

Mountain View VOICE

JUNE 12, 2015 VOLUME 23, NO. 20

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Waste not,
want not
WEEKEND | 21

Thanks for the memories

MVHS GRADS REFLECT ON THEIR POSITIVE HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCES

By Kevin Forestieri

Hundreds of friends and family members flooded the Mountain View High School football field to see off the graduating class of 2015 last Friday. And while some graduates chose to give a sentimental “goodbye” to the high school, the teaching staff and their friends, others felt a thanks was in order.

“To the students who handed out cookies in the quad during finals, thank you,” said Carly Miller, a graduating senior.

Miller, one of two speakers at the graduation ceremony on June 5, said “good-byes” often feel “poignant, mushy and are sometimes best avoided,” and that parting ways with the school really represents a moment of reflection and appreciation for all the experiences the 444 graduates had at the school.

“Thank you for all the memories. Mountain View High School has been an incredible place to enjoy them,” Miller said.

Though it’s commonplace to make glowing remarks about the academic achieve-

Our graduation coverage of Mountain View, Los Altos and Alta Vista high schools starts on page 12.

ments of the graduating class, Principal Dave Grissom pointed out it’s been a particularly solid year, with more than 10 percent of the class of 2015 maintaining a weighted grade point average of 4.5 or greater throughout their high school years.

► See **MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH**, page 14



MAGALI GAUTHIER

Graduating senior **Gilberto Dominguez** beams with happiness during Mountain View High School’s commencement ceremony June 5.

School board hesitates over pricey Castro plans

SCOPE OF DESIGNS FOR \$43M TWO-SITE CAMPUS A CONCERN FOR SOME TRUSTEES

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Whisman school board got its first detailed look at ambitious plans to change the face of Castro Elementary, transforming the site to accommodate hun-

dreds of students on a shared, two-school campus.

But some board members remained skeptical last week, questioning the \$43 million projected cost of the project and wondering whether it’s a good idea to build a school for 900 stu-

dents, which could cause cramping at Castro and a shortage of enrollment elsewhere.

The plan calls for renovating the existing buildings on campus to house the district’s Dual Immersion program, and adding an entirely new wing of two-

story buildings for the traditional school program. The existing multipurpose room would be converted into a kindergarten classroom, and the library would be turned into two “flex-space” rooms.

Both schools would have access

to centrally located shared facilities, including a new multipurpose room, a new library and a renovated playground space. Each school would end up with over 30,000 square feet of classroom space.

At the June 4 board meeting, board member Ellen Wheeler said the firm Quattrocchi Kwok Architects did an impressive job

► See **CASTRO**, page 16

Council approves housing subdivision for Superfund hot spot

By Mark Noack

An old motel bordering Highway 101, considered one of the most contaminated sites in the Middlefield-Ellis-Whisman Superfund site, will be redeveloped into a 26-home subdivision as part of a set of approvals granted Tuesday by the Mountain View City Council.

The plans for 277 Fairchild Drive were unanimously

endorsed by the City Council despite concerns from nearby residents that any intensified construction and excavation could send toxic trichloroethylene (TCE) from the groundwater up into the air. Nevertheless the housing developer, city officials and an Environmental Protection Agency regulator all expressed confidence that a plan to monitor and vent the contaminants would provide adequate

safeguards for the neighborhood. “I understand why anyone would be nervous about exposure, but I believe enough has been done here, or will be done, to ensure this will be safe,” said Councilman Lenny Siegel. “Mountain View is a model for constructing homes on TCE sites.”

Safety concerns on digging in the MEW Superfund site were

► See **HOUSING**, page 17



MICHELLE LE

Three pipes ventilate a home on Evandale Avenue. Vapors from a groundwater plume contaminated with TCE can build up inside houses and other structures. The City Council approved a new housing development above a TCE plume on Fairchild Drive nearby.

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Shannon Chai.

What is the one thing you would bring to a graduation ceremony?



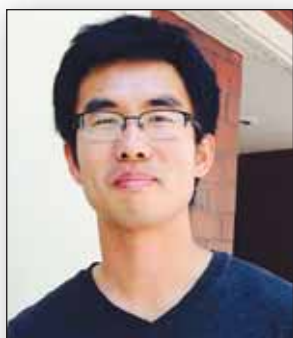
"I would bring a cutout of the face of the person who is graduating, like they're doing at the Warriors games."

Ashesh Satvedi, Menlo Park



"I would probably bring a big bottle of water or some sort of thermos beverage, because those things run on and on, and I'm always thirsty."

Julia Beal, Redwood City



"I would bring a camera because I want to capture the moment and memorialize it."

Xuan Wu, Mountain View



"I would bring a box of Sprinkles cupcakes because that's what I got at my graduation."

Jenny Hsu, Menlo Park



"I would probably bring a bottle of champagne and a good book. A book full of life advice and the champagne because I think graduation is a good excuse to have some bubbles."

Morgan Roderick, Berlin, Germany

Have a question for **Voices Around Town**? Email it to editor@mv-voice.com



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- Doors open at 5:00 p.m with games and activities for family fun.
- Get your free tickets by 2:00 p.m. on Monday, June 22 unless sold out prior to this date.
- Discounted tickets can be purchased up to and including the day of the event.
- An additional \$10.00 parking fee will be collected the night of the event.

Helpful Tips to get to Shoreline Amphitheatre

- Easy access to the Amphitheatre is available from the Stevens Creek Trail and Permanente Creek Trail.
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CRIME BRIEFS

POT-SMOKING ARREST

A 46-year-old Mountain View man was arrested last week after police viewed a cellphone video allegedly showing the man smoking marijuana with a minor.

A mother on the 400 block of N. Shoreline Boulevard called police on Friday, June 5 at around 10 p.m. and said she found both photos and a video on her son's phone that showed his friend, a 14-year-old boy, smoking marijuana with an adult. Officers searched the area and were able to locate a man, identified as Lamont Williams. Police confirmed that he was the man in the video and was smoking pot, according to Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the Mountain View Police Department.

Williams was arrested on charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor as well as an outstanding warrant, and

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 8

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

GOOGLE SEEKS INPUT ON SELF-DRIVING CARS

As a new fleet of self-driving cars begins zipping around the streets of Mountain View, the team at Google is trying to gauge the response from the humans: misconceptions, emotions, et al.

On Friday, the company launched a new website at google.com/selfdrivingcar to coordinate information about its autonomous car program. The site explains the ins and outs of the new technology and provides a new avenue for the public to give feedback.

Self-driving cars have already been field-tested in Mountain View for about two years, but Google engineers recently kicked the program into high gear. Last month, the company announced plans to begin testing as many as 25 new autonomous vehicle throughout the city.

Through the new site, the company provided more information on a dozen accidents involving its autonomous fleet over the last two years. Google officials highlighted that all those crashes were caused by human error, not the automated software. Google spokeswoman Jacquelyn Miller pledged the company would provide a monthly report on any accidents or other notable activity going forward.

Google designers have emphasized that the public's perception is very important at this early stage, with production for the consumer market still years off. Any interested in providing feedback to Google, can send a comment through the "Contact Us" section of the site.

—Mark Noack

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500 block Showers Dr., 6/3
600 block Waltham St., 6/3

BATTERY

2600 block W. El Camino Real, 6/3
2400 block Charleston Rd., 6/4
Crisanto Av. & Escuela Av., 6/7
W. Middlefield Rd. & N. Shoreline Blvd., 6/7

GRAND THEFT

1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 6/3
700 block E. El Camino Real, 6/5
1900 block California St., 6/6
1900 block Latham St., 6/6

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

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100 block Eldora Dr., 6/6

RESISTING POLICE OFFICER

Central Av. & Moffett Blvd., 6/4

ROBBERY

Hope St. & Mercy St., 6/5

STOLEN VEHICLE

1900 block Latham St., 6/6
100 block Chetwood Dr., 6/7
1100 block Farley St., 6/7

VANDALISM

500 block Castro St., 6/3
1 block W. El Camino Real, 6/4
2500 block Charleston Rd., 6/5
200 block Escuela Av., 6/8

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MICHELLE LE

Kevin Reilly, who owns Discount Glass on Pear Avenue, said that moving his business could cost \$14,000 or more. Google informed tenants that they need to move out of the industrial space in September.

Google closing down blue-collar bastion in North Bayshore

PEAR AVENUE THEATRE GETS RELOCATION HELP; OTHERS TENANTS NOT SO LUCKY

By Mark Noack

The days are numbered for an eclectic little community of tradesmen, start-ups and a community theater operating out of industrial garages at the end of Pear Avenue. Located in the heart of North Bayshore, the row of blue-collar workshops have become the latest site marked for tech-fueled redevelopment and expansion.

The 13 tenants operating out of the site learned in recent days they would have to move out by September. It didn't come as a total surprise, they said. In 2008, the property was acquired by Google, and it

seemed a foregone conclusion the company would someday add the it to its growing campus.

Reactions span the full spectrum of emotions. For some older owners of longstanding shops, the evictions could lead them to close down for good, given the difficulty in finding a new space. Meanwhile, a handful of businesses, including the Pear Avenue Theatre and a yoga studio, expect to land on their feet and are getting aid from Google in securing a new location.

The news from Google comes as a serious blow for Kevin and Dora Reilly, the married owners of Discount Glass. For 26

years, their glass-replacement shop has operated out of the Pear Avenue space, and they say they face a grim set of prospects for relocating.

Driving his truck back to the shop after a long sweltering day working in Palo Alto, Kevin Reilly was sunburned, tired and had paint flecks covering his face as he finished a 12-hour workday. Standing out in the parking lot, he explained he was paying about \$1,800 a month for his Pear Avenue garage, which he acknowledged was a good deal. Mountain View has no comparable space to rent, he

► See **NORTH BAYSHORE**, page 9

Agricultural vision grows for Stieper park

CITY APPROVES PLAN FOR PASSIVE GARDEN SPACE AT NEW PARK ON NORTH RENGSTORFF

By Mark Noack

The agriculture roots of Mountain View will get a new plot of fertile ground, thanks to a decision by the City Council on Tuesday.

Under a conceptual plan for Mountain View's newest park, the Rengstorff Avenue house and orchard that was formerly home to the Stieper family will be made into a public "sanctuary" to display the achievements of the area's historic farmers as well as their modern counterparts. The plans call for the North Rengstorff Avenue Park — perhaps better known as the Stieper property — to be a new home for community gardeners, beekeepers and history buffs.

"There are some things that are a treat to vote for. This is one of them," said Councilman Ken Rosenberg at the June 9 meeting.

The 1.2-acre plot at 771 North Rengstorff Ave. was purchased by the city in 2013 from longtime resident Frances Stieper. Rebuffing offers from developers to acquire her property, Stieper agreed to sell her home to the city for \$3 million with the idea that it would be preserved as some type of public open space.

At recent public meetings, dozens of residents came to support the idea of making the space a "passive park," meaning the site would retain its scenic character and wouldn't be designed for sports or intense recreation. The plan that emerged called for keeping as many of Stieper's trees as possible and adding a series of gardens, which would

be maintained with the help of local farming clubs. As envisioned, the growing space would be used for demonstrations to teach agriculture skills.

As a centerpiece to the plans, the park would also be the new home for the Immigrant House that housed migrant workers more than a century ago. The structure will be rehabilitated back to its historical design and be used as an educational display. Members of its booster group, the Friends of the Immigrant House, announced at the meeting they had raised \$73,000 of the \$180,000 needed to restore the building, and city officials agreed to cover an additional \$90,000 in estimated costs.

As part of the approvals, the city also accepted the gift a two-story steel windmill that was given by Mountain View residents Jon and Carol Garliepp specifically for the site.

The former Stieper residence will be demolished in the coming months and a new cluster of trees will be planted in its place. A final design plan for the park is expected by early next year, according to city staff. By that time, the city Parks and Recreation Commission will also consider selecting a group to administer the gardens and approving a formal name for the park.

Assuming those plans proceed smoothly, construction on the new park will begin next spring with the goal to finish by the end of 2016. ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

Last-ditch effort to re-open Whisman school

By Kevin Forestieri

With only a week to go before the Mountain View Whisman school board decides on whether to open a new school in the district, members of the Whisman and Slater neighborhood area came out in full force to make one last appeal to the board.

Donning green shirts, buttons and pins, members of the "Reopen

Slater" group came up one by one at the June 4 meeting, telling the school board that choosing not to open a new school in the northeast quadrant of Mountain View would be misguided, inequitable and cause many families to leave the district.

The board is expected to make a decision at the Thursday, June 11, meeting, which will take place after the *Voice's* Wednesday press deadline.

The years-long demand for a new school has been seriously considered over the last six months, after Interim Superintendent Kevin Skelly set up two committees, the Boundary Advisory Task Force and the District Facilities Committee, to assess whether the district has the enrollment and the bond money needed to open a school for the more than 700 students living in a corner of the city with no

neighborhood school.

But when it came time to make recommendations to the board, both committees found that a ninth school was out of reach, saying the district had neither the finances nor the future enrollment needed to sustain a ninth campus. Only a few modest shifts in the boundaries were recommended, re-zoning residents in the Whisman neighborhood between Tyrella Avenue

and Whisman road from the overcrowded and popular Huff Elementary to Theuerkauf.

Members of the Reopen Slater group decried the recommendations at the Thursday meeting. They said the task force showed plenty of concern for the handful of students who live within the Huff boundary who can't attend because of overcrowding, but completely disregard the roughly 700 students in the Whisman and Slater area who can't go

► See **WHISMAN**, page 17

School board sticks with controversial search firm

ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CEO THREATENED TO DERAIL MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN'S SEARCH FOR NEW SUPERINTENDENT

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Whisman School District successfully found a new superintendent last week, but

there was a noticeable bump in the road near the end of the process when the board considered dropping the search firm Proact. Board president Chris Chiang called for a meeting last month to review allegations of gross misconduct against Gary Solomon, the CEO of the Chicago-based search firm, over inappropriate activities while he worked at a high school in Illinois.

According to the Chicago Sun-Times, documents from the school district show he allegedly sent racist and sexually suggestive emails to students and fellow administrators.

Several school districts fired Proact once the news of the allegations broke, but the Mountain View Whisman school board members decided they were already far enough along in the search process, and had a sufficient degree of separation from Solomon, that they were comfortable continuing with the \$20,000 contract.

Chiang brought up the issue at the May 12 board meeting, where he explained that hiring the new superintendent using a search firm with a questionable reputation could cause problems because the new hire would be chosen under a

cloud of controversy. On the other hand, he said, he had concerns that if the board severs the contract early the district will be "out cold" near the final steps of the search process.

Board member Bill Lambert said the consultant from the search firm who worked directly with the district, Michael Hinojosa, was not involved in the controversies and even resigned from Proact. Chiang said Hinojosa, upon hearing the news about Solomon, quit the firm while on the plane ride home from California.

Despite working with someone far removed from Solomon, Lambert said, the school district likely has the basis for claiming a material breach of the contract, and it should try to find a way to compensate Hinojosa directly for his work, rather than Proact.

At the time of the meeting, Chiang said there was no deal on the table between the district and Hinojosa to break the contract and directly pay him as a consultant in the search because expenses were inextricably tied to the search firm. The board could have chosen to break the contract and sue to recoup the funds, as other school districts have done, but he said it's not clear if those districts will be getting any kind of discount.

Other board members had no appetite for changing search firms so late in the game. Board member Ellen Wheeler said Proact is split into three "agencies" and Solomon did not work directly on the superintendent search. She said Hinojosa has not been involved in the alleged misconduct, and neither have any of the 74 candidates Proact presented to the board.

"I don't want to get into a slog about this," Wheeler said. "I want us to finish these last couple days of work with these innocent candidates, and whether or how we approach a lawsuit with Proact is separate in my mind."

Board member Greg Coladonato agreed with the majority of the board to go ahead

and finish the contract, saying he wasn't too concerned that Solomon had any kind of impact on the search process.

"I don't know to what extent this whole 'news kerfuffle' is tarnishing Proact's name," Coladonato said. "If it operates as a completely independent subsidiary then it doesn't worry me as much."

In hindsight, Chiang said, it probably would have been good to have something in the contract with Proact that the board approved in January that allows the district to get out of it when allegations like these come up.

"If a firm finds itself in some kind of ethical misconduct, there should be a 'get out of contract' clause, but we don't have that," Chiang said. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

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12:30 PM
AMY GOLDSBURY, MSW, ASW

Amy Goldsbury is a cancer survivor and social worker at Cancer CAREpoint. She will share her keen insight into how to cope with emotional and physical changes after cancer treatment ends.

1:30 PM
JOYCE HANNA, MA, MS

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New Yorker tapped to lead MV schools

FORMER CHARTER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AYINDÉ RUDOLPH TO TAKE OVER MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN DISTRICT

By Kevin Forestieri

Members of the Mountain View Whisman school board announced that they have found a new superintendent in Ayindé Rudolph, an educator from Buffalo, New York with a background in public and charter school education.

The board unanimously approved the contract at the June 4 meeting, which includes a \$200,000 starting salary and no specified increases in the coming years.

Board president Chris Chiang said the amenities in the contract are relatively modest compared to neighboring school districts, and that the board tried to work in feedback from the public.

Rudolph will start work as superintendent on July 1, taking the reins from Interim Superintendent Kevin Skelly.

Rudolph most recently worked as principal of Westminster Com-

munity Charter School in Buffalo, New York. The school was the center of a "school transformation" movement that brought up one of Buffalo's lowest performing schools through an approach that focuses on a holistic "cradle to college" approach to supporting students, according to the press release.

Prior to leading the charter school, Rudolph worked in elementary, middle and high schools, both as a teacher and an administrator, as well as at county-wide "art magnet" schools. He was one of 100 administrators in the country who were invited last year to join an initiative called FutureReady, which aims to effectively use technology for teaching and "digital learning."

Rudolph received his doctorate

from Vanderbilt University and his master's degree from George Washington University.

"I know that together we can galvanize the community, rally them behind the schools, and develop a place that provides a sound and equitable education for all students," Rudolph said in the press release.

The long-awaited decision on a superintendent came after multiple delays, and more than one meeting where the board expected to announce the new superintendent throughout the month of May.

Chiang called Rudolph a forward-thinking, innovative leader, and said that he is excited for community members to meet him. Rudolph was set to visit Mountain View on June 10 and 11, and is expected to attend the June 11 board meeting.

Beyond the salary, Chiang said there were very few "fringe" benefits in the contract — no stipend for the master's degree or doctorate, no auto allowance and no housing allowance. He will get one-time allowance of \$25,000 to move his family from New York.

Board members said they drafted the contract while keeping in mind recent controversies over former Superintendent Craig Goldman leaving with \$230,000

payout from the district through a mutual separation agreement. Earlier this year, parents in the district demanded that district officials find a way to avoid such "golden parachute" payouts.

While members of the board stood firmly behind the language of the contract, not everyone was thrilled with the changes.

Modifications in the new contract include that a superintendent may receive 12 months of his or her salary after being fired without cause, but if that superintendent gets a new job during that 12-month period, the amount they earn at the new job is deducted from the payout.

District resident Joel Lachter questioned the change, and wondered why superintendents would even want to get a job in the year following termination if they were guaranteed \$200,000 to not work. Lachter said he would just take the year off.

Other members of the public took issue with the number of days of notice the superintendent needs to give out in order to resign, which was set at 15 days in the contract. Trinh Pauly, a Huff parent, said Sunnyvale and other nearby districts require a 90-day notice for resignation, which feels especially lopsided in light of the superintendent getting a year's worth of salary

for termination. She said it felt like the board, in making the contract, really didn't take into consideration all the concerns raised over Goldman's departure.

Frustrated by the decision, Pauly said the board asks the public to pass bonds and donate money to local schools, but when they bring a concern to the board it doesn't get addressed, and that board members will just end up doing whatever they want.

"After the last superintendent's 'resignation,' all of the community's comments meant nothing?" Pauly asked the board.

Board member Greg Coladonato said the number of days to give notice really isn't important if the board and the superintendent have a strong, mutual working relationship and can work out a good time to leave, if needed.

"The important thing is not the number there. It will be on the board to build a good rapport and a good relationship so he doesn't feel like quitting," Coladonato said. "I don't think there will be a quarter-million-dollar lump sum payment. I don't think it's possible with this contract."

Chiang later told the *Voice* that Rudolph watched the meeting online and agreed to a change of 90-days notice as an addendum to the contract. ■



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MV won't join suit against Hwy. 85 express lanes

By Mark Noack

A coalition of South Bay cities is taking the Valley Transportation Authority to court over a controversial plan to expand Highway 85 with paid express lanes. Mountain View, however, will be conspicuously absent in the case.

The new lawsuit — filed by the cities of Cupertino, Los Gatos and Saratoga — seeks to force Santa Clara County transportation officials to conduct a full environmental study of the proposed highway expansion. The VTA proposal, dubbed the Silicon Valley Express Lane Program, calls for converting existing carpool lanes into express lanes, which lone motorists can legally use if they pay a toll. Fees for using the roads would depend on the congestion and other traffic conditions. Similar toll lanes on other Bay Area highways charge anywhere from \$0.30 to \$4.75,

according to the VTA website.

Other South Bay cities have criticized the proposal for doing little to solve the traffic woes in Silicon Valley. Local officials have questioned whether the

'This lawsuit is a mechanism to say, 'Wait a minute: Let's study some alternatives.'

CUPERTINO MAYOR ROB SINKS

new express lanes would exacerbate highway traffic, noise or greenhouse-gas emissions. They allege those concerns were essentially dodged by VTA officials when they granted a so-called negative declaration to the highway proposal, ruling that it would have no serious environmental impacts that

could not be mitigated.

At that point, city officials mutually decided it was time to bring their concerns to the courtroom, said Cupertino Mayor Rob Sinks. The new suit demands a full environmental impact report, an intense study that would likely take months, or perhaps years, to complete.

"This lawsuit is a mechanism to say, 'Wait a minute: Let's study some alternatives,'" Sinks said. "All the experts I've spoken with, they say (express lanes) are going to save almost no time."

Mountain View City Council members discussed possibly joining the lawsuit in a closed-session meeting on May 19. No public report on the council's decision was made from the closed-door talks.

Councilman Lenny Siegel said council members were generally supportive of the goals of the lawsuit; however a majority didn't want to take on the case. ▣

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail.

—Kevin Forestieri

PACKAGE THEFT ARREST

A Mountain View man suspected of stealing a package from the porch of a Palo Alto home and then trying to pawn off its contents on Craigslist was arrested when his buyer turned out to be an undercover Palo Alto officer.

Police said the man, Eric Trinidad Espinoza, was nabbed after the evening theft was captured on a home-surveillance video, which was widely shared on the social-network website Nextdoor. After seeing the video and finding a Craigslist listing for the item in the package, officers arrested the 39-year-old Mountain View resident in an undercover sting on May 30.

Police said Espinoza allegedly took the package at about 10:25 p.m. on May 18, though the theft wasn't reported to the police until 10 days later. Espinoza is believed to have taken the package, which contained an awning with an estimated value of \$250,

after a delivery company left it on the porch.

The victim of the theft learned about the incident from a surveillance video, which he subsequently posted on Nextdoor, a neighborhood-based social network.

After posting the video, the victim began to track Craigslist for descriptions of the stolen awning. Once he saw a suspicious listing, he reported the theft to the police. An officer, posing as an interested buyer, then called Espinoza and arranged to meet him. Police said that in addition to the stolen property, Espinoza had in his possession methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

Espinoza was booked in the Santa Clara County Main Jail on charges of possession of stolen property, possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia and driving with a suspended license.

Anyone with information about this incident or the suspect is asked to call the Palo Alto department's 24-hour dispatch center at 650-329-2413. Anonymous tips can be emailed to paloalto@tipnow.org or sent via text message or voice mail to 650-383-8984.

—Gennady Sheyner

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NORTH BAYSHORE

► Continued from page 5

said. The best deal he could find was in Sunnyvale at nearly twice the cost, he said. Just the price of moving would be upward of \$14,000, he estimated.

“To Google, \$14,000 is the cost of one of their dinners over there,” he said with an incredulous smirk. “I wish they’d help me with a new space.”

To Reilly, Google’s handling of the evictions smacks of favoritism. Since his lease expired in 2013, he said he made multiple requests for a renewal. But he was kept on a month-to-month lease. Meanwhile, other tenants did get lease extensions, he said. Reilly described how another tenant with an active lease showed him blueprints for a new space that Google would provide. He questioned why others weren’t getting similar help.

“I understand we have to go; I’m not a 2-year-old,” Reilly said. “All I’m asking is for them to just be fair to all of us.”

Google representatives declined to disclose any specifics on future plans for the site. One employee who asked not to be named explained that the company was giving assistance to only three tenants with more than a year left on their leases.

Exactly what that aid will be remains unclear because tenants who are receiving help say details are still being worked out. One such tenant is the Center of Balance yoga studio, which has operated on Pear Avenue for 18 years. Owner Karen deMoor said she was acting under a certain degree of trust that Google would take care of her.

“Google has been a good landlord, I’m holding them to their standard of ‘Do no evil.’” she said. “In terms of our situation, I’m trusting the process, I think they’re going to do the right thing for us.”

Perhaps the highest-profile tenant being relocated is the Pear Avenue Theatre, which has been a curious neighbor for the industrial lot since it opened in 2001. Artistic Director Diane Tasca explained that her 40-seat theater was set next week to begin its last production in the current site — Tom Stoppard’s “Arcadia.” She confirmed that with Google’s help the theater would move to a new, larger space somewhere in Mountain View, but she said she couldn’t provide details. Tasca is planning to make an announcement about the new site later this month.

“I’m very sentimental, and I’m anticipating it’s going to be very strange to perform for the last time and to leave the space,” Tasca said. “The new location should be an improvement in a number of ways.”

Others have no such plans to start anew in a fresh spot. Perhaps the longest-term tenant working out of the site, Dave Herlinger, said he’ll probably close down his Corvette repair shop after 34 years of business. It wasn’t worth trying to relocate, he said, but he didn’t begrudge Google for pushing him out.

“I’d love to say, ‘That darn Google, they’re forcing me out.’ But honestly, they’ve been good to me,” Herlinger said. “It’s a lot of work, and I’m getting older. I guess you’ve got to quit sooner or later.”

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

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Los Altos graduates finish strong

By Shannon Chai

For the members of the Los Altos High School class of 2015, being first is nothing new.

The graduates, who celebrated their commencement on June 5, were the first students to graduate on the school's new artificial turf field.

According to graduate Allison Crum, the "mistress of ceremonies," they were "the first seniors to survive a year of the 'BYOD' policy." The "Bring Your Own Device Policy" requires students to bring a device comparable to a laptop to school for class activities.

And they are the first class whose graduation ceremony was filmed and photographed by a camera-equipped drone. Physics teacher Adam Randall's drone camera could be seen soaring above the heads of the students and guests at the ceremony on Friday.

The graduates' list of firsts and achievements extends outside of the classroom as well.

They were the first senior class whose varsity boys' basketball team secured the Central Coast Section (CCS) championship title. They were the first to organize a Color Run fundraiser for the athletics program, and their Green Team — a club for students interested in environmental issues — was the first to host a sustainability conference for schools in the Bay Area.

In addition to club and group accomplishments, the students achieved individual success in school as well. Out of the 391 seniors, 12 students graduated with a 4.0 unweighted GPA and 40 students graduated with a weighted GPA of 4.5 or higher.

The class of 2015 also boasts a number of individual state awards from

the California Department of Education, with 160 graduates awarded the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma and 127 the Seal of Biliteracy.

But high school was not just about grades and test scores for the students, who were known for their commitment to community and diversity, said Mountain View-Los Altos High School District Superintendent Barry Groves.

Students have pursued interests that reflect the diversity within their own student body by participating in clubs like the Latino Student Union, cheering one another on at the annual Diversity Assembly, and fundraising for their sister school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The diversity in the student body could also be seen in the crowd of family and friends in attendance. This year, many went beyond the quintessential balloons and orchid leis and brought poster-sized cutouts of their graduates' faces to the ceremony.

Every year, Los Altos High presents the Eagle Award to a few students who have given back to their community during their high school years. The Eagle Award honors students who envision, create, and embrace their diverse communities and demonstrate outstanding scholarship, leadership, and citizenship, Principal Wynne Satterwhite said.

This year's Eagle Awards winners were Carly Cohen, Jocelyne Marin-Melo and Ramiel Petros.

Before the presentation of the Eagle Awards, student speaker Sami Nassif addressed the crowd. "Graduation signifies a beginning, not an end. Otherwise it would be called a termination rather than a commencement," he said. ▣

Email Shannon Chai at schai@mv-voice.com



MICHELLE LE

Kori Robinson fixes a friend's tie before Los Altos High School's graduation ceremony on June 5.

Ngoc Katheline Do

Oliver Dong

Patrick Donnelly

Laycie Dressler

Olivier-Cesar Duprat

Peter Dyer

Theo Ebenhoech

Stephanie Espinoza

David Espinoza-Dominguez

Ryan Espiritu

April Evans

Benjamin Evans

Maxwell Evans

Samiuela Fakalolo

Farzan Fallah

Jorge Farias-Solis

Santiago Fernandez

Tiffany Fernandez

Alexander Fina

Karl Fisse

Michael Flores

Ovidiu Fritsch

Anne Gaffney

Donaldo Galeas

Anneliese Gallagher

Edwin Galvez

Julissa Garcia

Benjamin Gardner-Gill

Maxwell Girczyc

Matthew Glein

Leanne Glikbarg

Jehan Godrej

Madeleine Golding

Alexander Golgolab

Montana Goloubeff

Anamaria Gomez

Katelyn Gomez

Briham Gonzalez

Yitzhar Goretsky

Faraz Gorji

Ryan Gottlieb

Joshua Gross

Dane Grosvenor

Jhosseline Guardado

Andreas Guralas

Katherine Sarah Hamilton

Paloma Hamlett

Mohammad Hammoud

Andrea Hansen

Cameron Hayes

Kelly Hayes

Madison Healy

Funo Heims

Lesley Henriquez

Jose Hernandez Andrade

Cristina Hernandez-Cruz

Victoria Heyman

Jordan Higham

Louis Hinnant

Cayley Ho

Minh Hodges

Thomas Hoke

Brandon Hong

Jennifer Hoover

Aaron Horne

Jackson Houdek

William Howard

Leya Hsu

Timothy Hsu

Elise Hu

Hasan Iqbal

Natalia Izaguirre Cabrera

Elise Jacobsen

Sruthi Jayakumar

Andre Jenab

Sabrina Johnson

Ricardo Juarez Benito

Riley Kahan

Andrew Kang

Mikailo Kasha

Noelani Kawakami

Tallulah Kay

Thomas Kelleher

Shane Kennerly

Daniel Kharlamov

Bijan Khosraviani

Amber Kim

Bryan Kim

Madison Klein

Jackson Klepper

Soo Bin Ko

Eric Kopps

Elizabeth Koulikova

Margaret Koulikova

Dylan Kreisman

Brendan Krepchin

Elizabeth Kristian

Henry Kwock

William La Poll

Ryan Laehy

Jason Lai

Timothy Lam

Brianna Lane

Sean Lanoza

Maria LaO'

Sidali Larbi

Kathy Le

Thuy Tien Le

Carter Lee

Elaine Lee

Jiwoo Lee

Megan Lee

Ethan Leikach

Jason Leong

Albert Li

Elizabeth Li

Elvis Li

Kevin Li

Siu Chung Menson Li

Charles Lien

Zheng Lim

Jeffrey Liu

Katherine Liu

Kristen Liu

Alexandra Lopez

Isaias Lopez

Betsy Lopez Ramirez

Andrea Lucia

Perla Luna

Christopher Lytle

Toby Macaluso

Arnoldo Macias

Victor Macias

Ian Mackey

Timothy Maddalena

Liliana Maldonado

Reyes Maldonado-Espinosa

Olivia Mann

Alexander Mao

Jocelyne Marin-Melo

Oscar Martinez

Luis Martinez Galvan

Anna Martirosyan

Whitney Mathews

Patrick McColl

Kayla McHenry

Niamh McLoughlin

Anna McShane

Taha Mehdipour

Cesar Mejia

Bryan Melo-Alvarado

Karen Mendez

Carlos Mendoza

Sarah Merrick

Valentin Mestman

Dana Meyerson

Alexandra Milkey

Nicole Miller

Rachel Miller

Julia Mitchell

Allison Mock

Gustaf Moellerstedt

Julia Morgans

Riley Moulds

Kenneth Moussavian

Kathryn Mueller

Brittany Munguia

Santiago Munoz

Maria Munoz Yopez

Ashley Musick

Michael Mylen

Los Altos High School

Romy Abouardham

Mirella Acevedo Perez

Maya Acharya

Kristen Adams

Ryan Adibi

Gonzalo Aguirre

Andy Alba

Samantha Albert

Aaron Alejo

Micheal Alexander

Phillip Almeda

Jose Amaya

Nicholas Ambiel

James Anderson

Rebecca Andrews

Kathia Angel-Pena

Noy Anisman

Carmen Annevelink

Lawrence Antiporda

Aleksandr Appel

Alexandra Rose Arce

Julissa Arreola Amaya

Nicole Atkins

Akhil Avula

Vishnu Bachani

Noam Baharav

Yuval Baharav

Edward Barnes

Borna Barzin

Makinnon Baugh

Amelia Baum

Grant Beall

Daniel Beatty

William Berman

Saul Bernal

Guadalupe Bernal Ruiz

Kiana Berube

Nicholas Bianchi

Derek Bilson

Madeline Bourquin

Elena Braxton-Taylor

William Brennan

Emma Bridgland

Savannah Buchner

Taya Buffin

Justin Bernard Cabute

Zachary Cano

Mayra Carbajal-Ortega

Kelly Carlson

Christina Casey

Blanca Casillas Rocha

Gregorio-Javier Castorena-

Silva

Alexander Castro

Federica Cerruti

Juan Cervantes

Paul Cervantes

Brittaney Chang

Daniela Chavez Preciado

Alejandro Chavez-Galeana

Robert Chin

Andrew Chio

Brandon Choy

Joyce Christiansen-Salameh

Crystal Cifuentes

Jorge Coca Castillo

Hunter Coffman

Carly Cohen

Zachariah Cohen

Andre Conceicao

Ariel Contreras Moreno

Spencer Cooley

Tristan Cottarel

Allison Crum

Elizet Cruz-Bravo

Jose Cruz-Tinajero

Chang Cui

Kyle Anthony Cumagun

Cayley Cunha

Marina Cunningham

Samantha Dadok

Nickolas Damon

Chase Dan

Rishub Das

Max de Visser

Hector Del Rio

Michelle Deng

Jasmine Diarte

Mariah Diaz

Katja Diekgers



MICHELLE LE

A family waves a poster-sized photo as graduates meet up with loved ones after Los Altos High School's commencement ceremony.

Ulises Naranjo
Sami Nassif
Melissa Navarro
Nima Nezami
Sean Nguyen
Chelsea Nivison
Daniel Noel
Nicholas Nordquist
Hilla Novat
Sean Odnert
Oliva Olivares Rivera
Annaka Olson
Joseph Nathan Ong
Arlene Oriol
Eric Orozco Martinez
Anaïda Osipova
Laurel O'Such
Jina Park
Sungmin Park
Megan Parr
Kunal Patel
Nimisha Pattada
Daniel Pefley
Christian Perez
Emma Perry
Ramiel Petros
Anthony Pineda
Christopher Poulsen
Zachary Pozzi
Gerardo Primitivo Casas
William Pye
Daniel Rabin
Jimu Radford
Clara Ramirez
Kate Ramirez
Brian Randall
Philip Randall
Iris Rhee
Alberto Rivera
Kori Robinson-Griffin
Randy Rodriguez
Adrian Romero
Daniel Rosenbaum
Noah Rulison
Evan Ryder
Neeku Salehi
Roya Samani
Edgar Sanchez Lopez
Lesleiy Sandoval-Medina
Ian Sans
Victoria Santiago
Joshua Aaron Santos
Andrew Sartor
Samuel Sauerhaft
Kaitlyn Schiffhauer
Jonas Schill
Matthew Schonher
Kenneth Schriener
Shauna Schultz
Farris Scott
Tess Seltzer
Ignacio Seni
Gabriella Shab
Oliver Shen
Kaitlin Shorts
Shahzeb Shunaid

Shanzech Shunaid
Jocelyn Silva Buenrostro
Jasmehr Singh
Michelle Sit
Sam Skinner
Alexandre Smirnov
Mariah Smith
Vera Sobol
Alondra Soto
Meredith Soward
Nathan Srinivasan
Amritha Sriram
Sitara Sriram
Jared Steck
Lauren Stoops
Elena Strawn
Alexandria Styner
Christopher Styner
Matthew Sucharczuk
Edgar Tapia Mendoza
Kaizad Taraporevala
Kiyoshi Taylor
Eleanor Thomas
Michele Tom
Jasminesky Townsend
Amy Tran
Jessica Trott
Noah Tsao
Ashwin Vaidyanathan
Kevin Van Dyke
Molly Vanderlip
Maya Varghese
Diana Vazquez
Dayana Vega Moreno
Nicole Vendelin
Sigrid Vieyra
Rita Villanueva
Michael Conrad Viray
Kateryna Voitiuk
Anna Wang
Brian Wang
Lawrence Wang
Yujie Wang
Emily Webb
Ya'el Weiner
Abigail Williams
Emma Wilson
Aaron Wong
Ryan Wong
Summer Wong
David Wu
Michael Wu
Ryan Wu
Alvina Xu
Michelle Yau
Brian Yeager
Akemi Yoshida
Casey Young
Ophelia Yue
Katelyn Yurash
Brandon Zavala
Karen Zellers
Annie Zhang
Liya Zhu
Dylan Zorn

Success comes from adversity for Alta Vista grads

CLASS OF 2015 SAY IT'S BEEN A ROUGH ROAD LEADING UP TO GRADUATION DAY

By Kevin Forestieri

Graduation day for Alta Vista High School feels like any other, with the black caps, the gowns, the tassels and the teary-eyed parents holding up signs and cheering.

But for many of the 22 students graduating from the continuation high school this year, turning that tassel from the right to the left means they've conquered adversity. Graduating in the class of 2015 may have felt like a distant chance just years ago.

Alta Vista graduate Elijah Martinez told the standing-room only crowd in the school's multipurpose room that life throws curve balls, and it's important to persevere. He said he fell off course when his father suffered a traumatic brain injury in a motorcycle crash, and it wasn't clear if he would walk or talk again. He said he got re-routed to Alta Vista High School and told he was not on track to graduate.

Martinez was able to turn things around in just a year and a half at Alta Vista, and graduated along with the rest of the class of 2015. His father, likewise, was able to bounce back well enough to walk, talk and even pester him like any other dad.

"Graduating from Alta Vista means a lot. We have accomplished what others thought was impossible for us," Martinez said.

Martinez was not alone. Graduating senior Amarilys Cruz Ortega said she came to the United States from Mexico at a very young age. She said she struggled with the language and felt demoralized by her teachers and the whole school system. She learned to distrust teachers, talked back to them and got into trouble in middle school, spending hours in the principal's office.

Things changed when she got to Alta Vista, she said, when teacher Wendy Dowling completely changed her perspective.

"She reassured me early on that everything would be okay," Ortega said. "This school gave us the opportunity to change our educational pasts."

Alta Vista Principal Bill Pierce said Ortega, who scored three scholarships this year, wrote a great



MICHELLE LE

Todd Pearson, a teacher at Alta Vista High School, embraces graduate Isaiah Harrison after the commencement ceremony as his grandmother Delia Harrison wipes away tears.

scholarship essay, but she was still a little hesitant when he asked her to present it at graduation. Pierce said he encouraged her until she finally relented.

"I told her, 'Your English is fantastic, and this is a great story,'" Pierce said.

Alta Vista High School's very own scholarship went to Azizkhujia Asomoddinov, who had to hit the ground running when he transferred to the school last year. Asomoddinov came from Uzbekistan after a brief stint in China studying to get into a medical school, and he knew almost no English. But he learned, Pierce said, and can now speak five different languages with at least some fluency.

Asomoddinov mastered English well enough to speak confidently at the graduation. He said normally it's a bit scary to talk at big events because of the fear of failure, but not at Alta Vista.

"(The school) has become a second home," Asomoddinov said. "I'm confident that if I failed, that others would support me."

Superintendent Barry Groves emphasized to the parents and relatives in attendance that Alta Vista is one of the top continuation high schools in the country, in the top percentile, and that the campus has an excellent learning environment with a solid focus on academics.

"Everyone is studying because they know if they don't do the work, they won't get any credit," Groves said.

This is the last graduation with Groves as superintendent of the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District. While plenty of iterations of the continuation high school preceded his time leading the district, he said he took over as superintendent during the infancy of Alta Vista High School.

Since then, he said, the school has gone from a "credit-recovery" school for juniors and seniors to a more comprehensive program that serves all grades, including the recent addition of a freshman class.

The district also lengthened the school day and the school year to be on par with other, more traditional high schools, and has since added a construction program, a computer applications program and a health science curriculum.

The graduation ceremony also gave students the chance to make shout-outs to their favorite teachers, and just about every one of them gave an honorable mention to Dowling. Pierce said the students adore Dowling and have given her all sorts of monikers over the years, including "Mama Dowling" and "The Angel of Alta Vista."

"(Dowling) tells the kids she loves them and she demonstrates it daily," Pierce said. "The kids feel valued. Any time graduates thank the staff members, her name will come up." ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

Alta Vista High School

Azizkhujia Asomoddinov
Maria Pati Barcenas
Amarilys Cruz Ortega
Sergio Delgado
Suzanne Emery-Sphar
Teuila Fifita
Maria Garibay
Isaiah Harrison
Anthony Hernandez

Monzerat Hernandez
Bo Joan-Bendien
Christine Kennedy
Brenden Lopez
Elijah Martinez
Alexandra McCarthy
Gabriel McNern
Mayra Medina-Orosco
Zochil Moreno-Martinez

Jeff Sanchez
Jocelyn Trujillo
Seloini Vai
Marina Yamamoto

MICHELLE LE

Jocelyn Trujillo tries to hold back tears during Alta Vista High School's graduation ceremony on June 3.



MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH

► Continued from page 1

“(The students) are driven to be the best that they can be in the classroom,” Grissom said. “The Spartan Theatre stage could barely hold the number of students with a 4.5 GPA.”

The class also had its fair share of musicians who won awards and trophies in the school’s band, as well as student engineers in the robotics club who designed, crafted and strategized their way to international finals during their junior and senior years, Grissom said.

Graduating senior Alexandra Malo said the class of 2015 is anything but one-dimensional, and reflected on how she and her fellow classmates have been able to craft their own individuality throughout their high school years as environmentalists, athletes, academics and engineers, each with distinct memories and different experiences.

Malo said the drive to be different from one another and find purpose in life reminded her of what a teacher once told her about the conservation of matter. The teacher said that while matter can only change and cannot be created or destroyed, there is one caveat — human creativity. It’s through creativity and thoughts that people can find new creation, development and purpose, Malo said.

The high school diploma may not do much to set students apart from another other, she said, but their own ideas and

innovations are what makes them unique.

Assistant Principal William Blair said the graduating class has been active on the campus and in the community since the first day of freshman year, jumping on opportunities to start new clubs and getting involved in community service activities. He said the students started and supported socially conscious clubs like Athletes for Athletes, which works with the Special Olympics and other organizations to help raise awareness on what it’s like to live with disabilities.

The students were also pioneers for some of the school’s STEM programs, Blair said, including newly-added computer science classes and STEM week, which greatly expanded beyond the annual “Hour of Code” event.

Grissom also commended the school staff for earning the Gold Ribbon Award this year for its strides towards narrowing the achievement gap, including getting more underrepresented minorities into rigorous academic classes. Grissom gave credit to the teaching staff for their “continued foresight and dedication in the district”

Senior class president Leo Hsia also recognized the relatives, family members and friends, many of them in the crowd that evening, for being behind the students every step of the way.

“None of us would’ve been able to overcome the obstacles,” Hsia said. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



MAGALI GAUTHIER

Carly Miller delivers her speech, “How to say goodbye,” at Mountain View High’s commencement on June 5.

Mountain View High School

Joel Abriam
Hiba Absar
Edi Aguilar
Jeremy Aguinaldo
Alex Ahrens
Kimiko Aldrich
Jonathan Alessandro
Jennifer Alvarado
Jimi Alvarez
Brayan Amaya
Leilani Arellano-Fuentes
Joseph Aronson
Thomas Aronson
Gabriela Arreguin

Genesis Arreola
Lindsey Arrillaga
Tom Ashkenazi
Hannah Athey
Jenna Atkinson
Nicole Austin
Allen Baek
Anthony Balas
Charlotte Balas
Elias Baltazar-Cortes
Justice Bandy
Douglas Baney
Benjamin Bardman
Oleksiy Bazhenov

Baylee Beardslee
Rhea Bergman
Anand Bhavsar
Sofia Biros
Alex Bismuth
Megan Blanchfield
Athena Bolin
Lucas Bondy
Andrew Bosset
Cierra Bright
Teralyn Brown
Vincent Paul Bualoy
Mark Buhain
Andie Burns
Jillian Burns
Julia Burns

MAPPING THE FUTURE

College Destinations for Mountain View and Los Altos High Schools Class of 2015



“Foundation-funded programs and services, such as the College & Career Centers, the Naviance system to aid with the college application process, preliminary SATs and investments in Cloud Learning, STEM curriculum and science equipment are significant contributors to students’ success in getting into top colleges.”
- Barry Groves, Superintendent of the MVLA High School District



“We extend our sincere thanks to parents, community members and businesses who gave generously to support our \$1.5 million grant to the high school district this year. We wish our graduates continued success as they ‘map their futures.’”
- Laura Roberts & Margaret Gong, Co-Executive Directors of the MVLA High School Foundation

Kyle Bystrom
 Kelvin Cabatu
 Jenna Lyndsay Cagatao
 Sinead Cahill
 Margaret Caligaris
 Liliana Camacho-Perez
 Sadie Carlson
 Mary Carranco
 Ian Carson
 Reyna Casildo
 Julia Chalker
 Jennifer Chan
 Matthew Chan
 Emily Chao
 William Chaverri-Smith
 Eduardo Chavez-Heredia
 Rebecca Chen
 Thomas Chen
 Casey Chien
 Jason Chin
 Alvin Choi
 Yuna Choi
 Kaylan Cholewa
 Yujin Chong
 Tinashe Choto
 Isabella Chu
 Alex Clark
 Amanda Cobb
 Mira Cohen
 Igor Colby
 William Comstock
 Mia Convery
 Cohen Cook
 Erik Cortinas
 Marie Critchfield
 Daniel Cunniff
 Eric Daetz
 Stephanie Daniloff
 Roshan Das
 Lauren Davancaze
 Maddeline De Leon
 Carlos De Silva Etienne
 Kelly Dean
 Morgan DeAngelis
 Jamin Deaver
 MacKenzie Dedrick
 Jodi DeMassa
 Zachary Dembner
 Molly Dempsey
 Jasmine Deng
 Ariana DeVincenzi
 Dustin Diggle
 Noah Doeden
 Gilberto Dominguez
 Anne Dong
 Nora Donovan
 Frank Driggs Jr.
 Maritza Dumlaio
 Matthew Dunn
 Natalie Duong
 Ricardo Duran-Roque
 Anthony Ebbs
 Bryan Escalante
 Elena Estrada
 Lauren Ewing
 Matthew Ferr
 Joseph Fisher
 Samuel Fitch
 Elyse Fitzsimons
 Aliana Flagsberg-Tsai
 Angelica Flores
 Fatima Flores
 Jason Floyer
 Dylan Fluckiger
 Alyssa Fong
 Daniel Forgy
 Ryan Forrest
 Michelle Frees
 Jeanette Freiberg
 Marissa Freitas
 Emma Frerichs
 Sopal Friauf-Lemons
 Emily Furuichi
 Brandon Gabbard
 Gerardo Campos
 Cristian Gallardo



MAGALI GAUTHIER

Caps fly as Mountain View High School wraps up its graduation ceremony.

Breanna Gambini
 Anastasia Garachtchenko
 Angelica Garcia
 Gustavo Garcia
 Jose Garcia
 Makayla Garcia
 Roan Gaumer
 Stella Ge
 Jennifer Geranen
 Eleanor Gerrior
 Madeleine Gerson
 Valerie Girerd
 Kshitiz Giri
 Dillon Goh
 Erin Goldberg
 Marisa Gong
 Daniela Gonzalez
 Calvin Goode
 Richa Gopal
 Victoria Gray
 Megan Gruspe
 Jayanth Gubbi
 Alejandro Guerrero
 Greesan Gorumurthy
 Carina Gwennap
 Noah Habib
 Alex Haggart
 Gordon Hahn
 Mikaela Halatyn
 Alexander Hammerschmidt
 Lara Hammoud
 Hanna Harrison
 Samantha Hastings
 Hawa Hayat
 Kyla Hayes
 Erin Heckman
 Angel Henriquez
 Luis Hernandez
 Leah Higgins
 Cindy Ho
 Lindsay Hofen
 Cerys Holstege
 Joshua Horowitz
 Chloe Howard
 Leo Hsia
 Herbert Hsu
 Brandon Huang
 Tiffany Huang
 Thomas Hubel
 Arlynda Huerta
 Jayme Hughes
 James Hulett
 Rohan Jagannathan
 Lakshya Jain
 Katherine Janson
 Sahil Jayaram
 Natalie Jehning

Antonio Jenez
 Elaine Jennings
 Elizabeth Jiang
 Ralph Jiang
 Evan Johansson
 Austin Johnson
 Devon Johnson
 Jade Ayesha Kadir
 Eva Kahan
 Franklin Kapp
 Rahul Kapur
 Serena Kapur
 Karen Kauffman
 Connor Keane
 Trent Kiefaber
 Alexander Kim
 Byron Kim
 Darien Kim
 Hansol Kim
 Luke Knight
 Kyle Knochenhauer
 Erin Kobashigawa
 Matthew Kolm
 Krysta Korpontinos
 Nicole Korpontinos
 Athena Kovacevic
 Isabella Kuhn
 Jeremiah Lam
 Nicholas Lamm
 Reanna Lancaster
 Miguel Landaverde
 Corinna Lee
 Ian Lee
 Elizabeth Leung
 Conner Levy
 Yu Shuo Li
 Dominic Librie
 Natalie Lillie
 Raihann Lim
 Albert Lin
 Brandon Lin
 Jonathan Lin
 YuLun Lin
 Samuel Lindbloom-Airey
 Gilbert Lindqvist
 Amy Linker
 Nicolas Lisi
 Elaine Liu
 Jason Lomsdalen
 Marcus Lomsdalen
 Rachel Lopez
 Chris Lu
 Juan Luna
 Luis Luna Herrera
 Janet Luna-Medina
 Alison Lundberg
 Rosa Lutz

Gilberto Luviano
 Eugene Lytnev
 Matthew Maciag
 Dillon Magee
 Carolyn Joy Maglalong
 Jessica Mallinar
 Alexandra Malo
 Arjun Mandyam
 James Manke
 Casey Marquez
 Dyanna Martinez
 Jonathan Martinez
 Berenice Martinez Garcia
 Jeffrey Martinez-Coronado
 Juan Mata
 Flavio Matafora-Adams
 Nadia Matilde
 Morgan Matthews
 Tara Mazda
 Matthew McCarthy
 Austin McCune
 Carly McDonald
 Sophie McEvoy
 Morgan McLain-Smith
 Brandon McMillan
 David McMullin
 Marisa Mekkitikul
 Madison Melenudo
 Mher Melkonyan
 Jacqueline Melo
 Rachel Michaels
 Carly Miller
 Tatum Millet
 Juan Miranda
 Jose Morales
 Blake Moran
 Christopher Moreland
 Katherine Morrisette
 Alexander Motey
 Reagan Mszanowski
 Atom Murata
 Meg Murray
 Daniel Namyst
 Amanda Nelson
 Maegan Nevalsky
 Abigail Nunez
 Erica Ochoa-Garcia
 Christopher Ogaz
 Patrick Ogaz
 Jacquelyn Olivares
 Joanna Orellana Ramos
 Angel Ortega
 Luis Ortega Galindo
 Alondra Ortiz
 Jamie Osborne
 Jamailla Padaong
 Jennifer Palacios

Jaymei Parra
 Alexander Paulsen
 Alexander Penfold
 Hannah Petersen
 Daniel Petti
 John Phan
 Joseph Phan
 Paul Pierantozzi
 Andrés Pilling
 Clyde Pineda
 Johann Pistorius
 Olivia Pollart
 Cassidy Pong
 Emily Porat
 Sebastian Posada
 Michail Poskatcheev
 Joseph Pressley
 Alyssa Przywara
 Anthony Pun
 Kim Lorenz Quero
 Kathleen Quigley
 Aria Rahimi Khoshkbijari
 Arian Rahimi Khoshkbijari
 Noah Ralph
 Mariah Ramirez
 Trezhur Ramirez-Simpson
 Camila Raygada
 Mary Recker
 Daenna Reyes
 Pierce Riola
 Esteban Rivera
 Stephen Roberonta
 Hannah Robinson
 Rocio Robles
 Brianna Rocco
 Karen Rodriguez
 Rene Rodriguez
 Eder Rodriguez Zelocualtecatl
 Sophia Rose
 Matthew Ruben
 Andrea Rubio
 Jorge Ruiz
 Martin Rymer
 Mason Saia
 Anthony Salas
 Carolina Salas-Vallejo
 Jose Saldivar
 Wendy Sanchez-Interiano
 Haley Santos
 Setareki Savu
 Rohun Saxena
 Griffin Scheel
 Maynard William Schneider
 Stefano Scotti
 Rudy Segura
 A'saysha Session
 Nicholas Sevely

Cole Seymour
 Rushil Shah
 Ryan Sherod
 Punu Sherpa
 Ann-Chi Shyur
 Max Simpson
 Micaela Sinclair
 Joshua Sittner
 Harper Smith
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 Brian So
 Aysu Solmaz
 Gunash Solmaz
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 Fernando Torres-Tapia
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 Steven Tran
 Alexandra Treuhaft
 Samantha Tsoi
 Cole Turner
 Daniela Turner
 Nisha Uppuluri
 Sarah Uribe
 Jake Uyeda
 Antonio Valencia
 Abigail Valenzuela
 Brooke Van Ryswyk
 Melissa Vargas-Perez
 Bryan Velasco
 Daniel Vella
 Matthew Vera
 Jeremiah Verzosa
 Destiny Villagran
 Vanessa Villavicencio
 Kelly Vroom
 Sharon Wachuka
 Kirk Waiblinger
 Haley Walker
 Steven Walter
 William Walter
 Erika Walther
 Derek Wei
 Isabella Wenneberg
 Grant Weyers
 Allison Wheeler
 Thomas Wilbur
 James Wilcox
 Charles Wilken
 Bradley Williams
 Heather Wilson
 Thomas Wilson
 Ethan Wiseman
 Scott Wolverton
 Yimei Xuzhou
 Alejandro Yerena
 Seiji Yokota
 Hanna Yoshida
 Michelle Youlton
 Bryan Young
 Hope Young
 Elizabeth Yuksel
 Xiaoxuan Zang
 Alexandra Zaragoza-Chavez
 Lauren Zepeda

CASTRO

► Continued from page 1

with the designs and the vision for the new school. She also supported the choice to expand

the campus and add the long-called-for student capacity for 900 students split between the traditional program and Dual Immersion.

“For years the Castro com-

munity has asked for more classrooms so that all of the students in the neighborhood can attend their neighborhood school,” Wheeler said. “This neighborhood, more than any in the city, has a bunch of kids who can only walk to school. The only other way they get to school is by taking the bus.”

Board president Chris Chiang said he was excited to see the plans, which he said would help turn Castro into a “21st century school.” But he said he was hesitant to throw his full support behind the plan because he feared that expanding enrollment at Castro could come back to haunt the district. If the district expects to add 150 students to the current student body, he said, those kids have to come from somewhere, and Landels and Monta Loma schools can’t take that kind of hit to their enrollment.

Others questioned whether it would be a good idea to put 900 kids on one campus at all. Board member Greg Coladonato said there’s been no “deep consideration” by the board on the 900-student capacity, which he said seemed like packing too many kids onto the same school site.

“I think we’re doing the students in that area a disservice by putting that many (children) there,” Coladonato said.

The projected budget for the project also raised some eyebrows. Chiang said he found himself “uneasy” with a process in which the board is presented with a single option, without any alternatives that would alter the cost, for a project that would take up more than one-fifth of the



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT.

New two-story classrooms will house the school’s traditional program on the east wing of the new Castro campus.

entire total of Measure G bond funds.

“From an equity standpoint I need to see the \$43 million done in a way where the board is brought items that go above the line and below the line,” Chiang said.

‘Our goal is to not be in buildings that look like they were built in the 1950s.’

CASTRO PRINCIPAL THERESA LAMBERT

Board member Steve Nelson pointed out that the plans call for large glass sliding walls on the new classrooms that open up, allowing teachers to use outdoor

space for activities, which he said is beyond the district-wide standard for classroom buildings and adds unnecessary construction costs. He also questioned whether it would even be reasonable to expect teachers to incorporate that kind of classroom use into their activities.

“There’s an issue of equality to me — why does this neighborhood get it?” he said.

The sliding glass doors, among other things, were added to the designs by the architect after taking input from school staff, Parent-Teacher Association representatives and other community members over several meetings beginning in January.

Castro Principal Theresa Lambert said teachers and staff at the school are in the midst of improving Castro’s academic programs, and part of that includes being more “innovative” in the way they teach. Having these flexible walls encourages more open collaboration and opens up more opportunities for the teachers, she said.

“Our goal is to not be in buildings that look like they were built in the 1950s,” Lambert said.

In November, the Castro Restructuring Task Force reported that students in the traditional program lag behind Dual Immersion students by a large margin in math as well as English and language arts. About 81 percent of the students in the traditional program are English-language learners who come from low socio-economic backgrounds.

Construction of the new traditional program classrooms is expected to begin summer 2016. The board will be asked to approve the design for the first phase of construction next fall. The overall site plans presented last week will come back to the board at a June 24 special meeting for approval. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

Vera Elaine Kavish

February 1, 1925 – May 9, 2015

Vera Elaine Kavish was born February 1, 1925 in Pennsylvania to Earl and Katherine Howell. She and her brother Jim (Bud) grew up in Lansing, Michigan where she attended Michigan State. She worked in the chemistry dept. as a secretary for Professor Laurence Quill who called her “Hip Pockets.” There she met Robert Michael Kavish.



After graduating, Bob got a job in Los Angeles, bought a house and applied to an ABC radio show called, “Bride and Groom.” Vera and Bob were married on January 25, 1949 on the 15-minute show broadcast nation-wide from Hollywood, California.

Bob and Vera moved to Los Altos, California in the summer of 1957 where they raised their children Kimberly, Michael and Cameron.

Tragically Bob died in a flying accident in 1963. Vera Elaine held the family together by teaching her children to ski, doing so every winter throughout the 60s-70s. She was coordinated, athletic and confident in her physical capabilities. She sewed all the kid’s Halloween costumes, wallpapered and painted the house, and put in a brick patio by herself.

She discovered golf during the 1970s which remained a lifetime passion. In 1979 she sold the Los Altos house and moved to Mountain View to care for her mother and best friend Katherine (Kitty) after her father died.

She was still driving and golfing in January. When her speech became compromised, her son Michael moved her to Portland, Oregon to take care of her. She was able to enjoy her 90th birthday with her family and made a hole-in-one on a putting golf course!

Vera Elaine passed away on May 9, 2015 with her children by her side. She will be interred by her husband Bob at Golden Gate Cemetery in San Bruno, California in July.

She will be remembered for her lovely smile, sense of humor and her can-do spirit.

PAID OBITUARY

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HOUSING

▶ Continued from page 1

spearheaded by Niki Parenteau, a NASA contractor living just a few feet from the motel property. EPA studies had pinpointed the groundwater at this location as a “hot spot” of TCE, an industrial solvent that leached into the ground decades ago. Parenteau said she was worried that digging up the soil could bring the contaminants up into the air.

For her, any risks are quite personal because she plans to start a family soon, and studies have linked TCE to birth defects, she said. On her own, she said she had begun using NASA equipment to analyze the toxic plume to gauge any hazards for herself.

“I was surprised the city would consider developing such a contaminated piece of property. It doesn’t seem wise,” she said. “Because of these construction activities, I’m going to be at a higher risk of exposure, and it

could prevent me from trying to be pregnant.”

A 2010 report from the EPA declared that TCE is cancer-causing, or carcinogenic, to humans “by all routes of exposure.” TCE is known to cause other health problems, including heart defects in children born to mothers who were exposed to it during critical stages of heart development, according to the EPA.

Speaking at the council meeting on Tuesday, Parenteau urged the council to hold off on approving the project until more clean-up efforts for the TCE contamination are finished.

But site owner Bruce Panchal dismissed those concerns, pointing out that he was a longtime resident of the site for 42 years and raised three children there. In fact, he described his background as a former engineer at Fairchild Semiconductor, the company deemed responsible for causing the TCE contamination. He gave assurances that the

chemical would dissipate and be rendered harmless once it was vented out.

“I’ve lived there for 42 years, and I’m a healthy person. My wife was pregnant at the time there was a hot spot and my kids are fine,” he said. “It’s not Fukushima or Chernobyl. You can remedy this by purging it out.”

Looking for an impartial answer, Councilman Ken Rosenberg asked whether the proposed new housing would improve the toxic hazards at the site. Zoning administrator Gerry Beaudin said the site already had clean-up efforts that would go forward regardless of the new project. During construction, the site would have a soil-management plan and air monitoring, as well as a system of “appropriate” response actions if any TCE levels were detected, said EPA project manager Alana Lee.

Adding a special condition to the approval, Rosenberg asked for any prospective home buyers to be explicitly warned about the

TCE contamination.

The plans to redevelop the ramshackle site also raised larger concerns about the affordability problems afflicting Mountain View and the lack of cheap housing. The site currently consists of a shuttered convenience store, two houses and a 25-room motel that for years has operated as single-room-occupancy housing, which would all be demolished as part of the proposal.

The site is one block from another of Mountain View’s more affordable rental housing options: the RV park that is slated to be replaced by row houses costing about \$900,000 each.

Presenting the subdivision plans to the city, Rodger Miller of Warmington Residential, described how his firm’s proposal would transform an “under-utilized” property into a showpiece neighborhood. None of the homes would be set aside as affordable housing, but Miller said a portion of the sales revenue

would go to the city’s affordable housing fund.

The motel is still occupied by residents, some of whom have lived there for more than 10 years, according to one public speaker. Even though the rooms are being rented out as permanent housing, city staff reported that motels are specifically exempt from renter protections mandated by the city’s housing relocation ordinance. One councilman criticized this as essentially being a “loophole” in the city’s ordinance.

Anticipating a pitfall that could compromise his company’s plans, Miller made a pledge on the spot that all residents at the site would be given an equivalent sum to what they would have received under the housing ordinance. That sum would amount to about \$6,000 per household, with more for families with children or special-need situations.

City leaders approved the plans in a unanimous vote. ■

WHISMAN

▶ Continued from page 5

to their neighborhood school because it doesn’t exist.

Veronica Reginaldo, a resident in the area, said not having a school in the area has been tearing her neighborhood apart. Ever since she moved into a housing complex eight years ago, Reginaldo said there have been plenty of families that move in, have kids and move right back out once their children reach kindergarten age. The reason, she said, is there’s no public elementary school.

“Families come in just to leave once their kids reach school-age, causing a vicious cycle. This is systematically destroying our neighborhood,” Reginaldo said.

For some residents in the region, the only silver lining in not having a neighborhood school is that they were zoned for the high-performing Huff Elementary School. With the boundary recommendations re-zoning them to Theuerkauf — the school with the lowest test scores in the district — many parents said they’re looking at other options.

Tyrella resident Ken Brent said the district put his family in “quite a dilemma” and that he’s being forced to either transfer to another school in the district, send his kids to a private school or move to another area.

“None of these are attractive for me at all,” Brent said. “What we need is a top-quality school in our neighborhood for our kids to attend.”

In a survey by the Reopen Slater group, only four of the 64 parents surveyed in the re-zoned area said they were considering sending children to Theuerkauf.

The remaining 60 said they were considering a mix of other options including private school or an intradistrict transfer to a different public school.

Former Mountain View School District board member Roger Noel took an even more aggressive stance, saying if the school board did not start the process of opening a new school immediately, he would not only drop his support for future parcel taxes and bond measures, but would vow to actively fight against them.

While board members mostly held off on comments until they are scheduled to vote on the recommendations at the June 11 meeting, board members Greg Coladonato and Steve Nelson continued to voice their support for a new school, with Nelson saying he would join Noel in finding ways to block the district from seeking out new revenue sources from the public.

Members of the Reopen Slater group urged the board to also consider delaying the decision until the new superintendent, Ayinde Rudolph, takes over in July. District staff and the architects working on the school improvement plans have consistently argued that millions of dollars in “opportunity costs” are lost in Measure G bond money every time projects are delayed, and that it’s important to get moving on project designs soon.

Data called into question

Members of the task force also challenged the data the committees were using to make their decisions, using their own surveys to counter what they believe was a study riddled with flaws and inconsistencies.

At the heart of the task force’s decision to not recommend a new school was limited enrollment, both now and in the future, in the Mountain View Whisman School District. Projected enrollment numbers in the district’s 32-page demographic report shows enrollment flattening out and even declining in the next ten years.

Hongxu Cai, a member of the group, said it doesn’t make a lot of sense to assume enrollment in Mountain View public schools is poised to drop when the overall student population to increase. What’s more, he said, the latest batch of kindergartners enrolled in 2015 shows the district has already started off strong with about 100 new students this year, higher than originally predicted.

Others argued the report was far too conservative in the way it assessed student generation rates based on the type of housing developments. Tamara Wilson, another Reopen Slater member, said single-family attached homes were given the relatively low student-generation rate of .057 kids per home in the demographic study. But when they ran their own survey of families in the area, they found a rate more than twice as high.

Elizabeth Riley, a parent in the area, is one of those families. She told the board she moved into a single-family attached home in the Whisman neighborhood and planned to raise kids there, just as plenty of others have done. Faced with possible having to send her kid to Theuerkauf, she fears they may have to switch to a private school.

Beyond the numbers, Wilson said the Whisman and Slater

neighborhood area continues to be overlooked in soliciting public input. The Boundary Advisory Task Force, which lacked a single representative from the area, is an example of how the neighborhood’s lack of a school or PTA prevents them

from mobilizing and influencing district decisions.

“(The district) pulls apart our neighborhood because we lack a voice, we lack a central school and a PTA with their finger on the pulse of community issues,” Wilson said. ■



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING**DOANE AND DREW AVENUES, PROJECTS 14-29 AND 15-27**

The City of Mountain View is proposing to reconstruct the roadway on Doane and Drew Avenues between Farley Street and Burgoyne Street. The improvements include removal and reconstruction of rolled curb, gutter, curb ramps, sidewalk, driveways, and asphalt concrete pavement.

The projects are partially funded by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority’s (VTA) Local Road Improvement and Repair Program. This program is funded by the \$10 increase in Vehicle Registration Fees approved by the Santa Clara County voters in a November 2010 ballot measure (Measure B).

You are invited to the following Mountain View City Council meeting where the Council will consider approval of the project:

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2015**6:30 P.M. (OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS THE ITEM CAN BE HEARD)****COUNCIL CHAMBERS****SECOND FLOOR, MOUNTAIN VIEW CITY HALL
500 CASTRO STREET, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA**

If the project is approved by Council, construction is scheduled to begin September 2015.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Joy Houghton, Project Manager, at (650) 903-6311 or joy.houghton@mountainview.gov.

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Member, Mountain View
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■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, www.MountainViewOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

City moves forward on plan for cleaner electricity

What do environmental and community leaders do when the giant corporation that supplies most of Northern California's energy drags its feet as customers clamor for clean and renewable sources of electricity? They boldly move forward to find solutions independent of Pacific Gas and Electric, as Mountain View leaders are now doing.

The City Council last week agreed, with only John Ink opposed, to pursue what's known as a community-choice aggregation — or CCA — a system that would allow residents and businesses to tap into sources of renewable energy at what is likely to be a lower cost. Mountain View would partner with Santa Clara County and the cities of Sunnyvale and Cupertino to create the system, bypassing PG&E as an electricity provider, although still relying on the corporation for gas, energy distribution and maintenance of the power grid.

Councilwoman Pat Showalter neatly summed up one of the benefits of such a system: "This is a way for us to push the state and PG&E to require more greenhouse reduction by changing the portfolio for everyone. If there were lots of these community-choice energy projects, it would force PG&E to offer similar portfolios."

But the pressure exerted on PG&E as more customers turn to CCA systems isn't the only selling point of the plan. The immediate environmental benefits of drawing electricity from renewable sources — such as solar, wind and bio-energy — on a large enough scale are undeniable.

And given that such an effort's scale must be a factor in the equation if a true impact is to be felt, skeptics might want to take a look at what's going on elsewhere in the state, particularly in

the Bay Area. The first community-choice aggregation system in the state was put in place in Marin County in 2010, with PG&E pulling out all the stops to fight it. That program, known as Marin Clean Energy, has resulted in some 125,000 customers being supplied with electricity from renewable sources, according to the program's website. And, for customers who choose a plan that guarantees that half of their electricity is from clean sources, the price tag is about 18 percent cheaper than if the energy had come from PG&E. More expensive plans provide electricity entirely from clean sources.

Since Marin County blazed the trail, similar programs have been put in place in Sonoma County and in at least one Southern California community. And about 20 additional counties and numerous cities in the state, including San Francisco, are vigorously exploring the community-choice aggregation option.

So Mountain View, if it follows through with the CCA partnership to provide cleaner and cheaper electricity to its residents, will be joining a growing force for change in how energy is produced and consumed in California.

At last week's council meeting, city staff rightly pointed out that a CCA program could also carry risks. For one, with the burgeoning interest in creating CCAs, the sheer number of participants could nudge up the costs of renewable electricity. But that risk shouldn't stop the move toward creating a system that supports a healthier environment and keeps the pressure on PG&E to develop its own renewable energy options that would allow customers in areas where CCAs might be less feasible to participate in the clean-energy effort. ■

■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

ELECTRIFIED TRAINS NEED MORE BIKE CAPACITY

As a frequent Caltrain rider I'm convinced that an electrified Caltrain is a cornerstone of the Bay Area's future transportation plans.

In recent years, the number of "bicycle bumps" has grown alarmingly. Despite earlier promises that the electrification project would bring relief, I'm disappointed to hear there's no proposal to increase bicycle capacity on the electrified Caltrain. This worries me greatly — not only for my own commute, but especially for Caltrain's long-term business model. Bicycle ridership constitutes a quickly increasing percentage of its customer base. Furthermore, Caltrain's ability to carry bicycles takes cars off the road and relieves overcrowded bus lines.

I'm certainly aware of the need to balance various groups of riders when planning its business,

and I understand that Caltrain frequently finds itself in a predicament as a result. Nevertheless, I urge Caltrain to greatly increase bicycle carrying capacity on the electrified system. Increasing bicycle capacity on Caltrain benefits not only its bicycle-riding customers. The improved traffic and environmental factors that result benefit all of society, while Caltrain will find that bicycle riders can be its strongest advocates and most loyal customers.

Robert-Jan Huijsman
Latham Street

'NET METERING' NEEDS TO BE EXTENDED

Regarding your article (June 5, regarding clean-energy alternative):

I am a college student who is passionate about the future of solar. A change in the energy market is important — especially if it allows more communities to

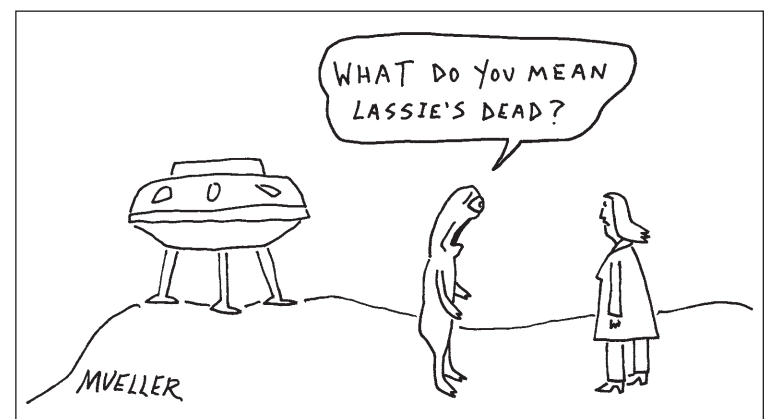
adopt solar energy.

I am writing to you because there is an important battle that is coming up at the California Public Utilities Commission, and will be decided this year, regarding net metering (giving fair credit to solar customers on their utility bills). It will have a huge impact on the future of rooftop solar.

The soon-to-be debated issue has to do with whether net metering will be available for new solar

customers in our state, after the cap that will sunset the program starting in 2017. The utilities are trying to block the growth of rooftop solar because they see it as a threat to their old way of doing business. But Californians shouldn't stand for that! Readers should contact the CPUC and ask the agency to extend net metering into the future.

Abigail Black
San Francisco



SEE OUR PROGRESS in the Bay Area

Bret Hembree

Crew Foreman

CUPERTINO RESIDENT

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Together, we are working to enhance pipeline safety and strengthen our gas and electric infrastructure—for your family and ours.

SEE THE FACTS IN THE BAY AREA



Replaced approximately 15 miles of gas transmission pipeline



Invested more than \$1 billion into electrical improvements



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