

Mountain View VOICE

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MOVIES | 25



MICHELLE LE

Yin Lu, Khan Academy's international market developer, gives foreign ambassadors a crash course on Silicon Valley's innovative educational nonprofit.

Teaching a world-class education

KHAN ACADEMY OPENS ITS DOORS TO INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATS

By Mark Noack

It was one of the rare times when the Khan Academy was teaching a live, in-person class, rather than through a video feed. But the students who gathered in the nonprofit's

downtown Mountain View campus on Tuesday afternoon were nothing if not special.

Among those in the crowd were His Excellency Olexander Motsyk of Ukraine, the Honorable Pavel Shidlovsky of Belarus and His Excellency Cui Taikai

of China. In total, 35 well-coiffed foreign ambassadors on formal state business in the United States were sitting in the Khan Academy kitchen to learn about the educational nonprofit

► See **EDUCATION** page 8

Council approves tentative plan to boost minimum wage

SCHEDULE CALLS FOR ANNUAL HIKES EACH JULY TO REACH \$15

By Mark Noack

Mountain View's elected leaders on Tuesday night reaffirmed their commitment to raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, but they left some details open to future tweaking as to how they would implement the plan.

Under any scenario, Mountain

View is set to raise its minimum wage to \$10.30 an hour on July 1. After that, the council approved a tentative plan to continue raising the base hourly wage at the start of each July. In 2016, the minimum wage would increase to \$12 an hour. That would jump to \$13.50 in 2017, and then \$15 in 2018. Further increases would be made annually based on num-

bers from the Consumer Price Index.

The meeting came as a follow-up to a momentous decision in October when city leaders passed an ordinance setting the goal to establish a \$15 base hourly wage by 2018. The move was widely celebrated at the time by mini-

► See **MINIMUM WAGE**, page 9

It's official: Google takes over Moffett Airfield, Hangar One

PLANETARY VENTURES TO RESTORE ICONIC HANGAR, USE SPACE TO DEVELOP AVIATION, ROBOTICS TECHNOLOGY

By Mark Noack

Google subsidiary this week formally took control of Moffett Federal Airfield and the iconic Hangar One as part of a 60-year lease deal with NASA. In recent days, government regulators signed off on a final set of environmental reviews for the lease, giving the company the green light to occupy the 1,000-acre space.

Starting on Wednesday, April 1, Google's Planetary Ventures has clearance to move in and begin making modifications to the property, NASA Ames Research Center Associate Director Deborah Feng said in an email. The company already has approval to begin some electrical work and installing construction trailers, but all future activities would be required to go through a gauntlet of permitting and historic preservation requirements, she noted.

NASA officials signed the lease with Planetary Ventures in February, ruling out competing bids. At the time, the company proposed using Hangars One, Two and Three for "research, testing, assembly and development" of

technology related to space, aviation, rovers and robotics. Google spokeswoman Meghan Casserly said that the Planetary Ventures team is assessing options and making plans and timelines for the future, but that specifics could not be shared yet.

Some planned projects have already been announced. Members of the nonprofit Earth, Air & Space Educational Foundation indicated plans to open a museum and educational center. The new facility, dubbed the Earth, Air & Space Collaboratory, has already raised \$500,000 in seed money, with a portion of the funds coming from Google.

Perhaps most important for some Mountain View residents, the new lease deal guarantees that Hangar One will be restored with new siding. As part of the deal, Planetary Ventures will foot the costs to maintain and repair the hangar, which could run upward of \$40 million. In addition, the company agreed to pay \$6.3 million annually in maintenance and operations costs, which would add up to

► See **GOOGLE**, page 13



MAGALI GAUTHIER

Advocates for raising the minimum wage held a small rally before Tuesday's City Council meeting.

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Voices

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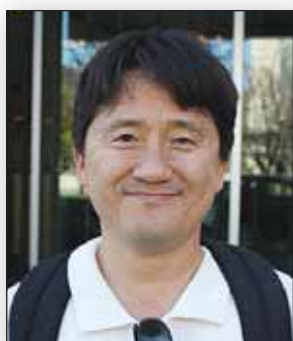
Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Rachel Lee and Madeleine Gerson.

Where in Mountain View would you take visiting foreign dignitaries?



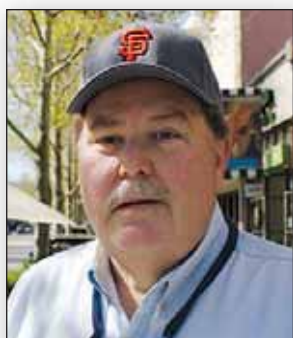
"I'd make sure they see the Center for Performing Arts. There's always great art displayed in the lobby."

Ed Perry, Mountain View



"I would take them to the Castro area because it's an example of Silicon Valley's atmosphere. They can relax and go to restaurants."

Jae Yoo, San Jose



"I'd take them to the parks around here, Cuesta Park and McKelvey Park for Little League and baseball."

Dan Curran, Mountain View



"I feel like the Google headquarters embody all of what Mountain View is and there's so much diversity and there are so many under-the-surface and over-the-surface world events that are happening over there."

Zana Rahman, Mountain View



"The restaurants in Mountain View, because they have good places to sit inside and outside, and the staff is generally very friendly."

Pankaj Mishra, Mountain View

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Maundy Thursday: April 2, 7:00 PM

Good Friday: April 3, 2:00 PM

Good Friday: April 3, 7:00 PM
(Tenebrae, The Service of Shadows)

Saturday, April 4, 6:30 PM
(The Easter Vigil Service)

Easter Sunday Celebration: April 5

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10:00 AM Easter Service
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KNIFE THREATS AT A BAR

Police arrested a man Saturday after he allegedly pulled a knife at a bar in Mountain View and threatened to set fire to the bar and injure patrons.

A bartender at the Sports Page Bar & Grill on Plymouth street asked the man, whom police identified as 56-year-old Jeffrey Embersits of Palo Alto, to leave the bar after he got into an argument with another patron at around 8:15 p.m. on March 28. Instead of leaving, Embersits allegedly threatened to set fire to the bar and injure people, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department.

Embersits later went to his vehicle and returned to the bar with a large knife, Jaeger said, and began pointing it at the bartender. He drove off and was later located in Redwood City by police, where he was arrested on charges of making terrorist threats and brandishing a weapon.

MAN CHALLENGES COP TO FIGHT

A 35-year-old San Francisco man was arrested after he allegedly drank in public, verbally abused a police officer and challenged the officer to a fight.

Jermaine Register started a conversation with a police officer outside a 7-Eleven, and was holding a cup the officer believed contained alcohol, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department. The officer went inside the store and came back out, where Register again talked to the officer. When the officer asked what was in the cup, Jaeger said Register became verbally abusive, alluded to having a gun and challenged the officer to a fight.

Register refused to listen to the officer's commands, Jaeger said, and was arrested on charges of drinking in public, resisting or delaying an investigation and for a probation violation. He was booked into San Jose Main Jail.

—Kevin Forestieri

POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

2200 block Latham St., 3/25
200 block S. Rengstorff Av., 3/26
300 block Easy St., 3/26
2500 block Grant Rd., 3/29
Alice Av. & Rainbow Dr., 3/29
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 3/29

BATTERY

800 block San Veron Av., 3/25

800 block San Lucas Av., 3/29
1100 block Ana Privada, 3/29
500 block Escuela Av., 3/30

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

700 block Continental Cir., 3/29
200 block Castro St., 3/29

GRAND THEFT

1300 block Shorebird Way, 3/30

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

2700 block Ramos Ct., 3/25

UNLAWFULLY CAUSED FIRE

400 block Thompson Av., 3/25

VANDALISM

2200 block California St., 3/25
100 block W. Dana St., 3/25
500 block Chesley Av., 3/25
100 block Azalea Dr., 3/25

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOCAL ATTORNEY EYEING U.S. SENATE SEAT

Los Altos Hills resident George "Duf" Sundheim is floating a trial balloon for a possible run for Barbara Boxer's United States Senate seat, which she plans to vacate at the end of this year.

The 62-year-old Sundheim, who formerly served as chairman of the state Republican Party from 2004 to 2007, announced over the weekend he would form an exploratory committee to consider a Senate run.

Sundheim is known as a prolific fundraiser and a moderate voice in the state Republican party. He studied economics and played varsity football at Stanford University and earned a law degree from Northwestern University Law School. He later helped set up the Palo Alto law practice Doty, Sundheim & Gilmore.

His first attempt at politics was an unsuccessful run for a Palo Alto City Council seat in 1997. He later found more success by supporting other conservative candidates and causes, including the 2003 recall of then-Gov. Gray Davis. The election of Arnold Schwarzenegger as governor proved that Republicans can be elected to statewide office in California, Sundheim said.

"We did it then and we can do it again in 2016," he said. "We just need the right candidate."

The South Peninsula Area Republican Coalition will be hosting a talk by Sundheim at a dinner reception that is open to the public. The event is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, at the Fremont Hills Country Club at 12889 Viscaino Pl., Los Altos. Tickets are \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members.

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 20



George "Duf" Sundheim

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MAGALI GAUTHIER

The Old Mill Office Center current resides on the property Los Altos School District has shown interest in buying for a new school site.

School district eyes San Antonio property

LASD NEGOTIATIONS UNDER WAY TO PURCHASE NEW SCHOOL SITE

By Kevin Forestieri

When the Los Altos School District passed a \$150 million bond last year, the top “wishlist” item among district staff and the school board was a new school site north of El Camino Real. Last week marks the first clear step towards making that happen, as the district entered negotiations with the property owners at 201 San Antonio Circle to discuss purchasing the site.

The school board announced the decision after a late closed session meeting March 23,

where the board discussed the conference between the district and the LLC that owns the property. Under negotiation at the time was the price of the property and terms of payment, according to the closed-session agenda.

The roughly 3-acre property is currently home to the Old Mill Office Center, a two-story office building next to the San Antonio Caltrain Station and just north of the San Antonio Shopping Center. Adjacent to the property is the old Safeway site, where construction was expected to begin this month.

Representatives from the Los

Altos School District could not be reached for comment.

The San Antonio area has been eyed as an ideal location for the Los Altos School District to open a new school campus because the portion of the district within Mountain View city limits has the greatest level of enrollment growth. Students living in the area currently have to cross a major thoroughfare, El Camino Real, to get to school.

The problem, however, is that the land is completely

► See **SAN ANTONIO**, page 9

District plans to get tough on water wasters

DROUGHT CONDITIONS PUTTING A SQUEEZE ON WATER DISTRICT RESOURCES

By Kevin Forestieri

Minimal rainfall marked the end of a dry winter season for California, and the end of the drought appears to be nowhere in sight. To keep dwindling water reserves from drying up, the Santa Clara Valley Water District is responding with an even more stringent call for water use reduction, and is looking at new ways to enforce fines on people who waste water.

At the March 24 board meeting, water district staff laid out the bleak situation: The Sierra Nevada snowpack is about 10 percent of normal, and groundwater levels in the district dropped by 33 feet in one year to the lowest they’ve been

in decades, according to Vanessa De La Piedra of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. That means the district will be forced to look at supplementing its supply by buying from outside sources, at high cost, to preserve groundwater storage and avoid land subsidence.

“Project operators on the state water project and the CVP (central valley project) generally agree that this is just about the worst year on record with respect to water supply,” said Cindy Kao, imported water manager for the water district.

In response, the district board has increased its call for conservation across Santa Clara County from 20 percent water-use reduction to 30 percent.

The board also called for restrictions that would allow watering of lawns and “ornamental” landscapes on only two days of the week. But putting such restrictions into place will be up to individual cities in the district, according to district spokesperson Marty Grimes. “We’ve been talking with (city officials) to see if we can achieve a uniform watering schedule for the whole county,” he said. “We still need to talk more with them to get there.”

The water district has been talking about enforcement and imposing fines on water wasters since last year, starting with an announcement in July of

► See **WATER**, page 12

Fitting a new Whisman school into the budget

SCHOOL DISTRICT MAPS OUT WAYS BOND MONEY COULD BE SPENT AT NINE CAMPUSES

By Kevin Forestieri

Time is money for school districts looking to build new classrooms and upgrade infrastructure, as construction costs in the Bay Area are soaring toward levels rivaling those of the dot-com era. The Mountain View Whisman School District is seeking to develop plans post-haste to improve all eight of its schools, plus add a new one.

Two of the district’s committees met jointly Tuesday to discuss what it would cost the district to modernize and upgrade classrooms, construct new multi-use rooms and demolish aging “pod” classrooms at all the existing school campuses as well as at Whisman Elementary, which the school board indicated last month should be re-opened to serve students in the northeast quadrant of Mountain View.

After months of looking at different options to move, close or open schools throughout the district, opening a new neighborhood school in the Whisman and Slater neighborhood area is now the focus of the district staff, the Boundary Advisory Task Force and the District Facilities Committee.

And despite previous budget concerns, it looks like the district might be able to afford it, too. Opening Whisman and upgrading all nine campuses could cost the school district anywhere from \$132.7 million to \$164 million based on six cost scenarios, according to Todd Lee, Greystone West Program Manager.

The school district has about \$148 million of the Measure G bond money remaining.

Costs are significantly lower than previous estimates because the district is now building for a capacity of about 450 students at most of the campuses, under to the assumption that Whisman would bring down student enrollment numbers at most

of the district’s schools. Lower enrollment means fewer classrooms at each school and shrinking the multi-use rooms from 6,500 square feet to 5,800.

“This certainly tells you that there are scenarios that are within your shooting range,” Lee said.

The presentation could be seen as a shift in gears. Members of the school board and the boundary advisory task force expressed skepticism at previous meetings over the cost of opening a new school, arguing they haven’t seen the budget information they need

‘Our task is to take your \$143 million and allocate it equitably amongst the projects.’

PROJECT MANAGER TODD LEE

to see if their big-picture decisions are actually plausible.

The price tag for each school, on average, would come down to somewhere between \$14.5 million and \$20 million, depending on whether the

district opts to accommodate enrollment up to 600 at specific sites, upgrade the kitchens, increase the size of kindergarten classrooms or replace portables used for preschool, after-school care and YMCA services. Putting all these amenities at every schools would put the district \$16 million over-budget, and Lee said there will have to be some picking and choosing to make it work.

There is an incentive to get work started soon, Lee said, as the cost of construction is escalating each year, and the dollar amount in the staff report is the closest guess they have for what it will cost to improve the schools three years from now.

“Our task is to take your \$143 million and allocate it equitably amongst the projects and put them in the right order,” Lee said. “I don’t have a crystal ball, but based on doing this for 20 years, this is our best shot at it.”

Setting priorities

Monta Loma and Castro Elementary are expected to get the upgrades first, but for different

► See **SCHOOL**, page 11

Council commits \$500K toward future hotel project

CITY TO BEGIN MARKETING FOR HOTEL DEVELOPMENT ON DOWNTOWN PARKING LOTS

By Mark Noack

The Mountain View City Council on Tuesday signed off on early plans to lease out two downtown parking lots for future development into a high-end hotel. As part of the package, the city approved spending \$525,000 to fund early engineering studies and a marketing campaign to attract developers.

The two lots, together providing about 150 parking spaces, are located on opposite sides of Hope Street between Evelyn Avenue and Villa Street. The city's plan calls for any future hotel project to bring a net increase in the total number of parking spaces in the area.

City officials have already received interest from the hotel industry in the lucrative spot, situated just one block from Castro Street. Last year, Virgin Hotels approached the city in hopes of building a four-story hotel with up to 180 rooms and a large underground parking garage. City

leaders declined to give Virgin an exclusive deal, and instead they opted to seek other proposals for the site.

At the Tuesday, March 31 meeting, the city's community development director, Randy Tsuda, presented plans to put out a competitive request for proposals. Under the plan, the city would lease out the properties for a 55-year period. Tsuda warned, however, that it could be a "tall order" to look for a developer to add to the available parking. An underground garage could be difficult to build due to the nearby utility lines, he said. Nevertheless, he was optimistic that the project could come to fruition by 2019.

"The idea here is that hopefully by doing a public-private partnership, we can get more parking spaces downtown than if the city went through its own process," he said.

City officials provided an initial template of what kind of hotel they wanted at the site, emphasizing it should have at

least a "three-diamond" rating, and possibly include retail or office space. They envisioned the two separate lots could be connected through either an underground tunnel or perhaps a raised skyway. Any potential developer, they noted, would be required to pay a nonrefundable \$150,000 fee, which would offset a portion of the city's \$525,000 in engineering studies and marketing.

Councilman Lenny Seigel recused himself from the decision because his nearby residence could be construed as a potential conflict of interest. Other council members were generally supportive of the plans, pointing out a future hotel would provide a steady tax base for the city.

As the council prepared to make a decision, a string of employees from regional hotels urged the council to add in protections for organized labor. Enrique Fernandez, a manager representing union members in Unite HERE Local

19, pressed Mountain View leaders to stipulate that any future hotel operators adhere to a labor peace agreement with its workforce. That agreement would set formal rules that would likely benefit any potential labor organizing at the site.

Without such a pledge, Fernandez warned that future workplace conflicts could result in hotel workers staging a disruptive rally or strike in downtown Mountain View.

"We may have philosophical differences from time to time, but our interests align," he said. "You don't want a dispute on your property. We don't want a dispute in Mountain View."

In their staff report, city officials included concessions for organized labor, but they opted against a formal labor peace agreement. Instead, staff recommended requiring a future developer to adhere to stronger union protections than mandated under federal law, including special access

for union organizers to contact hotel employees on-site.

The staff proposal squeaked through with a narrow majority on the council. Councilman John Inks spoke against the project, saying he disagreed with the process for requesting proposals. Ken Rosenberg also parted ways with his colleagues, saying he believe a labor peace agreement should be part of the approval.

"In good conscience, I can't vote for this without a labor peace agreement," he said. "It seems more safe ... and in the process we can help or lift other people."

The council approved the staff recommendation to begin the request-for-proposal process in a 4-2 vote with Inks and Rosenberg voting in opposition. In a second round of voting, Rosenberg changed sides to approve the \$525,000 city allocation, an action that required a minimum of five council members to pass it. ■ E-mail mnoack@mv-voice.com



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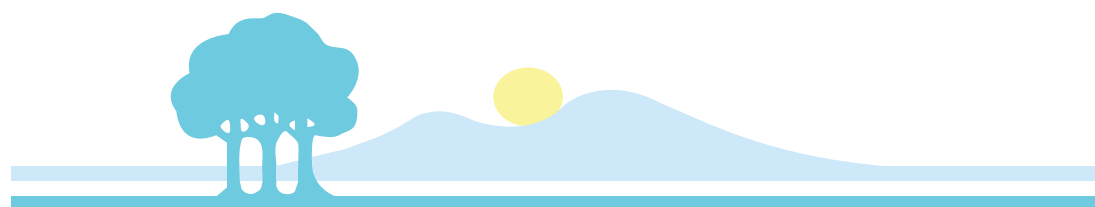
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- Session #1: April 9th** Cultural Diversity and Healthy Aging in Senior-Friendly Cities
 Darlene Yee-Melichar, Ed.D., FGSA, FAGHE
 Professor of Gerontology, San Francisco State University
 Member of Region IX Health Equality Council
- Session #2: May 14th** Assistive Technology for Older Adults
 David L. Jaffe, MS.
 Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering, Stanford University
- Session #3: June 11th** Seniors Advancing Age-Friendly Mountain View
 Anabel Pelham, Ph.D.
 Professor Emerita Gerontology, San Francisco State University
 Executive Director, Center for Age-Friendly Excellence

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EDUCATION

► Continued from page 1

that has become a global name. Standing amid a crowd of laid-back software engineers and employees in casual garb, the foreign visitors were immersed in a different culture in more ways than one.

The crowd of dignitaries, representing nations both big and small, were at Khan Academy March 31 as part of a whistle-stop tour through some of the leading tech companies and organizations in Silicon Valley. The visit was organized by the U.S. State Department as part of "Experience America," an annual program that brings an entourage of top diplomats on a rare trip beyond the Washington, D.C. beltway.

It's simple and effective cultural diplomacy, explained Peter Selfridge, the U.S. State Department's Chief of Protocol. Stepping away from the tour for a moment, he explained that his team sought to lead the ambassador corps to sites that highlighted the economic, educational and historic novelty of a region and the country as a whole. The San Francisco Bay Area tends to be a repeat destination, he admitted.

The itinerary was tightly packed with events. Later that day they were scheduled to discuss clean energy at the Tesla headquarters in Palo Alto. On Wednesday, the group would visit the Airbnb offices in San Francisco to learn about the online lodging market. Khan Academy was a good fit to round out the tour as a cutting-edge educational program that was growing worldwide.

"Part of the draw for us is this is a good example of the sharing economy, and that's a new concept for some of these countries," Selfridge explained.

In a show of hands, fewer than 10 of the ambassadors at the session indicated they had heard of the Khan Academy. Yin Lu, the academy's head of international development, was eager to enlighten her international guests on her organization's growing library of free instructional videos. That inventory now includes more than 10,000 videos in 30 languages on everything from "art history to trigonometry," she said. More than 93 million people worldwide had received instruction through their resources, she said, pointing to a map showing huge growth in the U.S., Europe and Southeast Asia.

There were plenty of questions. How did Khan Academy go about teaching controversial subjects, like religion, political science or history, asked Ambassador Geir Haarde of Iceland.



MICHELLE LE

Salman Khan poses with Ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Did the academy have solid funding going to continue into the future, asked Ambassador Elin Suleymanov of Azerbaijan. Ambassador Pisan Manawapat asked about countries that don't have widespread Internet access — were they being left behind?

Academy founder Salman Khan, wearing a suit and slacks with his sneakers, took the microphone to provide answers. The academy didn't want to shy away from controversial subjects, but it tried to represent all sides of an issue in a respectful way, he said. As far as funding, the nonprofit relied primarily on philanthropists, and Khan said he hoped it could stay that way. He wanted students to never have to see advertisements as they were trying to learn.

Khan admitted he didn't have a great answer as far as global access to the Internet. Computer and smart phone ownership was rapidly expanding across the world, and he said he confident that trend would continue.

"Our goal is nothing short of having all the courses someone needs to be self empowered in society," Khan said, pointing to his nonprofit's mission statement: "A free world-class education for anyone, anywhere."

As the crowd of ambassadors filed downstairs for a tour of the campus, Ambassador Ashok Mirpuri of Singapore stuck around and chatted amiably for a moment. Some of his family had perused the Khan Academy videos and he knew the courses were very popular in his home country.

The other day, the group toured the University of California at San Francisco, and they met some of the world's top scientists and researchers. He was struck by their casual attire, but said he respected their knowledge.

"We haven't seen anyone wearing a necktie since I've been here," he laughed. "But certainly the casual concept is not a sign of a lack of expertise." ■

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MINIMUM WAGE

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mum-wage advocates, and it put Mountain View in the vanguard of Bay Area cities looking to better align low-end pay with the rising cost of living.

The October ordinance didn't specify exactly how or when the base wage would incrementally rise toward the \$15-an-hour goal. At the time, city leaders directed staff to gather stakeholder input and partner up with other South Bay cities to pass similar minimum-wage hikes.

Returning to the council on Tuesday, city staff laid out plans for further investigation, calling for an outreach campaign encompassing social media, a new website and a variety of advertisements. Among the goals, staff members noted they would zero in on input from the business community and collect public feedback both for and against the wage increase. Specific options for implementing the plan would come in the fall, according to the staff recommendation.

For some, this idea raised concern that the city could be backpedaling. In response, advocates with the group "Raise the Wage Mountain View" redoubled their efforts to push the council to act immediately. More than a dozen speakers urged the City Council to approve a timetable that evening for the minimum-wage increase. The October action by the city set off "ripples" throughout the South Bay, but that momentum could be lost if the city waits for regional partners, explained Meghan Fraley, an organizer with the group.

"We're calling on the council to follow through on its commitment and give everyone a fair deal," she said. "If we don't vote tonight and instead set up more meetings and input, I think the regional approach is going to fizzle."

The lone opposition speaker, Jessica LaMaack, government

affairs director with the California Restaurant Association, warned that raising the minimum wage would put the pinch on food-service employers. She pointed out that many waiters and bartenders earn well above minimum wage due to customer tips, but that wouldn't be factored into the city's action.

"We're asking you to hit the pause button on this," she urged. "We're one of the most competitive industries in California and we operate on a razor-thin margin."

The movement to raise the minimum wage has gained traction across the Bay Area. Large cities including San Jose, San Francisco and Oakland recently passed such increases through voter-approved ballot initiatives. Mountain View's action was unique in that it was approved through a City Council ordinance, and it encouraged other cities to follow suit. Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara are in the process of reviewing similar ordinances. The cities of Campbell and Cupertino have also expressed interest, according to Mountain View city staff.

City staff explained that it made sense to try and set base wages in unison with other cities in the area so as to not have a patchwork of different rules. That rationale swayed council members.

"It needs to be done in a regional fashion," said Councilman Michael Kasperzak. "We have to be careful with having a multiplicity of wages in the county."

To that end, Councilman Chris Clark made a motion to follow the staff recommendation, but he amended it with a tentative schedule going forward. He explained that the schedule could be adjusted down the road based on future input, but he described it as a good way to get the ball rolling with other cities.

"What I have a problem with tonight is saying, 'This is our schedule and we're sticking to

it,'" he said. "But there's no reason why we can't put something on the table."

Two council members voiced conflicts with the motion. Councilman John Inks disputed the

notion that raising the minimum-wage would solve the larger economic woes of the underprivileged. On the other side of the spectrum, Councilwoman Pat Showalter urged her

colleagues to adopt a permanent minimum-wage schedule that evening.

The motion was ultimately approved in a 5-2 vote. ■

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SAN ANTONIO

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built out in the area, and there's no city-owned park space that could be used to commit to a school, according to Mountain View City Council member Chris Clark in a letter late last year. The district's only other option would be to purchase private land from an interested property owner, likely at a very high price and on a smaller parcel of land, in order to make it feasible to build a school in the area, Clark said.

Clark also indicated that staff

from the school district and the city were in contact about properties in the area and the precise plan process. The 201 San Antonio Circle property resides inside the "mixed-use corridor" in the San Antonio Precise Plan, which was finalized last year.

City Council member Lenny Siegel has been vocally supportive of the district's effort to build a school site in the San Antonio area, and said it could bring fields and an open, green area to a part of town badly in need of more park space. ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

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Chamber's leadership program loses its director

By Mark Noack

Alicia Crank, who directed the Leadership Mountain View program for the last six years, announced she will be leaving in May to pursue a new career in Seattle.

Crank, 40, has already been living in the Pacific Northwest for more than a year, but she managed to make the lengthy commute to Mountain View work with her schedule. The former Mountain View resident said that rising prices in the cost of living and rental market led her to look elsewhere.

Her goal now is to complete the final weeks of the Leadership Mountain View 2015 class before bidding farewell to the area and her colleagues at the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce.

"The recruitment in this program is very personal for me," Crank said. "They get to know me; I get to know them. I wasn't going to feel comfortable walking away and throwing a new person in there."

Started in 1990, the leadership program was designed to educate



Alicia Crank

interested residents on the basics of politics, business and arts in Mountain View. Over the years, the program has a track record of producing an active corps of citizens. Crank pointed to a string of "graduates" who later went on to serve on the City Council, local school boards and other community groups.

Crank took charge in 2009 as the program was facing a grim set of challenges — tanking revenues and a lack of sponsors. Her top priorities were to jump-start recruitment and strengthen ties with the business community, she said.

In recent years, Crank said more local companies have been encouraging their employees to participate in the program as a way to demonstrate their connection to the larger community. This year's class, for example, included employees from Google, LinkedIn as well as representatives from the public and nonprofit sectors.

"Alicia took a program that was already good and made it the envy of other leadership programs in Silicon Valley," said Mountain View City Councilman Ken Rosenberg, himself a graduate of the program. "She leaves behind a rock-solid program that will bear her mark for years to come."

The leadership program is not free — the normal cost for the nine-month class is \$1,75. For that tuition, participants meet monthly for a day-long course focusing on one aspect of Mountain View society, from local schools to public safety.

In a recent development, Crank created ReVisited, an annual gathering and social network among the hundreds of alumni who have been through the leadership program.

Crank's role in the community wasn't limited to the Chamber of Commerce. She also served on the city's Human Relations Commission as well as the board of directors for the Rotary Club of Mountain View and KMVT 15, the local public-access broadcaster.

One mark of success, the leadership program now draws more applicants than it can handle. Crank said she insists on keeping the enrollment to capped at around 30 students per year. Looking back at her efforts, Crank said she was confident it was stable time to transfer management of the program to new hands.

"I'm proud to leave the program healthier than when I joined it," she said. "It'll continue to turn out community leaders in Mountain View and beyond." ■

SCHOOL

► Continued from page 5

reasons. The district plans to split Castro into two schools — one for the neighborhood school and one for the district's Dual Immersion choice program — and needs to update the school's infrastructure with a new administrative building and 13 newly constructed classrooms.

Monta Loma, on the other hand, was identified by architects as the school in the worst shape with its decaying 50-year-old buildings. Problems include "significant" dry rot and issues with the roofing, Lee said. Following Monta Loma and Castro, the district will likely start working on Bubb, Huff and Landels Elementary, with Stevenson and Theuerkauf to follow.

One committee member asked why Stevenson, a school almost entirely housed in portable buildings, is one of the last schools to be addressed. Lee said the portables in Stevenson are in relatively good shape, and that it would be more prudent to do the larger schools earlier on to save money on escalating costs.

The decision by the board last year to use funds from the Shoreline special tax district to pay for upgrades at the middle schools may be rescinded, which could mean the district has \$143 million to spend on elementary schools, rather than \$148 million.

In a note to both committees, Interim Superintendent Kevin Skelly said staff recommends that the board reconsider the decision last year to use about \$5 million of the "Shoreline Funds" to pay for budget shortfalls on the middle school projects. The money comes from property tax revenue from the Shoreline Regional Park Community, a special tax district in the city, and could be used instead to fund three years of professional development and "turnaround funding" for the district's lower-performing schools to implement Common Core standards, Skelly said.

"The district chose to spend money that could have paid for key programming needs of the district on construction. One could argue that voters gave the district a strong mandate to improve its facilities by using

bond funds for this purpose," Skelly wrote.

There are a few other issues that need to be addressed, including whether district staff can find ways to cut down on the operating costs for the new Whisman school, which could save the district as much as \$600,000 annually. There's also a desire to balance the number of socio-economically disadvantaged students at the schools, according to Skelly's note, particularly in regard to Theuerkauf Elementary School. The percentage of students who are socio-economically disadvantaged in the Theuerkauf area is at 45 percent, but that number jumps to 69 percent for Theuerkauf's enrolled students.

Solutions to that, according to Skelly, could be through balancing out enrollment in choice programs to better reflect the diversity of the city. The Stevenson school community has a stated goal to increase its socio-economically disadvantaged enrollment up to 20 percent from 13.4 percent. ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

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CITY OF
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ALTO

WATER

► Continued from page 5

\$500-per-day fines on people caught wasting drinkable water. But board members said their policies and water-use restrictions don't seem to have any teeth. Board member Tony Estremera, who represents parts of San Jose, said that water reduction percentages like 20 and 30 percent sound good, but residents don't feel as if there's any way to achieve those goals without more enforcement.

"We don't have any enforcement mechanism," Estremera said. "Even if we had an enforcement mechanism, we don't have any cops."

By law, the water district can impose water-use restrictions and do "any lawful act necessary to ensure a sufficient water supply," according to Anthony Fulcher, a member of the district's legal counsel. Fulcher said that can translate into an ordinance enforceable by law, either through the county or cities, that imposes misdemeanor charges for water wasting that could carry a \$500 fine and 30 days in jail. Because most cities are water retailers themselves, Fulcher said, they could also choose to terminate service to a particular water waster.

"That's a very strong incentive to comply with water-use restrictions," Fulcher said.

Board member Richard Santos said having "so-called water cops" without the status of a peace officer means they wouldn't be doing much beyond education, and that it's time to get some regulation authority in the county. He said it's particularly important to ramp up enforcement of water restrictions after the district announced last week it needs to increase water rates for higher drought-related expenses. It's unfair, he said, to increase rates for everyone while some residents are conserving and others are wasting water.

"We don't want to be a joke agency. You want to have some kind of teeth to do the job here,"

Santos said.

District Counsel Stan Yamamoto said the board should seriously consider whether it wants to go down the path of criminal enforcement, which would create a time-consuming and expensive process for the cities and take up more time in the already backlogged court system.

"I think with a population of 1.8 million in the county of Santa Clara, going after individuals on a criminal basis may not be the most efficient, most cost-effective means of water reduction," Yamamoto said.

A majority of the board members, citing a sense of urgency, supported having a longer discussion on enforcement of water restrictions in April, including reviewing all the options they have to address water wasters.

The city of Mountain View declared a water shortage emergency last September, putting into effect a list of water-use prohibitions. It stepped up water-use monitoring and issued warnings for violations, but so far no fines have been levied, according to Elizabeth Flegel, the city's water conservation coordinator. Flegel said some 300 people have received warnings that they're wasting water and need to fix the problem — whether it be sprinklers watering a sidewalk, broken equipment or mid-day watering. Of those, she said, the vast majority have been cooperative and address the problem.

Focus may shift to recycled water

The district faces a major challenge in imposing a 30 percent reduction in water use in Santa Clara County, where cities and water retailers conserved only about 13 percent overall last year — well below the previous call to reduce usage by 20 percent.

With a rain-less January kicking off the year, most cities are already off to a bad start, with the city of Mountain View conserving 13 percent in the first two months compared with the 2013 baseline, according to a district report. In January, the city didn't

conserve any water at all.

Kerrie Romanow, director of environmental services for the city of San Jose, told the board that there needs to be some recognition for the cities that are saving millions of gallons of drinkable water by using recycled water for such things as outdoor irrigation.

"The cities that have invested in recycled water should have some accommodation and recognition for that, at least in your charts, to show where we've taken our own money and invested it," Romanow said.

Mountain View currently uses about 1.2 million gallons of water daily from the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant, which is where wastewater is treated and sent down purple recycled-water pipes for things like irrigation in the North Bayshore area. As the drought continues to worsen, City Council member Pat Showalter said, the city might look at expanding that system.

The city could potentially use up to 3 million gallons of recycled water from the plant, Showalter said, meaning there's plenty of room for improvement and new recycled water infrastructure. A feasibility study by the city last year showed potential expansion of the system farther into areas north of Highway 101, and even south of the highway into the inland parts of Mountain View.

As new developments crop up all over the city, Showalter said, it would be useful to have new buildings "double pipe" to access both drinkable water and recycled water; doing so would be significantly cheaper than having existing buildings dig up their pipes and retrofit the water-supply system with a second set.

Mountain View residents may not top the charts for water conservation, but the city's public works department does. Water conservation company Waterfluence ranked 62 public park departments for their ability to keep water use within its "budget range," and the city took first place last month. ■

Chamber CEO stepping down

By Mark Noack

Mountain View Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Oscar Garcia announced last week that he will depart the business group later this year.

The 46-year-old Garcia first took leadership at the Chamber of Commerce in 2009, coming in at a difficult time when the nonprofit was struggling amid the economic recession. In his first year, Garcia said the group

was \$121,000 in the red, and it was his job to turn around that budget picture.

"The following year, we were in the black \$828," he recalled. "We had to really pinch pennies but it was a huge accomplishment to do that when the economy was so horrible."

Garcia is giving the Chamber



Oscar Garcia

a lot of lead time before he leaves his position, which won't happen until September. He has no specified plans for what he will do, but he said he was interested in returning to the private sector.

"I feel good about leaving the Chamber in a strong position," he said. "I feel that it's time to look at other challenges."

Garcia's service during his years in the position earned high praise from his colleagues at the

► See **CHAMBER**, page 20

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GOOGLE

► Continued from page 1

more than \$1.16 billion over the term of the lease.

All in all, the stipulations of the lease seemed “charitable” since the private company was committing itself to stomach so many costs, said Lenny Siegel, a Mountain View city councilman and an active participant in the Save Hangar One committee. Siegel said he was particularly interested in how Planetary Ventures would restore Hangar One, what materials would be used and how they would address the environmental hazards within the structure, which over the years have included lead, asbestos and PCBs.

“The U.S. Navy has been backing away from responsibility, and their feeling is that Google is going to taking over the problem with the building contamination,” Siegel said. “(Google) is probably going to have to spend more money refurbishing the hangar than they’ll get out of it.”

Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency and the San Francisco Regional Water Control Board both sent what are dubbed “comfort letters” outlining the steps Planetary Ventures would need to take to address the toxic contaminants. So long as those guidelines are followed, the company would

‘(Google) is probably going to have to spend more money refurbishing the hangar than they’ll get out of it.’

COUNCILMAN LENNY SIEGEL

not be held responsible for a full cleanup of the site, Siegel said. After receiving those letters, the company had authorization to begin exercising its lease.

Local observers watching the deal hailed the news as a milestone for preserving what they see as one of the most iconic sites in Mountain View. Although many questions remain, Mountain View History Association President Pat Figueroa was relieved that Hangar One was being handed off to a new steward.

“We’re fortunate to have Google to retain that part of the history,” said Figueroa. “It’d be great if something could be worked out so it’s still accessible. But right now the most significant thing is that it will stay there.”

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com



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School's out in June for innovative Theuerkauf principal

CONNIE SAWDEY CREDITED WITH UPGRADING SCHOOL'S TECH, ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

By Kevin Forestieri

Long-time Theuerkauf Elementary School Principal Connie Sawdey announced she will be retiring at the end of the school year, and she's leaving big shoes to fill. Regarded as tech-savvy and innovative by parents and district administrators, Sawdey spent the last 11 years as principal starting up new programs at Theuerkauf.

Sawdey, who announced her plans for retirement in March, helped kick off the school's first Parent-Teacher Association, started after-school enrichment clubs and was on the forefront of bringing educational software into the classrooms.

Sawdey's career in education spans 42 years at school districts up and down the state. She started as an intern teacher at the San Jose Unified School District in 1972, and was one of the district's first teachers who could speak both English and Spanish. She spent decades teaching and taking on administrative roles at school districts in Southern California and the Central Coast, as well as further inland at Lodi Unified School District.



Connie Sawdey

While at Lodi Unified, she served as a district resource teacher helping with professional development for teaching staff, but she said she wasn't a big fan of that role.

"I didn't care much for district office (work), I wanted to be closer to the kids," Sawdey said.

In 2003, Sawdey came back to Bay Area to take over as principal of Theuerkauf Elementary. Working in Silicon Valley, with its emphasis on technology, turned out to be a natural fit for her as she spearheaded pilot programs for new software programs and wrote numerous grants to get funding for more computers on campus.

Sawdey was instrumental in bringing Rosetta Stone, a language-learning software program, to the school, which she said was eventually adopted as the first district-wide program for English-language development. She also pushed the school to take up Spatial-Temporal (ST) Math, a computer-based visual math program, and Lexia Reading Core5, a listening and reading comprehension program.

By ushering in these new tech-centric programs, Sawdey was doing what has become known as "blended learning."

"We're always willing to try something and look for ways to improve," Sawdey said. "You're in Silicon Valley, take advantage of it!"

Late last year during the "Hour of Code" event, where students across the globe participate in computer science activities for one hour at school, it was Sawdey who pushed for Theuerkauf to participate. Despite some skepticism from the teaching staff, she said it was a huge success and exciting for parents, teachers and students at the school.

As principal, Sawdey said she wanted to make sure there's something for everyone. While there are after-school programs and interventions for struggling students, she took it upon herself to develop activities for high-achieving students.

Among them are after-school "instant challenges" where students are given a task, like building a stable structure as high as they can with materials provided in a box, working together in groups to out-engineer their peers.

Challenging the students

When Theuerkauf parent Kevin Klemm moved to Mountain

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► See **PRINCIPAL**, page 15

PRINCIPAL

► Continued from page 14

View from Palo Alto in 2005, he said he and his wife scoped out different schools before deciding to send their kids to Theuerkauf. The test scores weren't particularly high compared to what they were used to in the neighboring city, but Klemm said they weren't too worried about academics as long as their daughter was able to meet friends in kindergarten.

Klemm said it was the teaching staff, and Sawdey in particular, that made Theuerkauf a great school that challenges all its students, not just its high population of English-language learners and students from low-income families. He said Sawdey was also responsible for kicking off the school's GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) program, and approached local tech leaders early on to get computer labs installed at Theuerkauf before the other schools in the district.

"Every child was able to have their needs met, and it never felt like it wasn't competitive enough or anything like that," Klemm said.

Theuerkauf's score on the Academic Performance Index was the lowest of all the Mountain View Whisman School District's schools at 805. (The API scoring system is now being phased out.) Sawdey said scores were never from a lack of student effort, and kids worked to earn their grades at the school.

"That 805 is a super 805," Sawdey said.

Beyond academics, Klemm said Sawdey would show up at his daughters' softball games in the field next to Theuerkauf and talk about how she played softball until she was in her 50s. When Klemm joined the school's SITE committee, he said Sawdey always made a great effort to get people to participate and feel like their input was valued.

Sawdey said when she retires she plans to spend more time with her mother and more time gardening. Her decision to retire was with mixed feelings, she said, because she'll miss the kids and the way they get excited every time they get things right at school. She said she still hears from her old students who have made it to U.C. Berkeley and Stanford and other prestigious schools. A few days ago, she said she heard from a former student who now works as a CEO in Irvine. When he came to Theuerkauf, she said, he spoke Greek and knew very little English.

"He wanted to thank me (in the email) for giving him the courage to believe in himself," Sawdey said. "These are the joys I have for doing this so long." ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

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Big changes in top staff at school district

MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN'S SPECIAL NEEDS DIRECTOR, CBO
AND INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTING DISTRICT

By Kevin Forestieri

Big changes are on the way for the Mountain View Whisman School District, and with it will come some new faces in the district office. As the district faces decisions on construction projects, opening a new school and building new classrooms, Mountain View Whisman is poised to start the new school year with a new superintendent, a new chief business officer and a new special needs director.

Last month, Chief Business Officer Terese McNamee announced that she would be stepping down to take a similar position at Woodside Element-

tary School District. McNamee, who leads the district's Boundary Advisory Task Force and District Facilities Committee, will begin tapering down her work at the end of April.

In an email to staff, McNamee said she hopes to close out "a few items," including the recommendations by the task force to the board on new school boundaries and whether to move or open district schools.



Terese
McNamee



Kevin Skelly

She said that she will "enjoy seeing all our hard work come together."

McNamee served as the school's business officer since 2011, and prior to that worked as the chief finance officer for a nonprofit that built and maintained affordable housing for low-income families, seniors and disabled people in Northern California.

Interim Superintendent Kevin Skelly will also be on his way out at the end of June, when his contract expires. The board's tentative date for announcing the choice for a new superintendent is May 21.

Skelly said McNamee will stick around long enough to get the district through the approval of the 2015-16 budget, and the timing should allow for the next superintendent to have some input and a role in hiring the next business officer. He said they plan to start the search process "fairly soon."

The district's special education director, Cindy Loleng-Perez, will also be stepping down this month. The decision is officially listed as a resignation, but a letter to the board by the district's Learning Challenges Committee shows she may have been removed from her post.

"We are confused as to why an interim superintendent, still new to our district, would take this sudden action and suggest that Ms. Perez should find a new position," said the committee's letter.

The parents called her an effective special needs director and said there was no indication that she had any complaints on her record.

"From our point of view as parents, we don't want to lose her and would like her to have a chance to stay," the letter states. Skelly declined to comment, citing the confidentiality surrounding personnel issues.


District parent Christine



Cynthia
Loleng-Perez

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LocalNews

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

More information is at www.sparcgop.org.

—Mark Noack

YMCA HONORS GRAHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

The YMCA of Silicon Valley's Project Cornerstone recognized recently honored Graham Middle School for its program to create an inclusive and respectful climate on campus. Graham was one of three school districts recognized in Project Cornerstone's "Caring School Climate" category.

According to representatives from the YMCA of Silicon Valley, Graham Middle School was honored for its creation of a campus that contains a "Five Essential Elements" program, which the Mountain View-Whisman School District school identifies as: I Belong; Pursue Knowledge; Together We Can; Take Pride; and Do No Harm. The program was implemented into the community of students, staff, and parents.

"The Essential Elements (program) really helps kids feel like they belong, like they're part of something bigger, and it provides a framework for the kids to have a community and care for each other," said Tom Sayer, a social studies teacher at Graham Middle School, in a YouTube video describing the program.

The video describes the middle school's "welcome week" during the first week of school. Students are put into "home teams" composed of sixth, seventh and eighth graders, and go through various activities and workshops

centered around the Five Essential Elements.

Project Cornerstone is a segment of the YMCA of Silicon Valley working to construct a community that values both children and youth. More information about Project Cornerstone is at www.projectcornerstone.org. To view the video on Graham, go to <http://tinyurl.com/Graham5>.

Project Cornerstone also honored three Silicon Valley residents, the nonprofit Community Against Substance Abuse and two other school districts as "Asset Champions" at a breakfast on Friday, March 20.

—Rachel Lee

DEER HOLLOW SPRING FARM TOURS

Deer Hollow Farm's annual spring tours will take place on two upcoming Saturdays, April 18 and May 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. People will be able to visit a variety of farm animals in their pens, explore the garden, see the blooming orchard, and learn about the region's history of homestead farming. The Nature Center with local flora, fauna, and wildlife will offer a hands-on learning opportunity for children and adults alike. Trained docents will be at the farm to share information and answer questions.

The tours cost \$7 and are free for babies under 1 year old; cash or check is preferred. All proceeds go toward supporting Deer Hollow Farm, located in the Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve at 22500 Cristo Rey Drive in Los Altos. More information is at deerhollowfarmfriends.org.

—Rachel Lee

WHISMAN

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Case-Lo said she had an "excellent" relationship with Loleng-Perez, and that she met with parents on a regular basis. Case-Lo said committee members hope to continue that collaborative relationship with the next special education director, and have been told by district staff they will be involved with the interview process.

Agnes Charrel-Berthillier, a

member of the learning challenges committee, said she was sorry to see Loleng-Perez leave.

"Over the past few years she has brought many improvements to special education programs in the district," Charrel-Berthillier said. Loleng-Perez also worked hard at having open communications with parents, which is not always the case with people in her position, Charrel-Berthillier said. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

CHAMBER

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Chamber. Cynthia Grieves, the nonprofit's board chairwoman, described Garcia as a thoughtful leader who spearheaded the current stability of the organization.

"He's ready now for something new," Grieves said. "He didn't want to be surreptitious in his

search, so he gave us a thoughtful and generous heads-up on this."

The six months of advance notice before Garcia leaves his post wasn't incidental, Grieves explained. That timing was chosen so that Garcia could still spearhead one final Art & Wine Festival in September. The annual street fair is a major fundraiser for the Chamber. ▀

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EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Getting serious about water conservation

With the traditionally wettest months behind us and the disappointment over the lack of rainfall during those months lingering, it came as no surprise when Gov. Jerry Brown announced mandatory water conservation measures earlier this week. They are long overdue. Brown's executive order puts in place a mandatory 25 percent reduction in water usage by California cities and towns through next February as the fourth year of drought continues to threaten water supplies for residential and agricultural use and for the state's general health and safety.

The hard work by water districts and cities of developing water conservation strategies had already begun, but water officials must now intensify their efforts. Just last week, the Santa Clara Valley Water District board called for a 30 percent reduction in water use in the county — an ambitious goal, given the overall 13 percent conservation rate reported for last year. The board called for new restrictions in water use, including in the area of outdoor watering, but some board members bemoaned the lack of enforcement mechanisms in place to give the measures needed weight.

Now, with state-mandated water restrictions, enforcement will be a necessity, not an option. The district and the cit-

ies it supplies water to will have to commit to bringing in the resources needed to go after water wasters, and put in place measures such as significant fines to discourage violations.

The city of Mountain View declared a "Stage 2" water shortage emergency last September, and put in place a list of water-use prohibitions. But there doesn't appear to be a significant reduction in usage in the first two months of the year over the same period last year, according to information on the city's website.

Creating incentives for water-use reduction through residents' and businesses' monthly water bills will be critical as we face this water crisis. Brown's order calls on water agencies "to adjust their rate structures to implement conservation pricing, recognized as an effective way to realize water reductions and discourage water waste," according to a statement from the governor's office. But local agencies should be careful when determining the rate changes. Mandatory across-the-board reductions would penalize those who have responsibly cut their water use over the past three years of drought. Many if not most agencies have a tiered rate system, where the cost per unit rises sharply as water use increases. Adjusting the rates at the higher tier levels would be the fair approach to encouraging conservation. ■

LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

'SUPPORT' WORKERS ARE LOSING THEIR HOUSING

I agree completely with Donald Letcher in his letter here last week about the gentrification of Mountain View with new costly, high-rent housing replacing older, more affordable. This is making the housing situation worse, not better. This building of new housing adds additional units overall, but at prices only those with high paying jobs can afford to rent or purchase. And rents of all housing, all over Mountain View, are rising as new builds rent for such high prices, setting the market ever higher as people get used to hearing of such high rents and come to expect them.

The three employees that each single high-tech job requires for support are losing housing that they need in order to live near

their work, as we see in many places, such as along Rengstorff Avenue. And especially the "change area" along El Camino Real is set to drastically remove attainable housing that lies one block off of this arterial.

Housing adjacent to this main thoroughfare was built earlier than so much of the city and thus rents for less. New, huge developments here are planned to stretch into the adjacent neighborhoods along El Camino and change them to the detriment of those requiring them for their reasonably priced rents along the bus route. Lesser-paid employees are more likely to not be able to afford cars and instead depend upon the buses more than those paid extremely well, and thus need to be able to continue to live along here.

Donald Letcher went on to

complain about additional monies given to recent City Council candidates' campaigns. The editor commented that these contributions were not in the control of the candidates, but I say they didn't need to be in order to have a huge effect on the outcome of the election. Big money still got its way. Further disagreement about the amount of these unsolicited contributions is very debatable, as money to reproduce campaign

materials and pay workers to distribute them can go undetected and hidden. Even funds that were declared did not have their source revealed until the following year!

Let's stop driving off the hard-working, lesser-paid people who live here in favor of the wealthy newcomers by all of us insisting that our council members hear us and represent us.

Linda Curtis
Park Court

What's on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the *Voice* aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to letters@MV-Voice.com. Or snail-mail them to: Mountain View Voice, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042.



Back to basics burgers

Mountain View's new
Five Guys keeps menu
tightly focused on
hamburgers, fries

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

REVIEW BY
SHEILA HIMMEL

PHOTOS BY
VERONICA WEBER



The cheeseburger at Mountain View's Five Guys sandwiches melted cheese between two beef patties.

No milkshakes. No drive-thru. No breakfast, chicken, fish or coffee. Five Guys is tightly focused on burgers and fries.

Now open in Mountain View, the Virginia-based chain stakes its particular claim to the growing “fast casual” sector of the restaurant business — slightly slower than fast food, with friendly cashiers.

Expect to wait 10 minutes. Complimentary ballpark-style peanuts are available to stave off hunger.

The burger itself is built on the McDonald’s model, a quarter-pound of all-beef burger. It does look and taste homemade, though, and is infinitely customizable with 16 toppings.

Burgers are hot and come wrapped in foil; fries are wrapped in paper bags. Especially with the fries, avoid moisture by removing contents from the wrap as soon as possible. The lightly grilled bun is a nice touch. It’s a very soft, white bread

bun.

The hot dog bun is even softer, fairly melting into the nicely splayed and griddled Kosher-style hot dog (\$3.99).

Do not have a BLT until tomato season. These were like paper on the tongue.

A little bag of fries (\$2.69) will be enough for most people. A sign tells you where the potatoes come from today. On my visits, they came from St. Anthony CBC Farms, a corporation in Idaho. The fries are delicious, crispy and browned on the outside, still fluffy inside. (Order them extra-crispy to be sure.)

As at In-N-Out, there is a secret menu. Different stores have different policies, but the possibilities include cheese fries and five-patty burgers.

Vegetarians also should ask for options, but the regular menu includes grilled veggie (\$3.29), grilled veggie with cheese (\$3.99) and grilled cheese (\$3.99) sandwiches.

Calorie counts are, scarily,



A menu of 16 toppings makes the burgers at Five Guys infinitely customizable. There’s also a secret menu.

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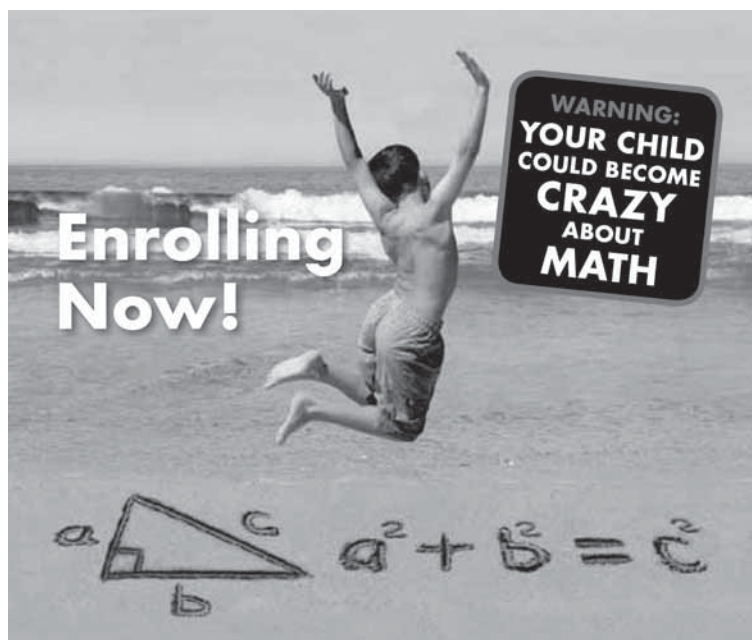
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Self-serve peanuts are offered to waiting diners, while a sign posted by sacks of potatoes identifies the source of the day's french fries.

prominently displayed. And for the gluten-free, all burgers and dogs are available bun-less, wrapped in iceberg lettuce.

Drinks are all Coca-Cola products, from a bottle of Dasani water (\$2.09) to Gold Peak iced teas. In swooping red Coke machines, they are clearly identified as low-cal, no-cal and caffeine-free. Refills are free.

For comparison's sake, I asked the burger fan in our family. He remains devoted to his first love, In-N-Out, saying of Five Guys, "It doesn't taste as fresh, both the fries and the burgers, but also they don't have that special In-N-Out sauce that is the best part of the burger."

As at In-N-Out, red and gleaming white tiles cover the walls at Five Guys. Loud oldies music, which causes people to yell into their cellphones, encourages fast eating. It may take 10 minutes to get your food, but you can be out of there in 15. ▣

■ DINING NOTES

Five Guys

2098 W. El Camino Real,
Mountain View
650-962-1882
fiveguys.com

Hours:
11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

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MOVIE REVIEWS

HOME ★★

In the over-saturated market for CGI-animated kids’ films, “Home” doesn’t stand out as anything special: just another packaged product seemingly designed to wear down an audience more than enter-

tain it. “Home” proposes that an alien race called the Boov have selected Earth as the latest intergalactic colonial hideout from their pursuers, the Gorg. The entire human population is hovered up and deposited in cheery-looking but cramped tract housing in Australia, making way for the Boov to move in. As soon as this is accomplished — under the goofy leadership of Captain Smek (Steve Martin) — an outcast Boov named Oh (Jim Parsons of “The Big Bang Theory”) screws it all up by accidentally



COURTESY DREAM WORKS ANIMATION

An alien and a human team up in “Home.”

e-viting the universe (Gorg included) to his “warming of the house” party. You’ll just have to swallow that lazy plot twist to embark on Oh’s adventure of 1) running away from the authorities, 2) encountering the last free human, Gratuity “Tip” Tucci (Rihanna), and 3) fixing the latest in his long string of mistakes. Naturally, Tip just wants to reunite with her beloved mother (Jennifer Lopez, who supplies one song to Rihanna’s five). Needing a lift, Oh pimps Tip’s ride by tricking out the car to fly and stocking it with icy-drink fuel and a hot-dog

grill (making convenience-store fare cool isn’t “Home”’s finest hour). Predictably, Tip and Oh become frenemies, then friends on the way to a double-climax: resolution of the maternal separation and a Gorg show-down. “Home” can be pretty cute at times, but the movie can’t shake the impression of being disposable cineplex filler. *Rated PG for mild action and some rude humor. One hour, 34 minutes.* — P.C.

SERENA ★ 1/2

Amidst the Smoky Mountains, circa 1929, a power couple conspires to expand its lumber enterprise, even if it means muuuder! It’s a story ripe for dark atmosphere, social satire or self-consciously melodramatic brio, but “Serena” — as adapted by screenwriter Christopher Kyle and director Susanne Bier from Ron Rash’s 2008 novel — winds up sawing logs. Other than the stars of Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper, “Serena” has fetching period detail and gorgeous location photography, enough to liken “Serena” to a beautiful but vacant runway model who struts and frets her hour (and 49 minutes) upon the sound stage. Lady Macbeth also provides something of a model for Lawrence’s titular character, but one contextualized with trauma she’s determined to power

through by joining forces with Cooper’s lumber magnate George Pemberton. Together, the two dig in against government encroachment on their wooded acres. Further complicating their profiteering are shady financial dealings, blackmail that threatens to unearth them and George’s bastard son with a local woman (Ana Ularu). Lawrence and Cooper are hobbled by a seemingly indifferent script offering little more than psychosexual cliches and obvious one-thing-after-another plotting. Though Lawrence establishes her character as perceptive and no-nonsense (albeit scarred), the manner in which Serena devolves amounts to sexist banality, and Cooper’s George mostly moons under her spell, his one deviation giving him an iota of moral superiority. Most damagingly, no one seems to know what “Serena” is about, beyond vague thematic suggestions that rapacious business doesn’t pay (it doesn’t?) and that ambition met with ambition is a combustible catalyst (thank you, Shakespeare). *Rated R for some violence and sexuality. One hour, 49 minutes.* — P.C.

MOVIE CRITICS

S.T. - Susan Tavernetti, P.C. - Peter Canavese, T.H. - Tyler Hanley

Public hearing notice

Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Groundwater Production and Surface Water Charges



Topic:	Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Groundwater Production and Surface Water Charges
Who:	Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors
What:	Public hearings on proposed fiscal year 2015/2016 Groundwater Production and Surface Water Charges
When:	April 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. – open public hearing April 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. – open house; 7:00 p.m. continue hearing in South County April 28, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. – continued public hearing; hearing closes at conclusion
Where:	April 14 and April 28, 2015 Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Room 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118 April 16, 2015 Morgan Hill City Council Chambers 17555 Peak Ave., Morgan Hill, CA 95037

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (water district) has prepared an annual report on the Protection and Augmentation of Water Supplies documenting financial and water supply information, which provides the basis for recommended groundwater production and surface water charges for fiscal year 2015/2016.

The report includes financial analyses of the water district’s water utility system; supply and demand forecasts; future capital improvement, maintenance and operating requirements; and the method to finance such requirements.

The water district will hold a public hearing to obtain comments on the report, which will be available at the hearing.

Based upon findings and determinations from the public hearing, including the results of any protest procedure, the water district Board of Directors will decide whether or not groundwater production and surface water charges should be levied, and if so, at what level, in which zone or zones for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015.

All operators of water-producing facilities within the water district or any person interested in the water district’s activities with regard to protection and augmentation of the water supply may appear, in person or by representative, and submit comments regarding the subject.

For more information on the public hearing, please visit our website at www.valleywater.org, or contact **Darin Taylor** at **(408) 630-3068**.

Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate persons with disabilities wishing to attend this public hearing. For additional information on attending this hearing including requesting accommodations for disabilities or interpreter assistance, please contact the **Office of the Clerk of the Board** at **(408) 630-2277**, at least three business days prior to the hearing.

MOVIE TIMES

Cinderella (PG) ★★1/2 Century 16: 10:35 a.m., 1:25, 4:15, 7:10 & 9:55 p.m. Century 20: 10:25 & 11:35 a.m., 1:10, 2:30, 4:05, 5:20, 6:55, 8, 9:40 & 10:45 p.m.

Danny Collins (R) Century 16: 9:10 & 11:50 a.m., 2:30, 5:10, 7:55 & 10:35 p.m.

The DUFF (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 20: 9:50 p.m.

Furious 7 (PG-13) Century 16: 9, 9:50, 10:40 & 11:30 a.m., 12:20, 1:10, 2, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:10, 7, 7:50, 9:30 & 10:20 p.m. Fri & Sat 11:10 p.m., Sat & Sun 8:40 p.m. Century 20: 10:20, 10:50 & 11:30 a.m., 12:10, 1:30, 2, 2:40, 3:20, 4:45, 5:15, 5:55, 6:35, 8, 8:30, 9:10 & 9:50 p.m., Fri & Sat 11:05 p.m. In X-D at 12:45, 4, 7:15 & 10:30 p.m. In D-BOX at 10:20 & 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 2:40, 4:45, 5:55, 8 & 9:10 p.m., Fri & Sat 11:05 p.m.

Gambling Ship (1933) (Not Rated) Stanford Theatre: 6:05 & 9:45 p.m.

Get Hard (R) Century 16: 2:20, 4:50, 7:30 & 10:10 p.m., Fri & Sat 9:20 & 11:50 a.m., Sun 9 & 11:30 a.m. Century 20: 11:20 a.m., 12:25, 1:50, 3, 4:30, 5:30, 7:05, 8:05, 9:35 & 10:40 p.m.

The Gunman (R) Century 20: 10:05 p.m.

Home (PG) ★★ Century 16: 10:30 a.m., 12:55, 3:20, 5:45 & 8:15 p.m. In 3-D Fri & Sat 9:15 & 11:40 a.m., 2:10, 4:35 & 7:05 p.m., Sun 9:05 & 11:30 a.m., 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 10:35 & 11:40 a.m., 1:20, 2:20, 3:50, 4:55, 6:25, 7:25, 9 & 9:55 p.m. In 3-D at 12:35, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10 & 10:35 p.m.

Insurgent (PG-13) Century 16: 10:45 a.m., Fri 1:45, 4:45, 7:45 & 10:45 p.m., Sat & Sun 1:35, 4:25, 7:25 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 10:30 a.m., 1:20, 4:10 & 7 p.m. In 3-D at 11:10 a.m., 2, 5, 7:55 & 10:45 p.m.

It Follows (R) Century 20: Noon, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45 & 10:20 p.m.

Kingsman: The Secret Service (R) ★★1/2 Century 16: Sun 10:40 p.m. Century 20: 1, 4:15, 7:20 & 10:30 p.m.

McFarland, USA (PG) ★★ Century 20: 12:15, 3:15, 6:50 & 10 p.m.

Only Angels Have Wings (1939) (Not Rated) Stanford Theatre: 7:30 p.m., Sat & Sun 3:50 p.m.

The Passion of the Christ (2004) (R) Century 16: Sun 2 & 7 p.m. Century 20: Sun 2 & 7 p.m.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1957) (R) Guild Theatre: Sat at midnight

Run All Night (R) Century 20: 10:40 a.m., Fri & Sat 1:35, 4:20 & 7:10 p.m.

The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG) ★★1/2 Century 20: 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:40, 7:30 & 10:25 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1, 4 & 7 p.m., Fri & Sat 9:55 p.m.

Serena (R) ★1/2 Guild Theatre: 11:45 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.

What We Do in the Shadows (Not Rated) ★★1/2 Guild Theatre: 2:15, 7:15 & 9:30 p.m.

Wild Tales (R) ★★1/2 Palo Alto Square: 1:15, 4:15 & 7:15 p.m., Fri & Sat 10:05 p.m.

Woman in Gold (PG-13) Century 16: 9:05 & 11:45 a.m., 2:35, 5:15, 8 & 10:40 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m., 2:10, 5, 7:40 & 10:25 p.m.

AQUARIUS: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)
CENTURY CINEMA 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (800-326-3264)
CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (800-326-3264)
CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)
STANFORD THEATRE: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (324-3700)
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- ★ Skip it
- ★★ Some redeeming qualities
- ★★★ A good bet
- ★★★★ Outstanding

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit www.mv-voice.com and click on movies.

GoingsOn

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

HIGHLIGHT

CONCERT ON THE PLAZA: DAVID LANDON BAND

For this City of Mountain View event, community members are invited to the Civic Center Plaza to enjoy food trucks, a “Pop Up Park” area for children, beer and wine, and live music by the David Landon Band. April 3, 6-7:30 p.m. Free admission. Civic Center Plaza, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6331. www.mountainview.gov/plazaevents

ART GALLERIES

‘Along Highway 1’ Viewpoints Gallery has on display “Along Highway 1,” a show of watercolor paintings by plein air artist Veronica Gross inspired by vistas along the famed highway from Big Sur to the Oregon coast. On Friday, April 3, from 5 to 8 p.m., there will be a reception for the artist. March 31-April 25, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday only until 3 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. www.viewpointsgallery.com

‘What Now?’ Gallery 9 in Los Altos offers a show called “What Now?” of oil paintings, as well as a sculpture, by Bay Area artist Steve Curtiss. From 5:30 to 8 p.m., on April 3, there will be an artist reception and a special performance at 7 p.m. with magician Marshall Magoon. March 31-April 25, Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Free. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

BENEFITS/FUNDRAISERS

Foothill College Plant & Heirloom

Tomato Sale Foothill College will hold its spring plant sale at the school’s horticulture facilities. Only cash or checks will be accepted. Shoppers should bring bags or boxes to transport purchases. The event helps raise funds for the Environmental Horticulture & Design Program. April 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission; \$3 parking. Foothill College, next to Lot 8, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7185. www.foothill.edu/news/newsfmt.php?sr=2&rec_id=2808

Danceation fitness classes European pop star Heath Hunter and international fitness guru Kirsten Johnson will lead participants in high-energy dance and fitness workouts for all skill levels. March 16-June 17, Monday, 11:30 a.m.; Tuesday, 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 9, 10 and 11 a.m. \$20 single class; \$150 10-class pass. American Legion, 347 1st St., Los Altos. www.danceation.com

Foothill College Spring Registration

Registration for spring classes at Foothill College — through which students can improve current job skills or earn a specialized career certificate or associate degree — begins on March 6. Classes last from April to June. Contact the school’s admissions office for more info. March 6-April 5. \$31 per unit for California residents, plus basic

fees. Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7325. www.foothill.edu

Household Alchemy: Cleaning Products

Edition This workshop at the Mountain View Public Library will lead community members in making their own household cleaning supplies, including dishwasher detergent, stain remover, laundry detergent, and window and glass cleaner. Space is limited, and registration is required. April 7, 7-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. www.mountainview.gov/library

MVLA Adult School Spring Registration

Spring classes at Mountain View Los Altos Adult School have begun; subjects range from figure and portrait drawing to Ikebana, jewelry, watercolor, dance and Zumba. Those interested can register online or over the phone. Classes run from March 23 to June 25. Prices vary. Mountain View Los Altos Adult School, 333 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View. Call 650-940-1333. www.mvlaae.net

Youth Video Production Camp In these weeklong camp, students will use KMVT’s studio and equipment to learn basic skills for screenwriting, camera work, lighting, directing, acting and video editing — while creating a final product to be broadcast on KMVT 15. Participants will receive a copy of the program on DVD. Monday-Friday, April 6-10, 13-17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$369. KMVT 15 Community Television, 1400 Terra Bella Ave., Suite M, Mountain View. Call 650-968-1540. www.kmvt15.org/learn/youthactivities.html

CLUBS/MEETINGS

ESL Conversation Club in Los Altos

The Los Altos Library will host a weekly ESL Conversation Club, where those new to speaking English can practice their conversational skills. Basic English skills are needed; no registration is required. The library is also looking for volunteer facilitators for the club. Thursdays, March 12-June 4, 2-3:30 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 650-948-7683, ext. 3516. www.scdl.org/Services/ESL-Resources

ESL Conversation Club in Mountain View

This weekly club at the Mountain View Public Library provides a place to practice English conversation skills with friendly company. All levels are welcome; no registration is required.

Wednesdays, April 1-July 1, 5-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. www.mountainview.gov/library

Language Swap This weekly Mountain View Public Library event will allow community members to both practice speaking a different language and teach a language to others. All levels and drop-ins are welcome. Thursdays, April 2-July 2, 7-8 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. www.mountainview.gov/library

COMMUNITY EVENTS

3rd annual Plant Exchange The Mountain View Public Library will host its third annual Plant Exchange, where community members can trade excess plants from pruning or culling for other new ones. April 4, noon-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. www.mountainview.gov/library

Lego Day During Lego Day at the Mountain View Public Library, adults can enjoy lunch while playing with Legos from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.; afterward, from 1:30 to 3 p.m., all ages can participate. No registration is required. Third Thursday of the month, Jan. 15-April 16, 12:30-3 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. www.mountainview.gov/library

linkAges TimeBank orientation in

Mountain View This event will introduce community members to linkAges TimeBank, a neighborhood service-exchange network that enables people to share interests and skills and help one another. April 7, 1-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-934-3556. timebank.linkages.org/component/dtregister/

Mountain View library tours

The Mountain View Public Library will hold two tours, the first an e-book tour at 6 p.m. in the 2nd floor training center, and the second a tour of the physical collections and operations at 6:30 p.m. April 9, 6-7 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. www.mountainview.gov/library

Sew Sew Saturday The Mountain View Public Library invites community members to come by on Saturday mornings to use its four Baby Lock (Grace model) sewing machines and one serger. Appointments are required. Saturdays, April 4-July 4, 10:15 a.m.-noon. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. www.mountainview.gov/library

EXHIBITS

‘Into the Wild Woods’ The Community School of Music and Arts will host an exhibition of illustrations and paintings by Bay Area native Liz Amini-Holmes. On Saturday, April 11, from 4 to 6 p.m., there will be a reception with the artist. April 3-May 31, 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 650-917-6800. www.arts4all.org/attend/mohrgallery.htm

FAMILY AND KIDS

‘Pat the Bunny’ Story Time Linden Tree Books will celebrate spring, Easter and the 75th anniversary of the “touch and feel” children’s classic “Pat the Bunny” with a reading and visit from the fuzzy character. The event is best suited for babies and toddlers. Those interested should RSVP by phone or email. April 4, 1-2 p.m. Free. Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los Altos. www.lindentreebooks.com

Steve and Kate’s Portable Animation

Studio Held during Los Altos First Friday festivities, this Linden Tree Books event will offer a free demo — best suited for ages 6 to 12 — of Steve and Kate’s Portable Animation Studio. Attendees can also enter to win a three-day camp with Steve and Kate’s Camp in Los Altos. Those interested should RSVP by phone. April 3, 6-8 p.m. Free. Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los

Altos. Call 650-949-3390. www.lindentreebooks.com/events/2015-04-03/

LIVE MUSIC

23rd Hour 23rd Hour will visit Red Rock Coffee to perform a set of its distinct original music that blends acoustic jazz, rock and pop. April 10, 8-10 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 408-504-0509. facebook.com/23rdHr

ON STAGE

‘Fire on the Mountain’ For a regional premiere, TheatreWorks will stage “Fire on the Mountain,” a bluegrass musical that portrays the lives of Appalachian mining families. See website for specific times and dates. April 1-26. \$53 adult; \$43 senior, educator; \$25 under age 30. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.theatreworks.org/shows/1415-season/fireonthemountain

‘Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?’ The Los Altos Stage Company will perform the classic drama “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” the story of dysfunctional couple George and Martha, who draw their guests into their conflict after a faculty party. April 9-May 3, Wednesday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. (no show on April 15). 7:30 p.m. \$34. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-941-0551. losaltosstage.org/virginia-woolf/

Pear Slices 2015 The Pear Avenue Theatre will offer its annual Pear Slices production, which showcases an eclectic variety of original short plays written by members of the Pear Playwrights Guild. March 12-April 5, Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. \$25/\$20 Thursday, Sunday; \$30/\$25 Friday, Saturday. The Pear Avenue Theatre, 1220 Pear Ave., Unit K, Mountain View. www.thepear.org/slices15.html

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

‘My View from Heaven’ Sarina Baptista — a speaker, author, psychic medium and spiritual teacher — will discuss with her son J.T. their book “My View from Heaven,” exploring questions of the afterlife and life’s meaning. April 10, 7:30 p.m. Free. East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-988-9800. www.eastwest.com/events_2015_april#10

Blues Good Friday St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church will celebrate Good Friday with the blues music of J.J. Cale, Blind Willie Johnson and Kelly-Jo Phelps, performed by St. Timothy’s musicians and friends. April 3, 7-8 p.m. Free. St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-967-4724. www.sttims.org

Easter Sunday service St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church will hold two family-friendly services on Easter Sunday. April 5, 9 and 11 a.m. Free. St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, 2094 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-967-4724. www.sttims.org

Kirtan and meditation sessions

BookBuyers in Mountain View will host a session of meditation and Kirtan song each Saturday morning. All are welcome. Saturdays, March 7-May 2, 8:45-9:45 a.m. Free. BookBuyers, 317 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-968-7323. bookbuyers.com/event/kirtan-meditation-3/

Taizé services Los Altos United Methodist Church will offer monthly Taizé services, where community members can participate in prayer, singing and meditation in a candlelit setting. Second Wednesday of each month, year-round, 6-6:45 p.m. Free. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-948-5808. laumc.org/worship/

SENIORS

Free hearing tests Students from San Jose State University will visit the Mountain View Senior Center to offer free hearing tests to visitors. Those interested should call or contact the center’s front desk. April 9, 9-11 a.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330. www.mountainview.gov/seniors

SVILC housing search workshop

The Silicon Valley Independent Living Center will hold one of its monthly two-hour workshops at the Mountain View Senior Center, during which representatives will discuss their available services to the cross-disability community in Santa Clara County. Those include help finding integrated, affordable and accessible housing. Second Thursday of the month, March 12-June 11, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6330. www.mountainview.gov/seniors

LECTURES & TALKS

‘Development of the F-117A Stealth

Fighter’ The Aero Club of Northern California will hold a luncheon where Alan Brown, former Lockheed Martin director of engineering, will talk about the development of the F-117A Stealth Fighter. The event is open to members and non-members. Pre-registration is required. April 8, 11:15 a.m.-1 p.m. \$20. Michael’s at Shoreline, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Call 408-634-8062. events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=e8kqp6nab&oeidk=a07eaj6v_dhn25d228cf

‘Encountering the First Dwarf Planet’

As part of the Silicon Valley Astronomy Lecture Series, Dr. Marc Rayman, mission director for the Dawn Spacecraft, will give a free, non-technical and illustrated talk on “Encountering the First Dwarf Planet: The Mission to Ceres.” April 8, 7-8:30 p.m. Free; \$3 parking. Foothill College, Smithwick Theater, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. www.foothill.edu/ast

Author Gary Singh on ‘The San Jose

Earthquakes: A Seismic Soccer Legacy’

Gary Singh, an award-winning journalist and contributor to Metro Silicon Valley, will discuss the history of the area’s soccer team as told in his book “The San Jose Earthquakes: A Seismic Soccer Legacy.” April 8, 7-9 p.m. Free. Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-428-1234. www.booksinc.net

Authors Brent Schlender and Rick

Tetzeli on ‘Becoming Steve Jobs’

In conversation with museum CEO John Hollar, Brent Schlender and Rick Tetzeli will discuss their book “Becoming Steve Jobs,” which breaks down common myths and stereotypes and humanizes the computing genius. Registration online is requested. April 7, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. www.computerhistory.org/events/upcoming/#becoming-steve-jobs-authors-brent

SFMOMA talk: Georgia O’Keeffe and

Ansel Adams This talk offered by SFMOMA

will explore the work of Georgia O’Keeffe and Ansel Adams, who shared both a friendship and an appreciation for the Western landscape. The presentation will allow attendees to compare and contrast the artists’ work. April 6, 7-8 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. www.scdl.org

Summer gardening talk with Edgar

Lo Master Gardener Edgar Lo will lead this exploration of summer gardening topics. April 9, 7:30 p.m. Free. BookBuyers Mountain View, 317 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-968-7323. bookbuyers.com/event/summer-gardening-with-edgar-lo/

VOLUNTEERS

Greeter and peer counselor

recruitment Neighbors Helping Neighbors is recruiting new peer counselors and greeters to help with its programs and services during Community Outreach events held from April to June and September to November. The organization seeks working or retired professionals, as well those with no experience, who are emotionally stable. The time commitment is about two to four hours per month. Training will be provided. March-August. Free. Location varies, Palo Alto and Mountain View. Call 650-283-0270. www.facebook.com/NeighborsHelpingNeighborsPaloAlto

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Bulletin
Board

115 Announcements

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135 Group Activities

Thanks St, Jude

145 Non-Profits
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995 Fictitious Name Statement

RONALD G. SEGER, O.D. and JENIFER E.L. WEBB, O.D.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 602590

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Ronald G. Seger, O.D. and Jenifer E.L. Webb, O.D., located at 1150 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: A General Partnership.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are): RONALD G. SEGER

715 Glenborough Drive
Mountain View, CA 94041

JENIFER E.L. WEBB

1309 Bronwen Way
Campbell, CA 95008

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/1/2008.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 12, 2015.

(MVV Mar. 20, 27, Apr. 3, 10, 2015)

SHORELINE OPTOMETRY

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 602591

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Shoreline Optometry, located at 1150 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: A General Partnership.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are): RONALD G. SEGER

715 Glenborough Drive
Mountain View, CA 94041

JENIFER E.L. WEBB

1309 Bronwen Way
Campbell, CA 95008

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/1/2008.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 12, 2015.

(MVV Mar. 20, 27, Apr. 3, 10, 2015)

MING JONE CLINICAL RESEARCH CONSULTING

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 602908

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Ming Jone Clinical Research Consulting, located at 2310 Rock St. #19, Mountain

View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are): DORIENA MING-YEE JONE

2310 Rock St. #19

Mountain View, CA 94043

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 2003.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 20, 2015.

(MVV Mar. 27, Apr. 3, 10, 17, 2015)

KING & AVANTI INC

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 602213

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

King & Avanti Inc., located at 235 E. Middlefield Rd., Ste. 2, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: A Corporation.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are): KING & AVANTI INC

235 E. Middlefield Rd., Ste. 2

Mountain View, CA 94043

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 4, 2015.

(MVV Mar. 27, Apr. 3, 10, 17, 2015)

NAMI NAMI

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 602698

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Nami Nami, located at 240 Castro St., Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: A Corporation.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are): HANAMARU CORPORATION

240 Castro St.

Mountain View, CA 94041

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/07/2012.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 16, 2015.

(MVV Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2015)

EVERYTHING WEDDINGS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 602648

The following person (persons) is (are)

doing business as:

Everything Weddings, located at 2552 Alderwood Drive, San Jose, CA 95132, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are): MARSHALL DANTE HARDY

2552 Alderwood Dr.

San Jose, CA 95132

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on March 16, 2015.

(MVV Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2015)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER
ESTATE OF:

DONALD W. GONSKI

Case No.: 1-15-PR176145

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DONALD W. GONSKI.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: ANDREW J. GONSKI and AUDREY MACKINNON in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA.

The Petition for Probate requests that: ANDREW J. GONSKI and AUDREY MACKINNON be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on May 4, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in Dept.: 10 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA, 95113.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you

of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:

Jason C. Morris

6100 Neil Road, Suite 500

Reno, NV 89511

(775)688-3000

(MVV Mar. 27, Apr. 3, 10, 2015)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

Case No.: 115CV278721

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: JANE LAI & LEO LIAN filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

DEAN LAI LIAN to DEAN ALEXANDER LIAN.

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

NOTICE OF HEARING: May 5, 2015, 8:45 a.m., Room: Probate, of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

Date: March 27, 2015

Thomas E. Kuhnle

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

(MVV Apr. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2015)



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RENTWATCH

Domestic violence victim wants to end lease early

edited by Anky van Deursen

Q I rent an apartment and started dating a neighbor in the same complex. He lives with his elderly mother and I don't want to get her in trouble because she is an extraordinarily kind and nice woman. The problem is that when I tried to end this relationship, my neighbor became angry and aggressive. Alcohol played no small part. I called the police after he hit me one day at the door of my apartment. He was later arrested. Soon thereafter he was released from jail and now I fear for my safety. I got a restraining order but I am still not comfortable in this apartment complex, so I asked my manager if I could break my lease. I still have eight months left on the lease and can't afford to pay double rent if I move. My manager said "a lease is a lease" and it cannot be broken. Isn't there some protection for someone in my difficult situation?



Civil Code section 1946.7. It gives a tenant who has been a victim of domestic violence the option of pursuing a special lease termination, by providing the landlord with a written 30-day termination notice, and a copy of a police report stating that the victim has filed a domestic violence report.

Alternatively, a document from a qualified third party stating that the victim seeks assistance for physical or mental injuries resulting from an act of domestic violence or an official restraining order signed by a judge or other equivalent protective order can be submitted. The victim needs to pay the rent for the 30 days prior to vacating. This procedure must be followed within 60 days of the domestic violence event and you should act quickly if this 60-day deadline is approaching. If you follow this procedure, you can inform your manager that "a lease is not a lease" in these circumstances and that you will not be responsible for rent after the 30 days expires. Consider contacting a local fair housing or mediation program, or Project Sentinel, for help.

Project Sentinel provides landlord-tenant dispute resolution and fair-housing services in Northern California, including rental housing mediation programs in Mountain View, Los Altos and Palo Alto. Call 650-856-4062 for dispute resolution or 650-321-6291 for fair housing, email info@housing.org or visit housing.org.

A Sadly, these types of cases are not unique and we get a few calls every month from frightened victims of assaults and other domestic violence crimes. California has special rules that deal with victims of domestic violence and human trafficking in the context of landlord-tenant relationships. Special lease termination rights have been created in California



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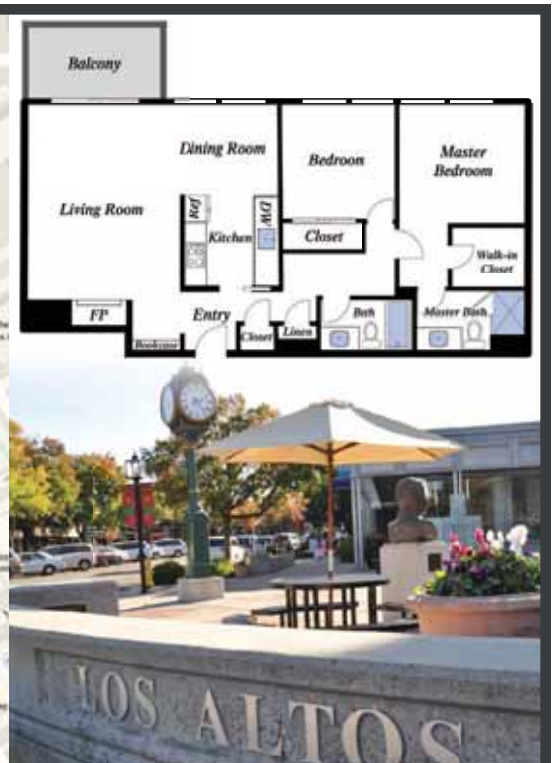
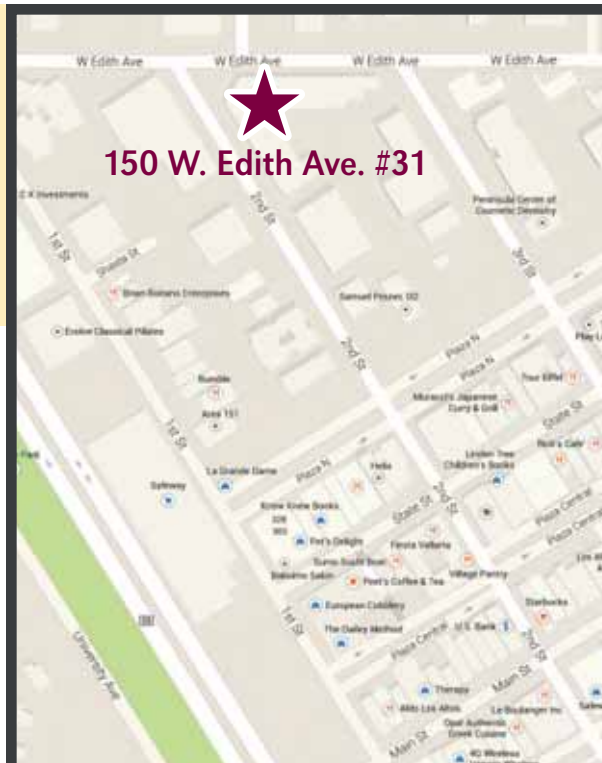
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Trader Joe's..... 2.0 miles..... 6 minutes
El Camino Hospital..... 3.1 miles..... 10 minutes
Caltrain..... 3.4 miles..... 10 minutes

Highway 101..... 3.6 miles..... 10 minutes
Costco..... 3.7 miles..... 10 minutes
Stanford..... 4.5 miles..... 10 minutes
Google..... 4.5 miles..... 12 minutes
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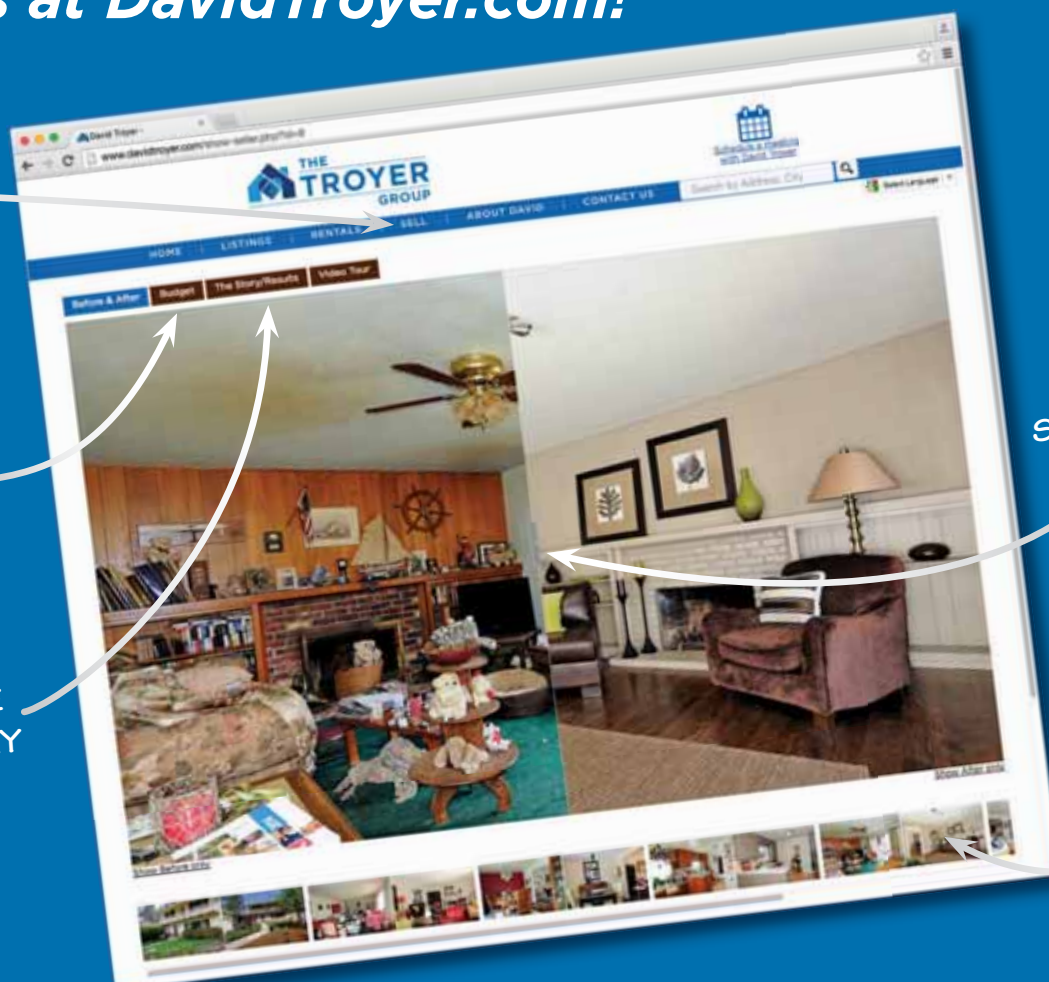
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