Sid will be especially remembered for his loving commitment to family and friends, his intellectual curiosity and his humor. He will truly be missed. A celebration of Sid’s life will be held on Friday, February 7 at 2PM at Los Altos United Methodist Church (LAUMC), 655 Magellan Ave. Memorial donations can be made to LAUMC, Avenidas Rosa Kleiner Center, or Bartholomew.

EDWIN HALE

Edwin Hale passed away peacefully in Mountain View on January 6, 2020 at the age of 86 after a long illness, from complications of Parkinson’s Disease. Ed was born and raised in Oak Park, Illinois and attended Oak Park River Forest High School. He went on to MIT where he lettered in track (pole vault) and soccer. After graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, he started his engineering career working on the design and testing of the Mercury and Gemini modules for NASA in St Louis. He moved to Chicago to work for Ling-Temco-Vought, in research and development of cryogenic technologies in food processing and recycling applications. He was a past president of the American Cryogenic Society and was considered an “icon” in the industry. He was a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) and of the Palo Alto Friends Meeting. He was a pacifist and an advocate for military tax reform. He served on the Board of the American Friends Service Committee (Chicago) and was committed to the support of programs of social justice.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years Janet Hale of Mountain View; his son David Hale and daughter-in-law Laura Torres and grandchildren Joseph and Caroline of Los Altos; his daughter Katie Hale and her partner Lia Milhano of San Jose; and his sister Marjorie Kipper of Hoover, Alabama. A private family service is planned.

JOSEF GEBHARD DULLER

Josef Gebhard Duller was born on October 11, 1931 in Amsiez, Germany to Josef and Anna Duller. Joe went to his heavenly home on January 3, 2020. He grew up with four beloved siblings: Herma, Bruno, Wilfried, and Artur. Joe became a cabinet maker and met his late wife of 61 years, Agnes of Rorschach, Switzerland when he worked for her family’s cabinet shop. In 1954, Joe migrated to the United States to start a new life in Los Altos, CA. Agnes soon followed where they married and raised their four children: Peter, Joe, Mark, and Gabrielle. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Joe was a man of strong faith with his family being his main priority. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping. Everyone knew him as a strong and hardworking man, who worked on his 42-acre property well into his 80’s. He worked for West Coast Industries in San Francisco for more than 40 years, and in 1953, Joe and Agnes moved to El Dorado, CA, where they started a Christmas Tree Farm that still operates today. A memorial service will be offered for Joe on February 6th 11am at Saint Nicholas Parish in Los Altos, CA. Following the memorial, the Interment will be held at Gate of Heaven in Los Altos, CA. His life will be celebrated at a reception at Saint Nicholas Parish following the Interment.
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**CLASSINESS/WORKSHOPS**

**T’ai Chi for Arthritis.** Developed by Dr. Paul Lam and endorsed by the Arthritis Foundation. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Mondays, Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave. Directed by Foothill College. All are welcome. Free. Register in person. 269-2589; wdelangle@ymail.com.

**Jazzercise.** Dance fitness class. 8:30 a.m. Sundays and 9 a.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at Grant Park, 1575 Holt Ave., Los Altos. 8:30 a.m. Saturdays, 6 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Ralch Intermediate School, 1120 Covington Road. First class free. (408) 505-2048.

**Squash Dance.** Led by Bows & Beaus Square Dance Club. Open to adult singles and couples. 7-9 p.m. Mondays. Loyola School, 770 Berry Ave. (408) 219-4239; bowsandbeaus.com.

**Gym Ventures.** Parent-child classes. Offerings include youth sports, swim lessons and more. El Camino YMCA, 2400 Grant Road, Mountain View. 969-9622.

**Fitness Boot Camp.** Sixty sessions of exercise. 6-7 a.m. weekdays or just Mondays. Wednesdays and Fridays. Shower facilities available. Foothill College. 12345 S. El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Less than $4 per class. Registration: foothillaugustsoft.com.

**Morning Yoga Flow.** Led by Duann Hurd. 7-8 a.m. Saturdays. Yoga of Los Altos. 377 First St. $13.50-$18; proceeds benefit the Alzheimer’s Association. 600-8108.

**StrongStep.** A Jacki Sorensen fitness class focused on low-impact workouts to upbeat music, incorporating aerobics, strength training, abdominal work and stretching. Offered through the Los Altos Recreation Department. 8:30-9:30 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Grant Park, Room 2, 1575 Holt Ave., Los Altos. $65/10 classes. 961-5411.


**Parent-Child Gym, Swimming, Drama, Sports, Art, etc.** YMCA of the Mid-Peninsula El Camino Branch, 2400 Grant Road, Mountain View. 969-9622.

See DATEDBOOK, Page 47.
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