



## Schools

Hit and miss: Voters weigh in on local schools funding measures.

Page 24



## Your Kids

Local young adult author's Asian-American upbringing informs her popular book.

Page 33



## Your Health

JumpstartMD's weight-loss study reveals long-term benefits.

Page 37



# Los Altos Town Crier

Vol. 73 No. 11 • 50 cents

losaltosonline.com

WEDNESDAY • March 11, 2020

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

## Green thumb gathering



PHOTOS BY MEGAN V. WINSLOW/TOWN CRIER

Overcast skies – and some light rain – didn't deter volunteers from participating Saturday in Grassroots Ecology's Sorrel Saturdays event at Redwood Grove in Los Altos. The Palo Alto-based nonprofit meets every first Saturday at the grove, located off University Avenue near Shoup Park, to plant and care for native plants along Adobe Creek. Menlo Park resident Melissa Zales, far left, from left, fills a bucket with mulch. Restoration specialist Emily Sharp demonstrates the correct technique for planting a snowberry shrub as Michelle and Donovan Diago of San Carlos watch. Sharp, in hat, walks the group to the planting site, pointing out features of the grove along the way. Sunnyvale resident Tyler Compton, top right, loosens a plant from its container. Palo Alto resident Daniel Fields, bottom right, scrubs his shoes with isopropyl alcohol spray to avoid contamination before starting work. Sorrel is a weed Grassroots Ecology tackles to allow native plants to survive.

## Funding from LA nonprofits for bocce ball at Grant Park faces residents' objections

Despite pushback, Senior Commission recommends accepting \$40,000 grant

By Melissa Hartman  
Staff Writer/melissah@latc.com

The bocce ball will soon be in the Los Altos City Council's court.

But before the council decides whether or not to accept a \$40,000 grant from two local philanthropic groups to build two bocce ball courts in Grant Park, the Parks and Recreation Commission will review the proposal next month. The possibility was discussed at the city's Senior Commission meeting March 2 – and members recommended accepting the grant.

The Parks and Recreation

Commission is expected to vote on the proposal April 8, and then it moves to the city council, which has the final say on accepting or rejecting the grant.

The \$40,000 – funded evenly by Los Altos Legacies and the Los Altos Rotary Endowment Fund – does not cover the entire cost of the courts, however, so the council's approval would require drawing money from city reserves. Dave Brees, the city's special projects manager, estimated that the project would cost approximately \$56,925 in total.

That doesn't include shade

structures. The one being installed above the courts at the new Los Altos Community Center will cost the city \$80,375. But there's no reason to believe the two courts at Grant Park will need anything that extravagant, Los Altos Legacies member King Lear told the Town Crier. Lear, who is seeking appointment to the Senior Commission, said the bocce ball courts that were at the old Hillview Community Center were covered by a 20-year-old shade installed by the maintenance crew. One or two smaller structures at the end of the court would provide players with relief on sunny days, he added.

See BOCCE, Page 4

## LAHS junior quarantined on coronavirus cruise ship

By Zoe Morgan  
Staff Writer/zoem@latc.com

A Los Altos High School student was among the more than 3,000 people quarantined on the Grand Princess cruise ship, held off the coast of San Francisco after some passengers and crew members tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

Junior Kailee Higgins Ott and her mother, Leeann Higgins, embarked Feb. 21 on the cruise to Hawaii and were supposed to

return March 7. Instead, the pair got quarantined in their cabin. As of the Town Crier's Monday print deadline, the ship was docking in the Port of Oakland, where Higgins Ott said she and her mother expected to disembark and be sent to Travis Air Force Base in Solano County.

She and her mom are in good health and haven't experienced any symptoms of novel coronavirus. However, they have been told that they will be tested for the virus once reaching the air

See QUARANTINE, Page 27

**The first death from novel coronavirus in Santa Clara County was reported at El Camino Hospital Monday.**  
For more information on the virus, see pages 6 and 38.

### ALSO INSIDE - MARCH 11, 2020

Business & Real Estate . . . 44	Obituaries . . . . . 55	Sidewalk Interview . . . . . 10
Classified . . . . . 57	Pet of the Week . . . . . 15	Sports . . . . . 28
Comment . . . . . 9	Police Blotter . . . . . 4	Stepping Out . . . . . 42
Community . . . . . 11	Public Notices . . . . . 58	Transactions . . . . . 48
Datebook . . . . . 56	Puzzles . . . . . 22	Your Health . . . . . 37
Letters to the Editor . . . . . 9	Schools . . . . . 24	Your Kids . . . . . 33