Parents say big questions still remain over Teach to One

By Kevin Forestieri

Parents in the Mountain View Whisman School District are still uneasy about the handling of a controversial digital math program.

In comments to the board and in emails to the Voice last week, parents roundly criticized the district for refusing to acknowledge deep flaws in the roll-out of the Teach to One program last year. While the district is putting forth a new protocol for new and experimental pilot programs, emphasizing a need to listen to everyone — teachers, parents and community members alike — parents say they're not confident that the new strategy is going to bring more quality assurance to a process that ultimately failed students.

Some board members, on the other hand, argued that it’s time to move on, and that dwelling on the problems with Teach to One digital math amounts to beating a dead horse.

At the March 3 board meeting, Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph laid out a new process that injects more public accountability into pilot adoption. Any new experimental curriculum will have its own advisory committee, which will develop a timeline and duration for the pilot, metrics for success and a review process.

The committee will give the board a final recommendation at the end of the trial period. The policy is less clear on how the community gets a say when new pilots are initially proposed and cleared for launch, which is done by the superintendent “or designee” and formally approved by the board.

Up until now, the district had pretty meager guidelines for trying out new programs — a...
307 Verano Drive, Los Altos

Gorgeous Home in Prime North Los Altos

Absolute luxury awaits at this very spacious custom home on a sought-after North Los Altos street. Set on approximately one-third of an acre, this inviting home features an impressive courtyard entrance and grand porticos. Inside, gorgeous hardwood floors extend throughout the main level. Custom cabinetry, numerous skylights, and towering ceilings enhance the ambiance at every turn. The living room with fireplace, refined formal dining room, and showplace chef’s kitchen with tremendous family room are ideal for entertaining on a large or small scale. A large recreation room downstairs, ideal for home theater, refreshment center plus bedroom and bath, offers versatile accommodations for a variety of lifestyle needs. Outside, the grounds are equally enticing, featuring a vast entertainment terrace, stretches of lush lawn, and a pool with removable fencing – all of this, plus access to excellent Los Altos schools.

- Stunning custom home built in 2003; approx. 5,100* square feet
- 5BR/4BA on the main level
- Luxurious master suite plus second master suite ideal for extended family
- Lower-level recreation room, additional bedroom and bath, potential wine room with double glass doors
- Lofty ceiling heights, skylights, and beautiful hardwood floors in most rooms
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- Attached 2-car garage
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- Excellent Los Altos schools

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This one-of-a-kind townhome is part of a unique enclave of 18 homes situated on 8 acres of park-like grounds only minutes from the Village of Los Altos. Features include high ceilings with skylights, an abundance of windows, glass sliding doors that open to multiple outdoor decks, and hardwood floors throughout most of the home. Offering flexibility for a variety of lifestyles, the spacious floor plan features 3 privately situated bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, formal entry, living room with fireplace, kitchen/family room with fireplace, formal dining room, and large master suite with 2 walk-in closets. Adding to the appeal is the home’s sought-after location within a private gated community and just a short stroll to downtown, as well as access to top-rated Los Altos schools.

- Three bedrooms with three private baths
- Approximately 3,400* square feet
- Gallery-like foyer, high ceilings, and skylights
- Large master suite with fireplace and two walk-in closets
- Kitchen open to the family room
- Three fireplaces, hardwood floors, and multiple decks
- Generous storage throughout, 2-car garage
- Private, gated community on park-like grounds with pool
- Sought-after North Los Altos and just minutes to downtown

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Elegantly remodeled and lightly lived in townhouse in the sought-after community of Creekside Oaks. Extensively remodeled in 2005, this luxurious unit features Patina Pacific Maple hardwood floors, Anderson Woodclad windows and doors, new interior doors, extensive lush cabinetry and a Creston Audio System. The fully remodeled spaces in this beautiful home include eat-in kitchen, spacious living room, two large bedroom suites with luxurious master bathroom, executive office, and inside laundry make this unit very special and very unique.

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- 1,840* square feet
- Patina Pacific Maple Hardwood floors in most rooms
- Thermostatic heat blanket under master bathroom floor
- Both bedrooms have full wall of custom California Closets designs
- Central atrium and private patio
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**CAENEUS & POSEIDON**

Dragon Productions presents the world premiere of “Caeneus & Poseidon,” Bridgette Dutta Portman’s play in verse about a transgender hero based in ancient Greek mythology, March 10 through April 2. The play, originally written for the San Francisco Olympians Festival, tells the tale of Caeneus, born with a female body but granted a new, male form by the sea god Poseidon. When the wrathful god turns against him, Caeneus must confront the secrets of his past and embrace his unique identity. The play runs Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are $27-$35. On Saturday, March 11, there will be a pre-show talk about the mythology behind the play. Participants are invited to dress in costume as a mythological character for a chance to win a prize, and sample Greek appetizers. Go to bit.ly/art-fem-wiki-stanford.

**ART+FEMINISM WIKIPEDIA EDIT-A-THON**

Stanford University’s Bowes Art and Architecture Library (second floor of the McMurtry Building, 355 Roth Way, Room 201) is hosting an “Art+Feminism Wikipedia Edit-a-thon” on Saturday, March 11, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in celebration of Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day. All are invited to join Stanford librarians, students and faculty members to help improve coverage of women and the arts on Wikipedia. “Wikipedia’s editing standards encourage strong research-based citations,” Vanessa Kam, head of the Bowes Art & Architecture Library, said in a press release. “We are surrounded by reference material; it makes sense for this event to be hosted in the library where verifiable sources are within reach.”

The event will offer tutorials on Wikipedia editing. Creating a Wikipedia account prior to attending is recommended. Go to bit.ly/art-fem-wiki-stanford.

**IS ANYONE OUT THERE AMONG THE STARS**

As part of the Silicon Valley Astronomy Lecture Series, Dr. Dan Werthimer of the University of California at Berkeley will give a free, non-technical talk on the possibility of detecting signs of other intelligent life forms in the universe, especially through new technology for detecting radio, light and infrared signals, on Wednesday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m. at Smithwick Theater, Foot Hill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Werthimer is the chief scientist at the Berkeley SETI Research Center, overseeing the SETI@home project, which analyzes data from the world’s largest radio telescope using computers and cellphones from volunteers. Go to astroseti.org/education/silicon-valley-astronomy-lectures/.

**AUTHOR REBECCA SOLNIT**

Bay Area writer and activist Rebecca Solnit, whose book “Men Explain Things To Me” popularized the concept of “mansplaining,” is the author of numerous best-selling books and insightful essays on a variety of topics, including the environment, politics, art and history. She will present her latest collection of essays, “The Mother of All Questions,” Tuesday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Kepler’s, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, in conversation with Angie Coiro for In Deep Radio. Tickets are $10-$40. Go to brownpapertickets.com/event/web/2734330.

—Karla Kane

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TWO MV RESIDENTS ARRESTED IN DRUG BUST

Police arrested two Mountain View residents last week after a search of their home turned up methamphetamine and a loaded AK-47 assault rifle.

Mountain View police, along with county law enforcement, served a search warrant of the home on the 500 block of Calderon Avenue around 1 p.m. on Friday, March 3. Two suspects, identified as 47-year-old Mark Damilano and 27-year-old Guinevere Lashmett, who were believed to be connected to a drug sale case in February, were arrested.

During the search, officers reported finding several bags of methamphetamine as well as a loaded AK-47 assault rifle and several magazines. Several personal identification card belongings to nearby residents were also found in the home.

Both suspects were arrested and booked into Santa Clara County jail on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance, identity theft, possession of drug paraphernalia and being under the influence of a controlled substance. Damilano is also facing an additional charge of possession of an assault rifle.

VEHICLE-THEFT SUSPECTS NABBED

Police arrested two suspects last week after they were allegedly caught driving a vehicle through Mountain View that was reported stolen late last month and did not have license plates.

Officers stopped the Dodge pickup truck around 9:20 p.m. on Friday, March 3, after noticing that the truck had no license plates, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson. During

AUTO BURGLARY
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 3/2
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 3/2
1100 block N. Regnstorff Av., 3/3
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 3/4
1300 block Pearl Av., 3/5
2900 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 3/5
100 block Hope St., 3/6

IDENTITY THEFT
500 block Calderon Av., 3/3

ROBBERY
600 block Showers Dr., 3/1

STOLEN VEHICLE
200 block Ortega Av., 3/1
1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 3/3
300 block Escuela Av., 3/5

VANDALISM
200 block View St., 3/2
100 block San Antonio Rd., 3/2

The MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District is inviting photographers of all skill levels to enter its eighth annual photo contest.

Entry is free, and contestants can submit up to three photos in four categories: wildlife, plant life, landscapes, and people in nature. Photos must be taken in a MidPeninsula Open Space Preserve that is open to the public.

First-place winners from each category will win a $100 REI gift card, a Midpen gift bag, and be featured in the Open Space Views Fall Newsletter. A single grand winner will be awarded a ride-along with a park ranger for a behind-the-scenes look at the preserves.

The contest opened Mar. 1 and the deadline for submissions is Wednesday, May 31. More information is at openspace.org/contest.

—Shauli Bar-On

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How EPA cuts could impact Mountain View
LEAKED BUDGET PLAN WOULD HARM LOCAL BAY RESTORATION EFFORTS

By Mark Noack

Things are looking pretty grim these days for the Environmental Protection Agency, the nation’s top health-and-habitat watchdog that has become a main target of the Trump Administration’s push to curb government regulation. Leaked budget documents recently made public reveal that President Donald Trump’s administration intends to follow through on its campaign rhetoric to ax many of the EPA’s signature programs.

Those cuts could have a pronounced impact for Mountain View and the rest of the Bay Area, according to experts in the field. On the chopping block are programs for air and water quality, climate research and local bayland restoration. The partial glimpse of the proposed budget shows about $2 billion of the $8.1 billion agency’s funding being wiped away.

“Trump said during the campaign he would dismantle the EPA and this budget reflects those priorities to a T,” said Alex Formuzis, spokesman for the Environmental Working Group, an independent advocacy nonprofit. “This means dirtier water, dirtier air and far less in the way of cleaning up toxic sites.”

This doesn’t bode well for the city of Mountain View, which has four EPA-administered Superfund sites within its boundaries. For nearly 30 years, those programs have been involved in cleaning up the public health hazard caused by the industrial waste left by the area’s former semiconductor factories and the U.S. Navy base at Moffett Field. The San Francisco office of the EPA declined to comment for this story.

Environmental groups were disheartened earlier this year to see a longstanding adversary of the EPA appointed to head the agency. Scott Pruitt, who has sued the EPA 13 times as Oklahoma’s attorney general, was confirmed to the agency’s top post under a promise he would scale back its reach.

While mostly a critic of the agency, Pruitt has spoken favorably of the EPA’s targeted cleanups, including Superfund and the similar Brownfields Program. Last week, at a gathering of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, he told the crowd that the twin programs to restore contaminated sites were “absolutely essential.” Nevertheless, the proposed budget cuts would reduce the EPA’s Brownfield programs and grants by about $26 million, or about 35 percent.

The new budget documents make no mention of the EPA Superfund program, leaving its fate unclear at this time. Formuzis said he believes the program would likely suffer as linked programs and staffing within the agency are downsized.

The silver lining for Superfund sites is that much of the funding for long-term cleanup doesn’t come from the EPA. That bill is mostly paid by the parties deemed responsible for causing the pollution. For Mountain View, the companies Fairchild Semiconductor, Raytheon and Intel have carried most of the costs over the last 30 years to remove contaminants such as carcinogenic trichloroethylene (TCE) from the local groundwater.

It is probably safe to assume those companies would continue to pay the cleanup costs, said City Councilman Lenny Siegel, who also serves as executive director of the Center for Public Environmental Oversight. But he admitted it was hard to predict what would happen.

“When it comes to the individual programs that (the Trump administration) didn’t target, we really don’t know what they’re going to do,” Siegel said.

What is very clear is that the federal government intends to step away from commitments to help restore the local baylands martials. The EPA cuts would entirely eliminate the $4.8 million earmarked each year for San Francisco Bay Area, just as all nine counties are set to begin an unprecedented remediation effort.

Last year, more than 70 percent of voters approved the Measure AA parcel tax to clean up and maintain bayland restoration. On the chopping block are programs for air and water quality, climate research and local bayland restoration. The partial glimpse of the proposed budget shows about $2 billion of the $8.1 billion agency’s funding being wiped away.

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ALAN WESSEL, DISTRICT PARENT

Graham parent Vince Brown, whose son is in sixth grade, told the Voice in an email there's no way a program so riddled with glitches, technical problems and poor content was properly vetted, and that Rudolph and Gutierrez chose to hide the problem and deflect any criticism.

"I think it's time for them both to take accountability and admit they made a mistake," Brown said. "I haven't heard such an admission yet."

Graham parent Alan Wessel, who helped publicize the problems with Teach to One in December, urged Rudolph and the board to stop sending out emails with counter-factual information and for including all sixth-grade students on a mandatory basis, and Rudolph indicated at the meeting that the district simply doesn't have room to negotiate the scope of pilots.

I don't know why the district insists on sugarcoating the issue," Wessel said. "If we want to get over this as a community ... there has to be some real accountability, and we have to find out what really happened."

One big question that the new policy does not address is what constitutes a "representative sample of students in pilot programs, and whether families can opt in or out of the experimental curriculum. Teach to One was heavily criticized by parents for including all sixth-grade students on a mandatory basis, and Rudolph indicated at the meeting that the district simply doesn't have room to negotiate the scope of pilots.

Rudolph referred specifically to a pilot program called the Sobrato Early Academic Literacy (SEAL) program — a program the district is considering piloting right now — which has strict guidelines on how many classrooms and how many grade levels must participate. If the district can't settle for the outside organization's requirements, he said, the pilot can't happen.

Pete Gelbman, a Graham parent, said that the district needs to pilot new curriculum using a smaller subset of students, and strive to make it voluntary going forward if it wants to avoid making the same mistake it did with Teach to One.

"One hundred percent of the district's sixth graders were in Teach to One. That's very far from any common-sense definition of a pilot," he said. "If that didn't come out loud and clear in all of the debacle that we've been through, that should be obvious."

Board member Laura Blakely said she is optimistic about the accountability of the district administrators have heard enough about the problems with Teach to One.

"At some point I feel like that horse has been beat many, many times," Blakely said. "I want to learn the appropriate lessons, but I feel like we have."
five years, Spartan Robotics has exploded in popularity, growing to a roster of 50 students and now ranks among the top teams in the world. Even students and parents who have long since graduated out are sticking around for another season.

Spartan Robotics, affectionately referred to as Team 971 by the membership, participates in a global competition known as First Robotics, where students have just a couple months to design, build and test a robot — normally the size of a dishwasher — that can perform various actions to earn points. Among other things, this year’s robot needs to be able to pick up a large number of Wiffle balls and launch them precisely into a bin.

If there was ever a way to expose students to all aspects of hands-on STEM education at the same time, the controlled chaos of work that goes on between January and March is pretty much it. Students are constantly engineering parts of the robot, creating prototypes — some of which are rapidly re-designed or replaced — and writing up software that allows the robot to function on its own using sensors. The team relies on mentors, many of whom are parents and returning students, to guide it and ensure that a robot is complete, bagged and ready to go in time for the first competition.

“It’s really exciting, especially this early in the season,” said Chris Mintz, a third-year member of Spartan Robotics, during a frenzied day of work on Jan. 20. Details on this year’s competition had only been revealed a few weeks before, and the team was knee-deep in creating robot components and testing to see what works. The team has a reputation for being a little too ambitious with designs, Mintz said, and has a tendency to create complex, over-engineered parts. But with such a big roster this year and so many students showing up each day, improvements are constantly being made.

“A team full of kids is always better than one,” he said.

Hundreds of teams from all over the world participate in the FIRST competition, and Spartan Robotics currently ranks among the best. In 2014, the team took first place at two regional competitions and participated in the final championship game in St. Louis, Missouri, before narrowly losing in the finals. But the recent success and intense student interest in Spartan Robotics has been just that — recent.

The team’s roster has grown exponentially in the past few years, said Austin Schuh, who participated in his first Spartan Robotics game 13 years ago and continues to help out. Back then, he recalled, the team was only eight students strong and had to work out of a science prep area in the middle of a closed classroom. Each day the team would have to clean up and clear out before class the next day.

Now the team has its own home in a small classroom in the back of the campus, full of tools, machine parts, a home-built Computer Numerical Control (CNC) router, and an entire lineup of robots from past years. The CNC router makes the team self-sufficient in-house, and doesn’t have to rely solely on metal fabrication shops in the Bay Area during a time critical phase of the competition.

Schuh’s job as the lead software mentor is to help students write the C++ coding that tells the robot what to do during the competition’s autonomous round. Many of the students on the team this year — about 75 percent of whom are freshmen and sophomores — don’t have a strong coding background, but it’s an essential part of the competition, he said.

“The robot has no chance of aiming the balls without some sort of software,” he said.

Driven by passion

On any given week during “build” season, students and mentors put upwards of 30 hours into designing, building and testing the robot, with the most progress taking place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. But team members don’t seem to look at their commitment as a sacrifice — they see it as an opportunity to work on something that matters.

Brian Silverman, who has been on the team for seven straight seasons — four as a student and three as a mentor — said it’s always fun to work on something that you know will be a finished product, and students get motivated to put in the time and effort when they realize they can actually make a difference in the final design.

Spartan Robotics also gives students a chance to diverge from learning about engineering and computer science in a classroom. Instead, Silverman said, students take part in a hands-on experience where there is no right answer, and the team has to get creative in order to solve real-life problems.

“Wow it want to help show more kids what engineering is really like, where we don’t know what the answer is,” Silverman said. “You find out if you’ve got the right answer if it works or not.”

Silverman, like Schuh, can’t seem to part ways with Spartan Robotics. After graduating from Mountain View High School, he continues to help out as a mentor even after he moved to the East Coast for college, tuning in via Skype and working remotely. Part of the reason why Spartan Robotics transitioned into a highly competitive team and grew in popularity around the 2011-2012 school year, he said, is that mentors like himself kept coming back and building on the team’s legacy.

“With more mentors, we’ve got more bandwidth to work with students who come in and don’t know what to do,” he said.

Barbara “Bobby” McPheeters Kinchen
June 29, 1920 – January 1, 2017

Barbara “Bobby” McPheeters Kinchen, born in Mountain View, CA on June 29, 1920, passed from this life on January 1st, 2017. She loved and was loved. A Celebration of Life in her memory will be held from 2-4:00 PM on March 18th, 2017 in a banquet room at Michael’s Restaurant at Shoreline Park in Mountain View, Honoring her wishes, this Celebration will be a cheerful gathering of family, neighbors, and friends, a time to share good memories and enjoy our time together.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances in Barbara’s name can be made to the Mountain View Pioneer and Historical Association, P.O. Box 252 Mountain View, CA 94042, or a charity of your choice.
GOOGLE

Continued from page 1

this site is welcoming to the public.” With all those dazzling features, it can be easy to forget that the plan is for a corporate office, not a community center. The 595,000-square-foot building will house up to 2,700 Google employees, plus an unspecified number of food-service workers, contractors and support staff. Igoe and other company officials couldn’t specify which Google divisions would be housed in the new Charleston East center. But they said work on the new campus will begin immediately.

It was a full-on charm offensive on Tuesday night as executives at the $498-billion tech giant played to the company’s local roots as they sought final approvals from city leaders. They arrived with a large retinue of friends from the nonprofit sector who reminded city leaders of the tech giant’s significant financial help over the years. Those supporters included leaders from two school districts, four environmental groups, two transit advocacy organizations, plus the local Chamber of Commerce, YMCA and Los Altos Community Foundation. Mountain View Whisman School District Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph highlighted the “great partnership” his district has with Google, which rents out the Slater Elementary School campus for the company’s employee daycare center. Rudolph pointed to nearly $1 million in donations from the company over the last 16 months toward the district’s strategic plan and efforts to bridge the achievement gap. Tony Stress, the Chamber CEO, pegged Google’s total donations to the community since 2010 at $160 million,” making it the Bay Area’s largest corporate philanthropist. “They’re one of those humble employers,” he said. “They care about where they are, and this is their headquarters.”

One public speaker dubbed it a “love fest” for Google and it seemed only a slight exaggeration. Gita Dev, vice-chair of the Loma Prieta chapter of the Sierra Club, at first lamented that no one was speaking out against how Google’s plans for Charleston East would involve chopping down nearly 200 trees, about half of them redwoods. But she quickly pivoted to lending her support for the plan, pointing out the trees were non-native and blocking the company’s planned bike path. “These redwoods — these wonderful gentle giants — we’re sad to see them go, but we’re looking forward to a vibrant forest canopy,” Dev said.

Google officials expect to begin removing the trees in the coming days. The company promised to replace them with more than 300 oak, sycamore and cottonwood trees. It was unclear whether the huge outpouring of community support for Google swayed any City Council members. Some members were more skeptical toward the company, pointing out it received a free ride in many aspects. In a meeting one week earlier, Mayor Ken Rosenberg commented to his colleagues how just one local gas station paid more in sales taxes to the city of Mountain View than all of Google.

Speaking to that, Councilman Lenny Siegel said the company’s largess really played no part in whether the Charleston East project should be approved. The package succeeded at meeting city standards, so it deserved support, he said. “I’m not swayed by the scope of Google’s philanthropy or the utility of their products,” he said. “I’m supporting this project because it’s imaginative, innovative and sustainable.

It should be noted that the Charleston East project will bring a tidy sum to the city. Google will pay a flat $600,000 fee as well as an annual $2.25 million rental fee to the city for using the Shoreline Amphitheatre lot for its employee parking. The company will eventually build out its own new parking as part of a future development planned for 2171 Landings Drive. The Charleston East project is just the first piece of a much larger strategy at Google for developing the North Bayshore area into its global headquarters. Back in 2015, the company presented plans for a series of dome-like buildings across North Bayshore, similar to the canopied structure at Charleston East. In a surprise move, the Mountain View City Council declined to back those plans, instead giving the lion’s share of development rights to LinkedIn.

But Google turned the situation to its advantage last year by negotiating a huge land swap with LinkedIn. Google signed over seven buildings to its rival near Sunnyvale in exchange for development rights and leased offices in North Bayshore. As a result, Google consolidated its position by acquiring nearly all the city’s allotted space for development north of Highway 101.

The city is now nearing the finish line after a multi-year process to complete a precise plan at North Bayshore. That plan to add housing to the area relies heavily on signals from Google officials that the company is interested in developing about 10,000 apartments in North Bayshore, mainly to alleviate the immense traffic demand from its own workforce.

The company will be required to make a string of improvements to offset the traffic, including realigning the Highway 101 off-ramp at La Avenida to prevent traffic jams, and modifying Plymouth Avenue and Space Park Way to allow cars to maneuver better. Most of those upgrades would be made after the Charleston East project is completed, according to city staff.

The City Council added some minor conditions to their approval. Councilwoman Lisa Matichak heaped praise on Google’s emphasis on community with its Green Loop and plaza, but said she wanted to ensure non-employees knew they were welcome.

“There’s going to be goods and food offered to Google employees. That should really be offered to everyone,” she said. “Yes, you’ll have to pay for it, but everyone should know they can partake.”

City leaders repeatedly referred to the plaza as a public space, but that isn’t quite the case. Google will retain control over the property and would have to sanction any groups that want to assemble there, according to the company’s representatives.

In addition, the city also instructed Google to notify nearly all residents and small businesses in the North Bayshore area for any planned disruption from the construction. Siegel also asked for employees to be notified in advance of the toxic contaminants present in the groundwater.

Mayor Rosenberg had to recuse himself from the vote due to a conflict of interest from business dealings with Live Nation, which operates the neighboring Shoreline Amphitheatre and is involved in the parking lease with Google. The rest of the council voted unanimously, 6-0, to approve the project.

“I strongly support this project; it’s very exciting,” Siegel said. “This is a project any other city would die for — including Cupertino.”

Mountain View RESIDENTS and BUSINESSES are invited to come and learn more about the City’s new electricity provider:

* More renewable and carbon-free power
* Lower rates than PG&E
* Reliable power that helps the planet

Light refreshments will be served.

To RSVP: tinyurl.com/mv-cleanenergy

For more information, visit: SVCleanEnergy.org

Mountain View

Cleaner, Greener Power is Coming to Mountain View

COMMUNITY MEETING

Thursday, March 23, 2017

7-9pm

City Hall Council Chambers
500 Castro Street, 2nd floor

Local News
SNAPCHAT
Continued from page 5
of success over the years, with the biggest success story in 1996 when the school made a $21.1 million return on a $25,000 investment in the company Advanced Fiber. In 2012, one of the growth fund committee members, St. Francis parent Barry Eggers, suggested that the school get in on a deal to invest in Snapchat after seeing his children and other teens at the school using the messaging app.
"The end result is, my goodness, a very successful IPO this morning," Makley said. "It's a great, great day for St. Francis, morning," Makley said. "It's a very successful IPO this morning," Makley said. "It's a dream come true for me, for the school get in on a deal to invest in Snapchat after seeing his children and other teens at the school using the messaging app.
"It's something that everyone can relate to," Chiu said. "Most of them probably use Snapchat and have that kind of connection through that.
So what's the school going to do with all that cash? Chiu said it will ultimately be up to the school board to decide how to allocate the money, but there are some big-picture plans for how to spend it. The first is to bolster the school's endowment fund to help fund financial aid for families — something that Chiu called a mission-critical plan.
"We want to make this education accessible to as many students and families as possible," he said.
The money will also be put towards more resources for faculty and staff, the schools' "innovative" programs and the school's buildings and infrastructure.
The way we've described it is that we're going to be accelerating the work that we do. It's really going to celebrate the plans that we have in our strategic plan," he said. "And if we're good stewards over these resources, then we're going to maximize this big investment."

APARTMENTS
Continued from page 5

EPA
Continued from page 5

restore the Bay Area's tidal wetlands. That restoration effort was proposed under the assumption that the federal government would be a willing partner and help put forward one-third of the $1.5 billion estimated cost to restore 35,000 acres, said David Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay.
Through 2016, there were nearly 10 times more requests for grants than there was available funding provided by the EPA for local bay restoration, he said.
"The real story here is that the Bay needs more federal investment, not less," Lewis said. "It'll only get more expensive the longer we wait."
Lewis also highlighted the loss of about $400 million across a variety of EPA grant programs for states. Typically these grants are intended to offset the costs for states complying with federal mandates.
The EPA budget is just one small piece of the unusual political situation in the nation's capital. Around this time of the year, the White House is typically presenting its budget proposal to Congress to review. Like so many other issues at the federal level, that process is running behind schedule.

For states complying with federal mandates.
The EPA budget is just one small piece of the unusual political situation in the nation's capital. Around this time of the year, the White House is typically presenting its budget proposal to Congress to review. Like so many other issues at the federal level, that process is running behind schedule.

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SVCleanEnergy.org
You are cordially invited to DeLeon Realty’s Elk Seminar Series. Gain insight from Michale Repka, the managing broker and general counsel, and Deleon Realty’s esteemed buyer agents.

REAL ESTATE SEMINAR SERIES

PART ONE

March 16th, 2017
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Topic: Real Property Tax
– From the Seasoned Citizen’s Point of View
Speaker: Michael Repka

PART TWO

March 30th, 2017
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Topic: How to Purchase a Silicon Valley Home for Less than Fair Market Value
Speaker: DeLeon Realty Buyer Agents

PART THREE

April 13th, 2017
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Topic: How to Prepare Your Home to Sell for Top Dollar
Speaker: Michael Repka

Please RSVP by contacting Kathryn Randolph at 650.543.8500 or at RSVP@deleonrealty.com

For more information: www.DeLeonRealty.com
S

pring is in the air! And along with it, there are plenty of classes to keep you 

inspired and stimulated as the days get 

warmer, the sunshine stays longer and the 

pollen count inevitably increases. Now’s the 
time to revisit those resolutions you made 
in January — the ones you might have forgot-

ten about — and sign up for that dance class 
you’ve always wanted to take or that cooking 
class that might jumpstart your nutritious 
eating goals. Whatever is on your to-do list for 

the year, this list is bound to fulfill at least one 

of your goals, interests or passions.

The Class Guide is published quarterly by 

the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac and the 

Mountain View Voice.

DANCE

Alberto’s Salsas Studio & Ultra 

Lounge

736 W. Dana St., Mountain View, 

650-968-3007, clubalberto@gmail.com, 

alberto.com

Alberto’s holds lessons throughout the week 

for salsa (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays), 

bachata (Wednesdays) and tango (Sunday) 

styles of dancing for beginners and those with 

more experience.

Bayer Ballet Academy

2028 Old Middlefield Way, 

Mountain View, 650-988-9971, 

info@bayerballellacademy.com, 

bayerballellacademy.com

Bayer Ballet Academy is a school of Russian 

ballet that teaches the Vaganova method 

beginning with children. The academy 

offers a variety of classes to prepare 

students for the professional level, as well as 
a new program specifically for boys.

Cassand Ballet

1411 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View, 

415-505-5659, cassandballet@gmail.com, 

cassandballet.com

This ballet school and company follows the 
classical French tradition and teaches boys, 
girls, teenagers and adults starting at age 3. 

Western Ballet

914 N. Rengstorff Ave., Suite 4, Mountain 

View, 650-968-4455, westernballet.org

Western Ballet holds ballet classes that draw 

from the Russian Vaganova method and the 

newer more “open” classical method. Classes 

are available for children, teens and adults 

and for both newcomers and those pursuing 

professional careers.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Barre3

4758 W. El Camino Real, Los Altos, 

650-461-8139, laulalala@barre3.com, 

barre3.com/locations/los-altos

Classes at this studio combine ballet barre 
exercises with elements of yoga and Pilates, 
aiming to help students develop flexibility, 
strength and improved posture.

Bikram Yoga Mountain View

190 W. El Camino Real, Suite E, Mountain 

View, 650-967-2986, info@ 

bikramyogamountainview.com, 
bikramyogamountainview.com

In its 90-minute classes, Bikram Yoga Moun-
tain View instructs students in 26 hatha yoga 
postures and two breathing exercises in a heat-
ed room. Classes are held each day of the week.

California Yoga Center

1776 Alum Rock Ave., Mountain View, 

650-967-5702, californiayoga.com

California Yoga Center in Mountain View 

holds asana yoga classes for students at 

beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. 

The center also offers classes on pranayama, 

restorative yoga and back care.

Mambona Dance Studio

223 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View, 

925-250-9352, info@mambonavasj.com, 
mambonavasj.com

Mambona Dance Company offers group les-
sions in salsa and bachata. Private dance classes 

are also offered for individuals and couples.

The New Century Dance School 

227 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View, 

650-924-5080, newcenturydance.com

The New Century Dance School guides stu-
dents through classes in the classical Chinese 
dance, ballet, movement and exercise.

Pacific Ballet Academy

255 Polaris Ave., Mountain View, 

650-946-4014, director@pacificballet.org, 
pacificballet.org

The Pacific Ballet Academy inges students 
ranging in age from 3 to 18 in the Russian 
ballet method. Adult classes are also offered, 

for beginners and intermediate dancers.

Neighborhood Salsa Spree

TheLivelySchool.html

March 10, 2017 | Mountain View Voice | MountainViewOnline.com | 11

I'm an Artificial Intelligence and I'm being used to help generate human-like text. I'm not always perfect and I might make mistakes. If you see anything that doesn't make sense, please let me know so I can improve. Thank you.
Can a high school offer both strong academics and personal well-being?

We provide students with opportunities to uncover real meaning in their education through their personalized learning experiences. We know that a high-stress, one-size-fits-all approach to education is not a healthy learning environment. We know that teaching content without also teaching compassion is out of balance. And we understand the connection between students, academics, and happiness: our teachers connect with their students; our students find personal connections with their studies and one another; and, along the way, our students make a deep connection with their higher selves and with the world around them.

There is a choice to be made when considering high schools, but it doesn’t have to be between academics and well-being. There is an alternative.

- Personal Learning Plan created for each student, based on personal interests and goals
- Core curriculum includes daily yoga and meditation
- Rigorous academics program, including college credit courses offered through partnership with Foothill College for upper grades
- Creativity, intuition, compassion, critical thinking, and problem-solving taught as life skills
- Measured approach to technology
- Annual field trips to India, Hawaii, and Italy provide adventure, real-world experiences, in-depth study, and the opportunity for volunteer service

At Living Wisdom High School, the answer is YES.

Visit LivingWisdomHighSchool.org for more information including admissions.

Opening September 2017

Yoga Belly 455 Castro St., Mountain View, 650-862-3976, info@yogabellystudio.com, yogabellystudio.com
Yoga Belly offers yoga classes in heated and non-heated rooms, more physical Vinyasa classes and Yoga Tune Up sessions, which combine yoga, corrective exercise and self-massage.

Yoga is Youthfulness 980 Castro St., Mountain View, 650-964-5277, info@yogaiyouth.com, yogaiyouth.com
Yoga is Youthfulness offers classes for students of all levels daily, including early in the morning and in the evenings. Classes teach ashtanga, yoga or hatha styles of yoga, as well as other subjects like prenatal yoga and meditation.

Music, Arts & Crafts

Community School of Music and Arts Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View, 650-917-6800, info@artsforall.org, artsforall.org
The Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) offers classes year-round in music, visual and digital arts, with courses suited for adults and children as young as preschool-age. There are a variety of classes and registration for December and camps and Spring classes (which start in early January and February) is now open.

Custom Handweavers 2263 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View, 650-988-4789, customhandweavers.com
Custom Handweavers offers weaving workshops in weaving techniques, Navajo, tapestry and Temari, held periodically.

Peninsula Youth Theatre 2500 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View, 650-988-4789, info@pytnet.org, pytnet.org
Peninsula Youth Theatre (PYT) offers drama classes in acting, musical theater and other skills to children of various abilities and ages. Registration for the week-long April camp is now open, and online registration for summer camps is now open.

Savvy Cellar Bar & Wine Shop 750 W. Evelyn Ave., Mountain View, 650-969-3958, info@savvycellar.com, savvycellar.com
Savvy Cellars Wine hosts occasional classes on various wines and wine topics, including regional wines, wine-food pairing and wine tasting for novices. Students must be 21 or older to attend.

Tomasev Fine Art Studio 823 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View, 415-490-8925, tomasevfineartstudio@gmail.com, tomasevforart.com
The studio offers workshops and classes in painting, drawing, ceramics and more, as well as an after-school art program for kids.

Vekler Academy of Music and Dance 1710 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View, 650-254-0777, vekleracademy.com
This school program teaches ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical and hip hop dance classes for youth ages 3 and up. Group music programs include preschool music classes and a children’s choir. Private music lessons are also available.

West Valley Music 262 Castro St., Mountain View, 650-961-1386, info@westvalleymusic.com, westvalleymusic.com
West Valley Music helps students further their music skills or try their hand at different instruments. Group lessons are held for instruments such as piano, guitar, ukulele and violin, as well as band and orchestra. Private lessons are also offered.

Opus Music Studio 1350 Grant Road, #5, Mountain View, 650-621-9855, musicopus1.com
Opus Music Studio holds group music lessons for young children, including classes for first-time music learners (ages 3 to 6) and sessions on piano performance and music theory. Private lessons are also offered.

EDUCATION

Action Day Primary Plus 533 Eucalyptus Ave., Mountain View, 650-967-3780, montessori@actiodynamics.com, actiondayprimaryplus.com
Action Day Primary Plus in Mountain View serves infants and children in preschool and kindergarten. The school offers enrichment and enrichment

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www.headsup.org
Notice to Prequalify and Invitation to Bid

Notice is hereby given that the governing board ("Board") of the Mountain View Whisman School District ("District") will receive sealed bids for the following project ("Project") or "Contract": Stevenson Elementary School Network Operation Center Pre-Cast Building. The project is a purchase of a 200 square feet precast concrete communications building to house data equipment.

1. The Board has adopted a pre-qualification system which requires all bidders to be pre-qualified to bid on the Project by completing the Measure G Contractor’s Pre-Qualification Questionnaire and receiving a passing score.

2. Sealed Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at the District Office, located at 750-A San Pierre Way, Mountain View, California 94043, at or after which time the bids will be opened and publicly read aloud. Any claim by a bidder of error in its bid must be made in compliance with section 5100 et seq. of the Public Contract Code. Any bid that is submitted after this time shall be non-responsive and returned to the bidder.

3. All bids shall be on the form provided by the District. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent Contract Documents, including, but not limited to, the Instructions to Bidders.

4. To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California Contractor Licenses: B- General Contractor AND A Modular Building Manufacturer’s License. The Bidder’s license(s) must be active and in good standing at the time of the bid opening and must remain so throughout the term of the Contract.

5. As security for its Bid, each bidder shall provide with its Bid form a bond issued by an admitted surety insurer on the form provided by the District, cash, or a cashier’s check or a certified check, drawn to the order of the District, in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. The security bond shall be a guarantee that the Bidder shall, within seven (7) calendar days after the notice of award, enter into a contract with the District for the performance of the services as stipulated in the bid.

6. The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a 100% Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond if it is awarded the contract for the Project.

7. The successful Bidder may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under the Contract, in accordance with the provisions of section 22300 of the Public Contract Code.

8. The successful Bidder and its subcontractors shall pay all workers on the Project not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to sections 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are available from the District or on the Internet at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>. Bidders and Bidders’ subcontractors shall comply with the registration and qualification requirements pursuant to sections 1725.5 and 1771.1 of the California Labor Code.

9. There will be no mandatory pre-bid conference.

10. Contract Documents are available on Monday, March 6, 2017, for review at the District Facilities Office, or from the District’s Construction Managers, Greystone West Co., 621 W Spain Street, Sonoma, California 95476, 707-933-0624. You can contact them by phone at (707) 933-0624 or by email at curtneyrey@greystonewest.com. A list of builders’ exchanges who have the project documents is available at Greystone West Company.

11. The District’s Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.

12. The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsible responsible bidder based on the base bid amount only.

Mountain View Whisman School District
By: Mary Ann Duggan, Director of Capital Projects

Publication Dates: (1) March 3, 2017 (2) March 10, 2017
Open-Concept Spaces Inspire Versatility

Residing in desirable Green Gables is this charming 4 bedroom, 2 bath residence, which occupies approx. 1,600 sq. ft. (per county) in a private setting on over 9,000 sq. ft. (per county) of property, prime for expansion. This beautifully upgraded home enjoys skylights and radiant ceiling heating throughout, plus a spacious backyard, bamboo floors, and open-concept living. You will also have close proximity to Edgewood Shopping Center and Greer and Rinconada Parks, plus easy commuting access to Highway 101. Stroll to Jordan Middle (API 934) and quickly bike to other excellent schools such as Duveneck Elementary (API 956) and Palo Alto High (API 905) (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.921Elsinore.com

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Complimentary Lunch & Lattes
3530 Greer Road, Palo Alto
Offered at $2,988,000

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Fronted by graceful trees and a winding paver walkway, this 4 bedroom, 4 bath home of approx. 2,500 sq. ft. (per county) on a property of approx. 8,600 sq. ft. (per county) combines serenity, natural beauty, and a variety of thoughtful upgrades. The residence showcases a studio, gorgeously appointed outdoor areas, and high-end features that include Lutron lighting, Pella windows, and storage by California Closets. The Eichler Swim & Tennis Club as well as Palo Verde Elementary (API 961) are both within strolling distance, while Ramos and Mitchell Parks and other outstanding schools like JLS Middle (API 943) and Gunn High (API 917) are easily accessed within a quick drive or bike ride (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit: www.3530Greer.com

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Saturday & Sunday, 1-5 pm
Complimentary Lunch & Lattes
ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

Art and Soul Summer Camps  Palo Alto
Art, cooking, tinkerling, Yoga and mindfulness. We celebrate multiple perspectives and recognize the many ways for our children to interpret their world! Summer Unplugged! Ages 5-13 years. Walter Hays School
www.artandsouelpa.com  650.269.0423

Athena Camps  Los Altos & San Jose
www.AthenaCamps.com  408.490.4972

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Music and Arts (CSMA)  Mountain View
50+ creative camps for Gr. K-8! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, Summer Music Workshops, more! Two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care available. Financial aid offered.
www.csma4all.org  650.917.6800 ext. 0

J-Camp at the OFJCC  Palo Alto
With options for every age, schedule and interest, J-Camp has you covered. Traditional camps focus on variety and building friendships, while specialty camps include fantastic options like Robotics, Ceramics, Ocean Adventures, Food Truck Challenge, TV Studio Production and more. We're looking forward to our best summer ever and want your family to be part of the experience.
www.ofjcc-jcamp.com  650.223.8622

Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC)  Palo Alto
PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of fun opportunities! We are excited to announce all of your returning favorites: Leaders in Training (L.I.T.), PACCC Special Interest Units (S.I.U.), F.A.M.E. (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment), J.V. Sports and Operation: Chef! Festival field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the fun offerings of PACCC Summer Camps! Open to campers from all communities! Come join the fun in Palo Alto! Register online.
www.pacc.org  650.493.2361

Summer at Athena Academy  Palo Alto
Summer at Athena Academy offers specialized week-long camps for children to EXPLORE their passions, CREATE new memories, BUILD friendships and PLAY to their hearts’ content. Camps include coding, sports & fitness, art, music and more.
www.AthenaAcademy.org/Summer  650.543.4560

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley  Palo Alto
Menlo Park
Kids who love to act have fun, put on a show, and learn from pros at the acclaimed TheatreWorks Silicon Valley camps for budding theatre enthusiasts. Spring Break camps for K-6, Summer Camps for K-12, plus special teen programs.
www.theatreworks.org/learn/youth  650.463.7146

ACADEMICS

Alexa Café  Stanford, Palo Alto High School
Girls ages 10-15 discover technology in a unique environment that celebrates creativity, social activism, and entrepreneurship. Girls learn engineering principles, code games, design websites, explore cyber security, and much more.
www.iTechD.com/Connection  1.844.788.1858

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls  Palo Alto
Casti Camp offers girls a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, computers, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music classes each day along with weekly field trips.
www.castilleja.org/summercamp  650.470.7833

Harker Summer Programs  San Jose
Harker summer programs for preschool - grade 12 children include opportunities for academics, arts, athletics and activities. Taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff, our programs offer something for everyone in a safe and supportive environment.
www.summer.harker.org  408.553.5737

ID Tech Camps  Stanford, Bay Area
Students ages 7-17 can learn to code apps, design video games, mod Minecraft, engineer robots, model 3D characters, design for VR, explore cyber security, and more. Students explore camp, learn foundational STEM skills, and gain self-confidence.
www.iDTECH.com/Connection  1.844.788.1858

Mid-Peninsula High School  Menlo Park
Mid-Pen’s Summer Session offers an innovative series of one-week courses that give students the opportunity to customize their own summer program. These courses go beyond traditional curriculum, giving students the opportunity to enhance their skills while seeking either enrichment or credit repair.

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EXPLORE biomedical science at Stanford! Stanford EXPLORE offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neurobiology, immunology and many others.
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Write Now!  Palo Alto
Summer Writing Camps  Pleasanton
Improve your student’s writing skills this summer at Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton. Courses this year are Expository Writing, Creative Writing and Presentation Techniques. Visit our website for more information.
www.headsup.org  Emerson: 650.424.1267
www.headsup.org  Hacienda: 925.485.5750

ATHLETICS

City of Mountain View Recreation  Mountain View
Come have a blast with us this summer! We have something for everyone – Recreation Camps, Specialty Camps, Sports Camps, Swim Lessons and more! Programs begin June 5th – register early!
www.mountainview.gov/register  650.903.6331

Hi Five Sports  Sacred Heart Schools Summer Camp  Atherton
We are the Premier youth sports summer camp. We bring the fun to camp and with over 25 years of experience we make sure your child has an experience of a lifetime!!!!
www.hifivesports.com  650.362.4975

Kim Grant Tennis Academy  Palo Alto
Summer Camps
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Fun and specialized junior camps for Mini (3-5), Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, High Performance and Elite levels. Weekly programs designed by Kim Grant to improve player technique, fitness, agility, mental toughness and all around game. Weekly camps in Palo Alto and sleep away camps at Meadowbrook Swim and Tennis*.
www.KimGrantTennis.com  650.752.8061

Nike Tennis Camps  Stanford University
Junior Overnight and Day Camps for boys & girls, ages 9-18 offered throughout June, July and August. Adult Weekend Clinics (June & Aug). Camps directed by Head Men’s Coach, Paul Goldstein, Head Women’s Coach, Lele Forood, and Associate Men’s and Women’s Coaches, Brandon Coupe and Frankie Brennan. Come join the fun and get better this summer!
www.USSportsCamps.com  1.800.NIKE.CAMP (1.800.645.3226)

Spartans Sports Camp  Mountain View
Spartans Sports Camp offers multi-sport, week-long sessions for boys and girls in grades 2-7, sport-specific sessions for grades 2-9, color guard camp for grades 3-9, and cheerleading camp for grades pre-K – 8. We also offer a hip hop dance camp for grades 1-7. Camp dates are June 12 through July 28 at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available.
www.SpartansSportsCamp.com  650.479.5906

Stanford Water Polo  Stanford
Ages 7 and up. New to sport or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or fully day option for boys and girls. All the camps offer fundamental sport work, scrimmages and games.
www.stanfordwaterpolocamps.com  650.725.9016

YMCA Summer Camps  Silicon Valley
At The Y, children and teens of all abilities acquire new skills, make friends, and feel that they belong. With hundreds of Summer Day Camps at 30+ locations plus Overnight Camps, you will find a camp that’s right for your family. Financial assistance is available.
www.ymcavs.org/summer  408.351.6410

GUIDE TO 2017 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS

For more information about these camps, see our online directory of camps at www.paloaltoonline.com/biz/summercamps/

To advertise in this weekly directory, call: 650.326.8210
The labor pool is just evaporating, said Howard Bulka, owner of Howie’s Artisan Pizza at Town & Country Village.

"I'm always scared. Every time I raise prices, I’m always scared," Bulka said. "I'm always scared that I could lose customers, and my profit margins are already razor-thin. If I lose business from raising prices, I could lose more money than I would if I didn’t raise them."
I come in, I cross my fingers and I say, ‘Hopefully everyone comes to work,’” he said.

Owners have also had to lower their standards for hiring, particularly for back-of-house positions. Cooks with far less experience have become more attractive in the current labor market, owners said.

Another huge shift for restaurants operating in Silicon Valley: increasingly stiff competition from tech companies and restaurant chains that can offer better pay, benefits and hours. The impact from tech companies is dual: Not only are they drawing down on the local labor pool to staff on-campus eateries, but by providing employees with quality food at the office, fewer people are going out to eat on their lunch breaks, local restaurant owners said.

In light of all of this, owners are doing what they can to make their restaurants more attractive places to work. La Bodeguita, for example, pays half of full-time employees’ health care plans, and offers 401(k) retirement benefits. Asian Box, which operates locations in Palo Alto and Mountain View, pays its staff weekly (which costs the restaurant “substantially more”), offers cellphone plan reimbursement, helps staff with loans, writes apartment references for staff, and has always paid more than minimum wage, owner Frank Klein said. Owners are more flexible with scheduling, particularly given that many employees work more than one restaurant job.

Other owners say they are cultivating kinder, more positive kitchens with an emphasis on teaching — a stark contrast from the traditionally unforgiving, even abusive, environment of kitchens past. At Pizzeria Delfina, Stoll has implemented regular staff reviews to check in not only about performance, but to set and guide staff toward goals.

“Our focus is always on being a great restaurant for guests to eat at,” Stoll said. “Newsflash: We have to focus on being great employers now.”

Pressures of the new minimum wage

On Jan. 1, restaurant workers in both Palo Alto and Mountain View saw their minimum wage increase — in Palo Alto to $12 per hour, and in Mountain View, $13 an hour. Both cities are on a phased path toward an eventual minimum wage of $15 an hour. California’s minimum wage is currently $10.50 an hour, with yearly increases ahead through 2022.

Owners say they support a living wage for their staff, but local cities’ accelerated increases are
having an intractable impact on their bottom line. They're also frustrated by local elected officials who supported the increases without understanding the nuanced impact on restaurants in particular. The low-paid employees who need a higher wage the most, like back-of-house line cooks and dishwashers, are sharing the new increase with waiters who make ample additional income in tips.

This amounts to robbing Peter to pay Paul, said Dan Gordon, owner of the eponymous restaurant in downtown Palo Alto.

"It's very regressive in terms of the highest-paid restaurant employees getting a raise and the people that need it the most at the back of the house are going to be left behind," he said.

The new minimum wage also impacts restaurants disproportionately, with full-service restaurants bearing more of a burden, Gordon said. The wage increase means less money to go around for the non-tipped employees. One solution owners have called for is an exemption that would apply to tipped employees, most of whom already make more than $20 per hour in tips alone. The Palo Alto City Council agreed in January to advocate for a state law that would allow cities to do this, in part due to pressure from these and other local restaurant owners.

Gordon and other local owners are also watching carefully as Bay Area restaurants experiment with different solutions, such as a replacing tipping with a mandatory service charge.

While the full impact of the minimum-wage hike remains to be seen, Gordon is already worried about the jump to $13.50 coming next January and how to survive," he said.

### New trends

As the full-service neighborhood restaurant struggles to survive, less labor-intensive concepts are taking hold. Fast-casual dining, where customers order at the counter, and meals are prepared assembly-line style, is gaining in popularity.

"This trend is apparent in Palo Alto's and Mountain View's dining rows. In Palo Alto, on and off University Avenue, newcomers Sweetgreen, Lemonade and Tender Greens opened in 2016. Sweetgreen is planning another location for Mountain View's Castro Street, which is also home to not one but two fast-casual poke eateries, family restaurant turned fast-casual Asian-fusion establishment Srasa Kitchen and Asian Box, among others. Service is less central to their concept. And at some restaurants, such as Calafia Cafe and Yayoi in Palo Alto, tablet computers are helping to take orders, split checks and calculate tips. While owners hope diners still value the touch of a human server and the full-service experience, the monetary appeal of the fast-casual model is undeniable.

"We think that our staff, hopefully, represent us in our vision and enthusiasm to the guests. You don't get that from a tablet," Ekwall said. "But at the same time, if you have overhead of labor of several hundred thousand dollars a year and you can buy an iPad for $500 — less than a week's worth of wages — and you don't have to pay that tablet workers' compensation insurance and you don't have to pay it health care ... a lot of people are doing that."

Despite the local labor shortage, restaurants of all kinds — mom-and-pops, fast-casual, high-end, local and national chains — continue to open on the Midpeninsula, though owners say it is easier for chains with deeper pockets to risk the high labor costs, high rents and limited return on investment than independent owners.

### The labor pool is just evaporating!

HOWARD BULKA, OWNER OF HOWIE'S ARTISAN PIZZA

against this perfect storm of economic challenges? An informed, spending customer. Restaurateurs hope to educate diners about why their hamburger might cost $12 instead of $10 now, about the nuanced impact of minimum wage increases and how the ever-rising cost of living in the Bay Area is affecting their bottom line. Peter Katz of The Counter said he's been working with a City of Cupertino small business economic development group that recently sent information out to residents about the impact of the city's minimum wage increase on restaurants. He said like to see this kind of an effort replicated in Palo Alto and other cities he operates in.

Now, more than ever, Katz said, it's important for local diners to patronize their favorite restaurants. "Eat out more," he said. "If restaurants are successful, we can better afford to pay the wages that we need to pay, the guests are happy, the employees are more successful and happy, and the owners can afford to stay in business."

Email Elena Kadvany at ekadvany@paweekly.com

Omar Piña talks to a customer at Mama Coco on March 8.

Joel Ureas sets a table at Bodeguita del Medio in Palo Alto. The California Avenue restaurant is often short-staffed, owner Michael Ekwall says.
Gorilla warfare

‘KONG: SKULL ISLAND’

Monster movies carry a special appeal to a specific audience, even more so for monster-movie subgenres. All monster movies have a pulp, B-movie essence to them in their inherent ridiculousness, but there’s a spectrum from swanky (vampires) to the ultimate fighting-esque from swanky (vampires) lousness, but there’s a spec- to them in their inherent ridicu-

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A Night to Remember (1958) (Not Rated)
Stanford Theatre: 3:35 & 7:30 p.m., Sat. and Sun.

A United Kingdom (PG-13)
Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

Angel (1937) (Not Rated)
Stanford Theatre: 7:30 p.m., Friday

Before I Fall (PG-13)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. 
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Bluebeard’s Eighth Wife (1938) (Not Rated)
Stanford Theatre: 5:55 & 9:15 p.m., Friday

The Clouded Yellow (Not Rated)
Stanford Theatre: 5:50 & 9:45 p.m., Sat. and Sun.

Fifty Shades Darker (R)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Get Out (R) ★★★/1.2
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. 
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

The Great Wall (PG-13)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. 
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Hidden Figures (PG) ★★★/1.2
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. 
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

John Wick: Chapter 2 (R) ★★★
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. 
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Kedi (Not Rated)
Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

Kong: Skull Island (PG-13) ★★★/1.2
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. 
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

La La Land (PG-13)
Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

Land of Mine (R)
Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

The Lego Batman Movie (PG) ★★★/1.2
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. 
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Lion (PG-13)
Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

Logan (R) ★★★
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. 
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

The Met: La Traviata (Not Rated)
Century 16: Saturday 
Century 20: Saturday 
Palo Alto Square: Saturday

Moonlight (R)
Century 20: Fri. - Sun. 
Guild Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

Rock Dog (PG)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

The Shack (PG-13)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Table 19 (PG-13)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. 
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Aquarius: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 327-3241) tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa
Century Cinema 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View tinyurl.com/Century16
Century 20 West Downey: 625 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City tinyurl.com/Century20
CineArts at Palo Alto Square: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 303-0723) tinyurl.com/CineArtsGuild
Palo Alto Square: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (For recorded listings: 266-9260) tinyurl.com/Guildmp
Stanford Theatre: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 324-3700) Stanfordtheatre.org

Knockout

“LOGAN”★★★★

“Logan” marks the third and final film for the long-running Marvel Comics character introduced to screen audiences in the 2000 film “X-Men.” Director James Mangold (who helmed previous installment “The Wolverine”) returns, bringing with him a Western sensibility honed on his 2007 remake of “3:10 to Yuma.” Screenwriters Scott Frank, Mangold and Michael Green take very loose inspiration from a comic book run known as “Old Man Logan,” but also a few plot points carry over: a futuristic setting (in this case, 2029) that ages our hero, his mentor Professor Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart) and fellow mutant Caliban (Stephen Merchant), and the notions of Logan having a child and a cross-country road trip to undertake. Beyond that, the writers give themselves the freedom to invent. And so “Logan” becomes an unconventional-family drama with three generations of mutants forced onto a road trip, although “Little Miss Sunshine” this ain’t. Rated R for violence, bloody images and language including sexual references. One hour, 43 minutes.

— P.C.
TASTER

"Calligraphy" Two cultures, two continents and two exchanged sisters exist unhamperedly. "Calligraphy" is up to 7 p.m. at Los Altos History Museum. March 17, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. There is no cover charge, and attendants should be over 21 years of age. This event is presented by Ritual San Jose. March 17, 8-10 p.m. Free. Pigtet Theater in Memorial Hall, 531 Serra Mall, Stanford. tapposts.stanford.edu

"Side Show" Based on a true story, "Side Show" follows the legendary Hilton twins, Daisy and Violet, as they are filched from sideshow attractions to Hollywood set. The entire writing process for life and acceptance amidst the spectacle of fame and scrutiny under the spotlight. March 4, 10, 11 and 17, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. $15-$25. Pigott Theater in Memorial Church. All are welcome. Sundays, ongoing, 9-9:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School, 333 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View. losaltoshistory.org/events/side-show

MUSIC

Bachata with Pantyda "Wednesday Hot Latin Nights with Pantyda" feature Bachata lessons. Pantyda is a form of Bachata that originated in the Dominican Republic. The character of the dance is achieved through hip- and body movements. No partner is necessary and all levels are welcome. Wednesdays, ongoing, 8 p.m., class; 9 p.m., social dancing. $7; student, $10; general, $15; band lessons. Alberto’s Salsa Studio, 736 W. Dana St., Mountain View. albertos.com/calendar

Compline: An Evening Service of Song A reflective, contemplative 30-minute service of hymns, anthems and chant sung by Stanford and local choral ensembles will take place in the candlelit ambiance of Memorial Church. All are welcome. Sundays, ongoing, 9-9:30 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. memorialchurch.org/compline

Jérome Mouffe, Classical Guitar Virtuosic guitarist Jérôme Mouffe will perform music by Isaac Abravanel, David de Falla and Joaquín Turina; virtuoso pieces in the Parisian salon concert tradition; and Jerome’s own work.

Open Mic Open Mic takes place every Monday on the 2nd floor of Red Rock Coffee in downtown Mountain View. It features free live music, comedy, poetry and a supportive atmosphere for experienced and new performers. Mondays, ongoing, 6-3 p.m., sign-ups; at 7 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 207 Castro St., Mountain View. redrockcoffee.co organización

Sabados Latinoamericanos Alberto’s NightClub presents “Sabados Latinoamericanos” with a variety of Latin genres including Reggaeton, Hip Hop, Cumbia, Merengue, Salsa and Rock Pop in Spanish. This event features DJ Omar and the band Ruido Ruso. Turnt up; ongoing, 8 p.m., $7; student, $10; general, $15, band nights. Alberto’s Salsa Studio, 736 W. Dana St., Mountain View. albertos.com/calendar

St. Patrick’s Day at O’Malley’s O’Malley’s celebrates St. Patrick’s Day with live music from three bands. Starts at 9 p.m. with Gretta Mac, followed by Edd O’Malley and Leprechaun Lantern nighting on at their local Orchard Supply Hardware. Each child will be given the materials to make the magic happen. March 17, 9-11 a.m. Free. Orchard Supply Hardware, 2555 Charleston Road, Mountain View. ash.com

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

The Conjured Life: The Legacy of Surrealism Featuring dozens of works dating from the 1930s to the present day, this exhibition demonstrates the deep currents Surrealism went through the international art world beginning at its birthplace, the 1924-1925 Surrealism exhibition at the 1924-1925 Surrealism exhibition at the Galerie Des Beaux Arts in Paris. March 17, 8-10 p.m.-5 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org/events/conjured-life

O’MALLEY’S con O’Malley’s presents “A View From The Bridge” by Arthur Miller. March 17, 8 p.m. Free. peartheatre.org

“Seaweed, Salmon, and Manzanita Cider: A California Indian Feast” is a traveling exhibit that explores the history and culture of the California Coast as well as the region’s natural history and indigenous food traditions. March 17, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 701干燥路, 硅谷, 加利福尼亚州. eastwest.com/events_2017_March

"Spruce Up Your Garden With Rhododendrons" The De Anza Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will feature a program by Jason Martinez discussing an exhibition about an expansion to Shunsen, China, visiting locations such as the area of Mount Emei, the Mount Gongla Range and the Mount KangLa Valley and the JiuZhaiGou Village. March 17, 10-11 a.m. Free. Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. deanzars.org

TENTS

Lauren Bird Horowitz at Books Inc. Award-winning children’s book author Lauren Bird Horowitz shares her dynamic new book for teens, “Regeradene Red,” Book Two of the Light Trilogy. "Regerade Red" tells the story of a man who is sentenced to death and is unable to speak, while his sister, Bluet, is forced to hide in the wild for hope of rescuing her little sister Sasha. March 17, 6-9 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. booksinc.net/events/2017_March

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115 Announcements

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