

Mountain View VOICE

NOVEMBER 20, 2015 VOLUME 23, NO. 43

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MOVIES | 29



Not just
another
pizza parlor
WEEKEND | 25



MICHELLE LE

Natalie Gallagher, an "intervention" teacher with Castro Elementary, teaches a small group of students during an enrichment period Tuesday morning.

Schools hatch plan to narrow stubborn achievement gap

CASTRO TO SPEND OVER \$500,000 FOR UNDER-ACHIEVING STUDENTS

By Kevin Forestieri

In an effort to raise test scores among Mountain View's low-income and minority students, the Mountain View Whisman School District is moving

forward with ambitious and expensive plans to turn things around at its lowest-performing schools.

Earlier this month, principals at Castro and Theuerkauf elementary schools detailed how they plan to spend more

than \$700,000 between the two schools to improve dismal test results from the new Common Core standardized tests earlier this year.

The test results released in

► See **SCHOOLS**, page 8

Mountain View council rejects study to boost housing

By Mark Noack

Opting for the "status quo," Mountain View leaders refrained from ordering new studies or conversion plans to encourage more housing in town, saying they were concerned about unintended consequences of pressing too hard for more residential development.

The talks came on Tuesday as

part of a high-level City Council study session to discuss changing city zoning maps to accommodate more housing.

Laying out his ideas, city principal planner Martin Alkire suggested that the city could study tweaking zoning regulations, converting industrial buildings or annexing property to encourage more residential development. For annexation, he recommended looking into

'We should just go forward with the status quo.'

COUNCILWOMAN PAT SHOWALTER

locations owned by the federal government, such as a military housing site known as the

Shenandoah property and a U.S. Army Reserve Center just outside the city limits.

But Alkire cautioned that there could be hidden costs. Creating an incentive for denser housing could lead to more businesses or residents being displaced.

"With anything that would make redevelopment easier, displacing tenants would be a big issue," he warned.

The city's planning officials

warned they were overwhelmed by their workload. Community Development Director Randy Tsuda pointed out the city currently has 13 active "gatekeeper" projects, meaning the council has given staff direction to review those development plans. Eight more gatekeeper projects are likely to be submitted next month, he said. Trying to prioritize the

► See **HOUSING STUDY**, page 17

MV lays groundwork for Super Bowl scrum

PREPARATIONS HINGE ON UNDISCLOSED SECURITY MEASURES

By Mark Noack

Mountain View officials on Tuesday laid out a set of basic preparations for handling the crush of visitors expected for the Super Bowl on Feb. 7, but plenty of factors, particularly to do with security for the event, remain up in the air.

With as many as 1.7 million people expected to flock to the Bay Area for the game hosted at Levi's Stadium, the Super Bowl was described as a unique opportunity to showcase Mountain View to the world. However, along with all that attention, city officials warned they faced an uncertain security scenario that would be largely out of their control.

The event would likely bring impacts to the downtown area, but it is unclear exactly what those would be, said City Manager Dan Rich at the Nov. 17 council meeting.

"There's so many moving parts on this," he said. "We don't know the closure of the streets, we don't know what Caltrain is going to

do with their (parking) lot."

Security measures for the Super Bowl are being controlled by federal law enforcement agencies, and even Mountain View police officials say they aren't sure what to expect. But public safety planning will likely err on the side of caution in the aftermath of last week's terrorist attacks in Paris, which included two suicide bombings at a crowded soccer stadium.

On Tuesday, the FBI coordinated a safety drill to prepare for the Super Bowl at Levi's Stadium. Media representatives were initially invited to cover the event, but that offer was later rescinded, reportedly out of concern that security plans could be jeopardized if revealed.

More information will likely be made available in the coming weeks, but many details will need to be kept confidential, said Lt. Kurt Clarke of the Santa Clara Police Department.

"Security will be heightened on the game day," he said. "As far as specific details on road closures

► See **SUPER BOWL**, page 7



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Voices

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Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews
by Mark Noack and Kevin Forestieri.

*What's the most important thing
to get right at Thanksgiving?*



"Joyful, light interaction with your table guests is important. But you could burn the pecan pie!"

Jim Stroud,
Mountain View



"Not having horrible food. People getting along is important, but having good food is always a big plus."

Brandon Moore,
San Jose



"Getting along with family members is important, especially with ones that you would usually have a conflict with."

Harrison Carlin,
Chicago



"The most important thing is having family and plenty of food. But if you drop the food on the floor, that ruins everything right there."

Michelle Kuczynski,
Mountain View



"The most important thing is to be thankful for what you've got because some people don't have much. People who are privileged, they sometimes take things for granted."

Chris Larsen,
Sunnyvale

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CRIME BRIEFS

BLOCKING TRAFFIC

Police arrested a man at a busy intersection in Mountain View on Sunday after he allegedly crossed into oncoming traffic, and later argued with police.

Officers stopped the man, identified as 44-year-old Patrick Ethan Wilk, after he was seen crossing against the traffic signals at San Antonio Road and El Camino Real around 2:30 p.m., according to police spokeswoman Leslie Hardie. Wilk was causing vehicles with the right of way to stop at the intersection, Hardie said.

When officers stopped Wilk to question him, they said he was argumentative, aggressive and evasive with his answers, Hardie said. Wilk was arrested and booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail on charges of resisting a peace officer.

PARKING GARAGE BURGLARIZED

An underground parking garage at the Madrone apartments in Mountain View was burglarized late last week, after a suspect broke into a storage unit and made off with a set of golf clubs.

Police received a report of a burglary around noon on Friday, Nov. 13, and found that the storage locker in the parking lot had been broken into, according to police spokeswoman Leslie Hardie. Police do not know how the suspect was able to get through the padlock, Hardie said.

Golf clubs worth approximately \$400 were stolen from the locker, Hardie said. There is no video surveillance of the incident.

—Kevin Forestieri

MAN STRUCK AND KILLED BY CALTRAIN

A commuter train hit and killed a man near the Santa Clara station Monday evening, a Caltrain spokeswoman said.

The person was hit at about 5:30 p.m. by a northbound train at

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 7

POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

- 1 block W. El Camino Real, 11/13
- 1900 block Colony St., 11/14
- 2100 block Reinert Ct., 11/14
- 2100 block Reinert Rd., 11/14
- 2000 block San Luis Av., 11/14
- 2400 block Charleston Rd., 11/15
- 1 block S. Clark Av., 11/16

BATTERY

- 200 block Castro St., 11/14
- 400 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 11/16

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

- 1000 block Grant Rd., 11/12
- 600 block Ellis St., 11/12
- 100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 11/13
- 1400 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 11/13
- 600 block W. El Camino Real, 11/17

GRAND THEFT

- 200 block N. Rengstorff Av., 11/12

INDECENT EXPOSURE

- 2500 block California St., 11/11

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

- 200 block Easy St., 11/11
- 4300 block Collins Ct., 11/12
- 100 block E. El Camino Real, 11/17

STOLEN VEHICLE

- 1200 block Dale Av., 11/15
- 900 block Clark Av., 11/16
- 800 block Williams Way, 11/17

TERRORIST THREATS

- 2000 block Latham St., 11/12
- 1900 block Leghorn St., 11/14

VANDALISM

- Jacaranda Dr. & Kent Dr., 11/14
- 600 block San Antonio Rd., 11/14
- 500 block Chiquita Av., 11/16
- 2100 block Old Middlefield Way, 11/16

CORRECTION

In last week's article "Inexpensive inspiration," the story erroneously stated that Boutique 4 in Mountain View also has a store location in Menlo Park.

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MAGALI GAUTHIER

KICKING IT AT NEW SHORELINE FIELDS

Nathalie Chan and Lily Symon warm up before starting practice at the new Shoreline Athletic Fields on Saturday, November 14. The city hosted a grand opening ceremony for the field complex on Garcia Avenue that included representatives from the San Jose Earthquakes, the Graham Middle School Band performing the National Anthem and City Council dignitaries cutting a ribbon with giant scissors. More photos are on page 6.

El Camino Hospital launches new digital medical record system

By Kevin Forestieri

After two years of careful preparation, El Camino Hospital announced that its new online medical records system is now live. The upgrade not only makes it easier for patients to tap into hospital services from home, it also means the hospital will be able to share information with other hospitals in the Bay Area on a close-knit

digital network.

The new system, known as iCare, has been an ambitious endeavor on the part of the hospital. The program is expected to cost a total of \$150 million, and required more than 100 hospital employees to leave their posts as physicians, nurses and pharmacists to work full-time on getting the system up and running.

Among its perks, patients will now be able to look up medical

test results, schedule appointments and refill prescriptions online, as well as fill out pre-visit questionnaires ahead of time. It also means neighboring hospital networks like Stanford and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation can access El Camino Hospital's database for information on a patient's medications, allergies and other health problems.

► See **DIGITAL RECORDS**, page 10

Cops pull over self-driving car

GOOGLE CAR GETS WARNING FOR DRIVING TOO SLOWLY

By Mark Noack

It was bound to happen eventually. Google's autonomous car program had a run-in with the law last Thursday when a Mountain View police officer pulled over one of the prototype vehicles for driving too slowly.

After more than 1.2 million miles of test driving on city streets, the traffic stop was the first reported incident where a Google car was stopped by local

police. The self-driving car and its human passengers got off without a citation.

According to Mountain View police officials, the incident occurred in the afternoon of Nov. 12, when a traffic patrolman noticed cars were backing up in the right lane of El Camino Real near Rengstorff Avenue. That street is a 35 mph zone, but the officer said the car causing the congestion was traveling at 24 mph.

The police officer pulled over the car and realized that it was one of Google's self-driving prototypes. The officer warned the human operators not to impede traffic, although it was determined that no law was actually being broken.

For now self-driving cars operate under a set of traffic rules for neighborhood electric autos, which covers vehicles such as golf

► See **SELF-DRIVING CAR**, page 10

MV sets sights on new transit center

COUNCIL OKS STUDY OF ARRAY OF NEW TRANSIT PROJECTS

By Mark Noack

Adding to the stack of transportation-related projects, Mountain View leaders last week pushed forward plans to begin studying a slate of improvements to the city's downtown transit center and a host of roadways.

Built about 20 years ago, Mountain View's downtown transit center was designed to accommodate 1,000 morning commuters, but city officials say that it's getting overwhelmed. About 4,300 Caltrain riders pack the station platforms each morning, with about 2,000 more commuters who take light rail or other transit lines operating out of the facility. Those numbers will continue to rise in coming years, said

ates to study this situation and see how the nearby station and streets could be better configured. As part of that contract, the firm will produce a master plan that will project future ridership, nearby traffic and the features a new station would need in the coming years.

By all accounts, designing a new station is a multifaceted puzzle, in light of several other related developments. In the coming years, Caltrain is planning to switch to electrified trains, increasing the frequency of its service. The Valley Transporta-

tion Authority is planning a new express light-rail service to connect with the Milpitas BART station, which should be completed in 2018.

And any new Mountain View train station would need to

'If we don't act now, we'll be stuck in the future.'

COUNCILMAN LENNY SIEGEL

eventually accommodate California's high-speed rail project, which is expected to run about eight trains each hour through the corridor. In fact, high-speed rail officials are considering Mountain View as a possible Midpeninsula stop between San Jose and San Francisco International Airport, a proposition not yet endorsed by city officials. City staff members said they will learn more about the high-speed

► See **TRANSIT CENTER**, page 16



COURTESY OF ALEKSANDR MILEWSKI

A Google self-driving car got a warning from a Mountain View police officer for driving too slowly and causing a traffic backup on El Camino Real.

A whole new ballgame for Mountain View

By Kevin Forestieri

Photos by Magali Gauthier

Residents celebrated on Saturday as Mountain View unveiled a brand new sports facility designed to give everyone a little more room to play ball.

Mayor John McAlister and Vice Mayor Pat Showalter, wielding a gigantic pair of scissors, cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the Shoreline Athletic Fields on Nov. 14. The day marked a celebration of the city's newest recreational asset — an expansive 5 acres of field space in a city where competition for field time is fierce.

The new fields, located in the North Bayshore area just off of Garcia Avenue, have been in the works for over a decade, and is now open for public use throughout the day. It includes a baseball and softball diamond, as well as several large and small soccer field lines inlaid on top of each other.

The multi-use design got put to use on the first day, as kids descended upon the field to play both soccer and baseball during the opening-day events.

The grand opening included a guest appearance by San Jose Earthquakes player Jordan Stewart and the team's mascot, "Q." After a ceremony and dedication for the new field, local Little League baseball teams duked it on the new baseball fields. ▀



Clockwise from top: Diego Luna is ready to hit a ball at the grand opening of the Shoreline Athletic Fields Saturday; Joey Cannon plays with the San Jose Earthquakes mascot; Vice Mayor Pat Showalter and Mayor John McAlister cut the ribbon as the rest of the Mountain View City Council looks on; Jordan Stewart of the San Jose Earthquakes signs autographs.



SUPER BOWL

► Continued from page 1

or trains not being able to run — we haven't released any information yet."

For Mountain View, the area of focus for game day is the downtown transit station, where thousands of football fans are expected to converge to take light-rail and Caltrain to the game. City officials anticipate about 10,000 visitors traveling downtown for the game.

Security measures for dealing with that crowd were still being worked out, said Mountain View police Lt. Mike Fisher.

"You can anticipate a bunch of impacts, the transit center is going to be the hub for people arriving and going to the stadium," he said. "We're still in discussions with the county, state and federal government."

As part of its discussion Tuesday night, the City Council approved a series of preliminary measures to get ready for the Super Bowl.

In June, Mountain View police officials signed a regional agreement to provide additional officers for the Super Bowl, but in recent days, local police supervisors indicated they were reconsidering that deal. On Tuesday, police officials asked the City Council to terminate the agreement with the Santa Clara Police Department, saying those extra officers could be needed for local emergencies in Mountain

View. Axing the deal also made sense, according to the city staff report, because Mountain View would have been left liable for any worker's compensation claims stemming from the event.

The City Council also gave approval for using four downtown lots for day-long parking for fans traveling to the Super Bowl. Exactly which lots are yet to be determined, but city staff members noted they plan to charge \$20 per vehicle on Super Bowl Sunday — double the current game-day rate. The weekly

Sunday Farmer's Market, normally held at the downtown transit station, would either need to be relocated or canceled, staff reported.

Mountain View business

leaders also asked for the city's help in using the Super Bowl as a local promotion event. Their plan is to give visitors "passports" which will offer discounts at participating shops and restaurants throughout the city.

Leaders with the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce and Central Business Association asked the city for money to help design banners to hang throughout Mountain View and other marketing materials for the event. They asked the city to provide \$7,500 of the \$30,000 cost of the promotion.

The city approved all of the requests in a unanimous 5-0 vote, with council members Chris Clark and Ken Rosenberg absent. ▀

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

'There's so many moving parts on this.'

CITY MANAGER DAN RICH

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

the Santa Clara station, Caltrain spokeswoman Jayme Ackemann said.

Police and firefighters arrived there at 5:39 p.m., Ackemann said. The person was pronounced dead at the scene.

As a result, there were major delays for riders, and the Santa Clara station was closed until 1:45 a.m. A bus bridge transported passengers.

An earlier report of a train hitting a person at the San Antonio station in Mountain View proved to be unfounded. About 30 minutes earlier, at 5:02 p.m., a person walking on the tracks dropped a bag, which was struck by the train.

The person was uninjured, but trains were stopped briefly so the situation could be assessed and

police detained the trespasser, Ackemann said.

FATAL HIGHWAY CRASH

A man killed in a crash on U.S. Highway 101 in Mountain View over the weekend was identified as 67-year-old Phiet Truong of San Jose, according to the Santa Clara County medical examiner's office.

Officers responded to a report of a crash on southbound Highway 101 north of state Highway 85 around 10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, California Highway Patrol officials said.

Officers found one person, later identified as Truong, suffering from major injuries, according to the CHP.

He was transported to Stanford Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead, CHP officials said.

—Bay City News Service



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DIGITAL RECORDS

► Continued from page 5

The upgrade brings El Camino Hospital up to speed with many other local hospitals that are already connected through an electronic medical records system. Epic Systems, a medical software company that worked with the hospital to get iCare up and running, boasts that over 50 percent of the U.S. population already has electronic medical records. Millions of patients are already part of the Epic network in the Bay Area, according to Greg Walton, chief information officer for the hospital.

Now that El Camino has joined in, over 40,000 “exchanges” of patient information with other organizations have already taken place, Walton said.

Key staff working on the iCare launch looked happy and visibly exhausted at the Nov. 11 hospital board meeting, explaining that going live was challenging but mostly successful. The hospital has set up a 24-hour “command center” with more than 100 people fielding questions and problems. Thousands of requests had come in as of Nov. 11, mostly from nurses and physicians in the hospital.

Hiccups and problems include

slower service for patients in the hospital, including delays in the emergency department, and a slower hospital discharge process. Cardiopulmonary patients had to re-register for treatment and rehabilitation, and at one point the hospital had to re-do identification bands for patients because of a glitch with the bar codes, according to staff members.

The hospital will have an in-house security team to monitor iCare against potential breaches.

It wasn't easy for physicians, either. Board member Peter Fung, who is a neurologist, said he thought he was pretty well-versed with iCare, but had to ask questions just about every hour. He said tech support has given him plenty of helpful tips that would have been nice to know prior to launch. He said the command center, which is supposed to be staffed around the clock, was empty during lunch time, which is when physicians have a

chance to ask questions.

Despite the problems, board member David Reeder told the *Voice* that the launch went about as well as it could have.

“We knew it wasn't going to be perfect, but I was very impressed with the enthusiasm of the team,” Reeder said. “I went down there the day after going live, and I was really amazed with how calm it was.”

Reeder, who chairs the board's iCare committee, said hospital staff did a lot of planning ahead of time, which made a big difference in going live with the new medical record system. He said it's probably going to take a month or two for things to smooth out, and the command center will continue to stick around for a few weeks to address bugs and other issues.

Responding to the threat of potential cyber attacks, Walton told the *Voice* in March that the hospital will have an in-house security team to monitor and update iCare against potential breaches. Walton called security and privacy a “top priority,” and said the system has been audited to make sure it's up to government-mandated standards. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

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SELF-DRIVING CAR

► Continued from page 10

carts. To abide by those rules, Google's autonomous car fleet is calibrated to travel no faster than 25 mph, even though that may sometimes infuriate other motorists on the road.

Autonomous cars aren't allowed on roads where the speed limit is over 35 mph.

“In this case, it was lawful for the car to be traveling on the street as El Camino Real is rated at 35 mph,” Mountain View police officials wrote in a blog post about the incident. “The Mountain View Police Department meets regularly with Google to ensure that their vehicles operate safely in our community.”

Google officials point out that their autonomous vehicles are able to recognize when ambulances, fire engines or police cars are flashing emergency lights and, like other drivers, will yield.

Just hours after the traffic stop, Google's media team was quick to point out in a blog post that the self-driving prototype handled the situation appropriately.

“After 1.2 million miles of autonomous driving (that's the human equivalent of 90 years of driving experience), we're proud to say we've never been ticketed!” the company cheered. ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com



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FAA vows to take fresh look at flight paths, altitudes

FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONDS TO FLURRY OF BAY AREA COMPLAINTS ABOUT AIRPLANE NOISE

By Gennady Sheyner

Responding to a rising volume of complaints about airplane noise, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has agreed to take a fresh look at flight paths, plane altitudes and new procedures that would bring some peace to the afflicted skies above San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties.

In a letter prepared for U.S. Reps. Anna Eshoo, Sam Farr and Jackie Speier, the federal agency has announced a new three-phased initiative that will explore a variety of possible modifications to flight speeds, altitudes and waypoint locations.

After a preliminary feasibility study in the first phase, the administration would then spend the second phase further studying any amendments and procedures “determined to be initially feasible, flyable, and operationally acceptable from a safety point of view,” according to an FAA report released Monday by the three House

members. In the third phase, the FAA would formally implement the revised procedures and make whatever airspace changes are deemed appropriate.

The FAA announced its initiative at a time when the number of complaints about airplane noise is skyrocketing and new citizen groups devoted to the topic are sprouting up to lobby change and, in some cases, take legal action.

For many, the problem was exacerbated by Next Generation Air Transportation System (commonly known as NextGen), an effort that the FAA began to roll out last year that standardized travel lanes for aircraft and, in doing so, required planes to share a more narrow band of airspace.

The change was particularly acute for Palo Alto, Portola Valley, Woodside, Santa Cruz and other communities that are located within the flight paths. In Palo Alto alone, the number of complaints shot up from 60 in June 2014 to 2,733 in June 2015, according to a resolution the City Council passed in August. And in Portola Valley and Woodside,

hundreds of residents signed a petition last year complaining about the rising decibel levels.

In August, there were 8,770 complaints from Palo Alto, 12,967 from Santa Cruz and 15,562 from Los Gatos and 2,440 from Portola Valley, according to a report from the SFO Aircraft Noise Abatement Office.

A group, led by Portola Valley resident Dr. Tina Nguyen and Woodside resident Jim Lyons, has filed a petition challenging the FAA’s analysis of the new flight plan and its impacts. Both Palo Alto and Portola Valley have also hired consultants to further analyze the airplane noise levels and consider mitigations.

Other communities, including Santa Cruz and Los Gatos, have also reported growing noise levels. The resolution adopted by Palo Alto City Council in August notes that the number of complaints from Los Gatos and Summit/Skyline increased from zero in January and February 2015 to 3,553 in June 2015.

The FAA’s new initiative doesn’t guarantee any changes, though

it does commit the agency to further studying its flight procedures and to coordinating its findings with local stakeholders. During the second phase of the initiative, the FAA will “conduct the formal environmental and safety reviews, coordinate and seek feedback from existing and/or new community roundtables, members of affected industry, and the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) before moving forward with the formal amendment process.”

According to the FAA’s timetable, some of these analyses had already been launched in early October. This includes the analysis of raising the allowed altitude at several Bay Area flight paths, including the “MENLO” waypoint in the Menlo Park and Palo Alto area. The analysis will look at raising the altitude at this waypoint to 5,000 feet, the altitude to which the FAA had previously committed in 2000. Since the launch of NextGen, residents have complained that the altitudes in the area have fallen to between 3,500 and 4,000 feet.

As part of this initiative, the FAA will also consider moving speed adjustments to over water, rather than land; consider changes to air-traffic operations and the potential for using more “fly-friendly” runways to reduce concerns in certain locations, according to the FAA. The agency has also committed to hold community forums to engage the community about the ongoing effort to curb the noise level.

“Addressing noise concerns in a densely populated and operationally complex area like Northern California is best done in a forum (such as existing and/or new roundtables) that includes community leaders and is supported by the FAA and Bay Area Airports,” the FAA report states.

Though the outcome is yet to be determined, the three California representatives lauded the FAA’s action to address the complaints. In a joint press release, Eshoo called the FAA plan an “important first step.”

“The FAA leadership will follow

► See **FLIGHT PATHS**, page 19



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FAA: Planes flying over Mountain View, Palo Alto hit by laser

By Sue Dremann

Someone has been pointing lasers at the cockpits of jet aircraft flying over Palo Alto and Mountain View — a potentially dangerous action that could interfere with the pilot's sight, according to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The latest incidents occurred last Monday, Nov. 9, at around 10:15 p.m. near Mountain View and Palo Alto, FAA

spokesman Ian Gregor said.

The two incidents were reported by flight crews traveling to San Francisco International Airport.

An Airbus 320 and an Embraer 170 were hit by a laser at 5,000 feet while heading north-northwest about 3 miles west of Moffett Federal Airfield. There were no injuries, but air traffic control notified the Palo Alto Police Department. Officers did not find the laser user despite a search

'Anyone who points a laser at an aircraft can face civil penalties from the FAA of up to \$11,000 per incident.'

IAN GREGOR, FAA SPOKESMAN

of the area where crews believed the beams originated from.

A previous incident on Oct. 26 occurred in Palo Alto near Hanover Street and Foothill Expressway, police spokesman Aaron Sunseri said.

Penalties can be significant for anyone convicted, FAA spokesman Gregor said.

"Anyone who points a laser at an aircraft can face civil penalties from the FAA of up to \$11,000 per incident," he said. "Deliberately pointing a laser at an aircraft also is a federal

crime, punishable by up to five years in prison."

Aircraft were struck once by a laser beam originating in Palo Alto in 2015 and eight times over Mountain View, not including the two from Monday.

Through Oct. 16, the number of laser strikes at aircraft in three major Bay Area cities were San Jose, 83; San Francisco, 72; Oakland, 51, Gregor said. ▀

Email Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweeekly.com

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TRANSIT CENTER

Continued from page 5

rail requirements when the project's draft environmental-impact report is released late next year.

Perhaps a bigger question facing city leaders is what to do with the Castro Street rail crossing, a source of frequent traffic jams expected to only get worse. In previous discussions, council members have floated the idea of separating the roadway from the tracks by sinking it underneath the train tracks in a trench below the road. Similar plans are in place to sink Rengstorff Avenue under the Caltrain tracks.

For Castro Street, another possibility under consideration is closing off the street crossing entirely by having Castro come to a dead-end just before Central Expressway. These options would be studied and brought back for the council to discuss in the coming months, Forsberg said. As part of that review, she explained that the city would study the economic impacts of closing off the street.

But the questions and uncertainty about the transit center eroded some support on the Mountain View council. Councilman John Inks criticized the timing, saying there were simply too many "unknowns" for it to be reasonable to press ahead.

"Looking at the next 15 months ... I'm not sure that the system requirements for the transit center will be established well," he said. "I would save money for now and focus on the things that can be done."

Others on the council took the opposite view, arguing that the uncertainty made it more important to study the transit center now.

"If we don't act now, we'll be stuck in the future," Councilman Lenny Siegel said.

The council approved the contract in a 5-1 vote with Inks opposed. Councilman Ken Rosenberg was absent.

In a separate discussion, the council also approved a \$258,000 multi-modal transportation study, which would examine ways to reduce congestion at about a dozen monitored intersections. City staffers pointed out that Mountain View could lose about \$400,000 in gas-tax revenues if the city failed to demonstrate it was trying to lessen traffic at these spots.

As part of this study, city staff indicated they would also study establishing a new transportation-impact fee on new development projects.

The council approved the multi-modal transportation study in a 5-1 vote with Inks opposed. ▀

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

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MEMORIAL SERVICE

RICHARD PAUL ALEXANDER

An interment service for Richard Paul Alexander, followed by a reception, is set for Saturday,

November 21, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos. A full obituary will run in an upcoming issue of the *Voice*.

HOUSING STUDY

Continued from page 1

proposed studies would create enough work for two extra full-time planners, he said.

Councilwoman Pat Showalter and others on the council expressed reluctance to add more work to the planning division's pile. For all the faults of the gatekeeper process, they were more wary about trying to craft new policies in the thick of a development boom.

"These investigations are a great idea, but we just don't have the bandwidth right now," she said. "We should just go forward with the status quo."

Some council members worried that trying to readjust city policies could backfire if the current boom cycle evaporates in the near future. While it would be good to study zoning conversion and denser housing policies, the staff work needed for those efforts could end up postponing housing projects already in the pipeline, said Councilman Chris Clark.

Councilman Lenny Siegel emerged as the lone supporter of commissioning new studies. Staff could save time in the

'With anything that would make redevelopment easier, displacing tenants would be a big issue.'

CITY PLANNER MARTIN ALKIRE

long run, he argued, since the large number of projects in the pipeline would already require independent review and public meetings. He also urged the city to investigate stronger policies for affordable housing, such as making it a priority for public land or redevelopment projects.

But as the discussion reached its end, Siegel acknowledged he was alone in his position.

"Doing more studies and making sure it's done right shouldn't be a problem. We don't want to rush forward and wind up with the wrong consequences," he said. "The only thing I've consistently heard is that people don't agree with me." ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com



Joe and Sue Cusimano
1946

THANKSGIVING 2015

For Thanksgiving this year, I would like to give thanks for all those who, in 2015, took part in activities that support, or joined organizations who are carrying on the fight against Breast Cancer.

Thank you for the miles walked; for the hours spent organizing hometown events; for the time spent in support groups; for helping strangers like they were your own family; for the doctors and nurses; for the laughter, for the tears, for the smiles, for the wins and the setbacks...thank you; and for the caring.

I want you to know just how grateful I am for your caring, compassionate spirit.

Breast Cancer touches us all. In Fact, it touched my life on September 26, 1991. My mother, in the old, fuzzy photograph above, lost her fight to breast cancer that morning.

So, I am particularly thankful and grateful this year for all the you have done and accomplished.

From the bottom of my heart I wish you a **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

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■ A + E BRIEFS



MIDORI MCCABE

Among the works included in the Artful Holiday Show at Gallery House is **Midori McCabe's** mixed media sculpture, "Portrait of a Family: Taka's Story."



THERESA ROBINSON

Among the works included in the **Artful Holiday Show** at Gallery House is Theresa Robinson's mixed media work, "Meeting."

'ARTFUL HOLIDAY SHOW'

Sure, you could give him another sweater or get her another gift certificate, but what about an original work of art created locally? Now through Christmas Eve, Palo Alto's Gallery House at

320 California Ave. is displaying works by regional painters, sculptors, ceramicists, jewelers, photographers and more. The Artful Holiday Show features works by 43 Bay Area-based members of the Gallery House cooperative,

and their art represents a wide range of artistic styles, from the figurative to the abstract, the formal to the whimsically playful.

The show kicks off with a 20 percent discount on Friday, Nov. 20, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. That

same evening, the gallery hosts a free reception, 6-8 p.m, where members of the public can meet the artists and chat about their work. For more information, go to galleryhouse2.com or call 650-326-1668.

SOCIETY OF YOUNG INKLINGS

Move over Stephen King, Yann Martel Philip Pullman: the next generation has arrived. On Friday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m., Menlo Park's Kepler's Books at 1010 El Camino Real hosts teen authors Jessie Karan, Sean Nesamoney and Megan White for a discussion of their new novels. The event is free. Go to keplers.com or call 650-324-4321.

'ENGAGING CLIMATE CHANGE'

Environmental issues and music serve as the inspirations for Michael Killen's paintings. The artist and former CEO will share his large-scale canvases and discuss his creative process on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 4 p.m. at Menlo Park's Lehman Hall, St. Bede's Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road. The suggested donation is \$10-\$25. Go to killen.com or email stbedes@harringtondesign.com.

► See **A + E BRIEFS**, next page



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KIMBERLY WADYCKI

Tom Bleecker, Marjorie Hazelton, Monica Cappuccini and Ben Ortega star in "Sunlight" at the Dragon Theatre.

A + E BRIEFS

► Continued from previous page

'SUNLIGHT'

The sun may be setting early these days, but that's not the case at Redwood City's Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway, where Sharr White's political drama, "Sunlight" hits the stage Nov. 20 through Dec. 13. The play shines a light on tensions in post-9/11 America. Tickets are \$10-\$35. Go to dragonproductions.net or call 650-493-2006.

'CARMINA BURANA'

Raganellas, glockenspiels, castanets and cymbals: Choral music meets percussion in the Bay Choral Guild's performance of Carl Orff's dramatic "Carmina Burana"

at Palo Alto's First Baptist Church, 305 N. California Ave., on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5-\$25. Go to baychoralguild.org or email info@baychoralguild.org.

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS BENEFIT

Mozart and Beethoven do their part to support the refugee crisis when musicians from the San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Ballet and New Century Chamber Orchestra hold a benefit concert on Monday, Nov. 23, at 7 p.m., at Palo Alto's Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road. Tickets are free with a donation of any amount; all funds raised will go to Doctors Without Borders. Go to goo.gl/ALChyC.

— Elizabeth Schwyzer

FLIGHT PATHS

► Continued from page 14

with community meetings, coordinated through our offices, to explain in detail the FAA's plan to address the noise problem being experienced in our regions," Eshoo said.

Farr also characterized the FAA initiative as a good first step and cited it as evidence that the FAA "is willing to consider the changes proposed by the community."

"For months, the commercial aircraft noise in Santa Cruz and the surrounding area has been terrible," Farr said. "From the beginning, I have told the FAA that they created this mess so it is up to them to fix it."

The initiative, he said in the statement, shows that "everyone is committed to developing some real solutions."

"I hope the FAA will continue to listen to the communities it serves and work with them to solve any problems that arise from the switch to the NextGen flight plan," he said.

Speier, whose district encompasses portions of San Francisco and San Mateo County, called that the FAA initiative a "compilation of ideas that were offered by the public regarding SFO and the FAA's recent meetings in our three congressional districts, as well as requests made by the SFO Airport Community Roundtable." Some of these ideas, she said, may be "deemed workable by the FAA and some may not."

"However, having previously been resistant to taking community suggestions, the FAA, for the first time in many years, has committed to studying ideas submitted by the affected communities," Speier said in a statement. "I am gratified that the FAA is rolling up its sleeves to come up with solutions. The health of those who live under constant bombardment of airplane noise is being seriously compromised and the FAA has a responsibility to take action to address it." ▣

Email [Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com](mailto:Gennady.Sheyner@paweekly.com)

Thanksgiving libations

Give thanks this year for cocktails, mocktails as well as the food

by Elena Kadwany

Thanksgiving planning is typically all about the food — what to make, how to make it (deep-fried turkey, anyone?), whether to stick with the classics or try something new.

What you're drinking, consequently, can end up as an afterthought. This year, don't neglect the libations. Thanksgiving food and fall flavors yield excellent cocktail (and mocktail) combinations. Get your wheels turning below with ideas and recipes from local bar managers and beverage directors.

The Poinsettia

Adam Chick, lead mixologist at Quattro at the Four Seasons Silicon Valley, likes to make what he calls the "Poinsettia," a cocktail made with pomegranate tea as its base. Brew up some tea, add some fresh pomegranate juice and fall ingredients like apple slices, cinnamon and clove. Then, "hit it with some brandy to spike it up."

For those who aren't consuming alcohol, the Poinsettia still works without the booze. "Omit the brandy and you can have a refreshing cooler maybe while you're entertaining guests or starting turkey in the morning," Chick said.



VERONICA WEBER

"The Poinsettia" cocktail at Quattro features tea steeped with cinnamon and apples mixed with pomegranate juice and brandy.

How to make a Poinsettia

- 1 1/2 ounces of Applejack brandy
- 5 ounces of pomegranate tea (1 tablespoon of tea, three red apple slices, one cinnamon stick and two cloves)
- 1 ounce of pomegranate juice

Steep the tea with aromatics for two minutes. Pour the brandy into a tall glass, and add the steeped tea and pomegranate juice. Then garnish with a red apple slice.

Winter Manhattan

Another suggestion from Chick: a winter spin on the Manhattan, a cocktail typically made with whiskey, sweet vermouth and bitters. Chick combines simple syrup (sugar and water) with nutmeg, cloves, cinnamon and allspice and mixes that with whiskey and bitters for a winter version of the classic cocktail.

Chick recommends rye whiskey, "because rye is dry and spicy and it really complements the sweetness of the syrup." Add ice and garnish with an orange twist and star anise, he recommends. (Added benefit: The Manhattan can be enjoyed "after dinner as well because it has the strength to bring you back up to (an) enjoyable level to tolerate your family and in-laws," Chick joked.)

The Abella

Palo Alto's Pizzeria Delfina's fall cocktail menu features what they call the "Abella," in homage to the ancient Roman town of Avella in Campania, Italy, which was famous for its "luxurious apples," said beverage director Sally Kim. The drink is made with rye whiskey, apple brandy, lemon juice, ginger honey, apple butter and bitters.

How to make the Abella

- 1 ounce of Rittenhouse Rye
- 1/2 ounce of apple brandy
- 3/4 ounce of lemon juice
- 1/2 ounce of ginger honey
- a teaspoon of apple butter
- a dash of angostura bitters

Put all ingredients into a shaker with three ice cubes and shake for 30 seconds. Strain and pour into a Nick and Nora glass, and garnish with a dehydrated lemon chip and clove. The garnishes should just float on top.

Holiday Sangria

Bored with red wine at Thanksgiving dinner? How about red wine sangria instead, made with ingredients like pomegranate grenadine, orange juice, fernet and Cocchi Americano, an Italian aperitif wine. "Once the drink is poured and the orange wheel soaks up the sangria, it turns into a pretty purple color and tastes delicious once the sangria is gone," Kim said.

How to make a red wine sangria

- 1 bottle of Vallevio Montepulciano d'Abruzzo (red wine)
- 5 ounces of R. Jelinek Fernet
- 6 1/4 ounces of Cocchi Torino
- 1 ounce of pomegranate grenadine
- 5 ounces of orange juice
- 1/4 ounce of St. Elizabeth AllSpice Dram

Put all liquids into a pitcher and stir. Refrigerate to chill. Pour the mixture into a rocks glass with one large ice cube. Stud the center of an orange wheel with one or two cloves and set on top of ice cube.

Colleen Bawn

Brandon Clements, barman at Mayfield Bakery & Cafe in Palo Alto, likes to serve a spin on the classic holiday eggnog, dubbed the "Colleen Bawn." The drink dates back to the early 1900s when the drink appeared in a now vintage cocktail recipe book, "The Flowing Bowl: What and When To Drink."

How to make a Colleen Bawn

- 1 teaspoon of sugar
- 1 whole egg
- 3/4 ounce of Bulleit rye whiskey
- 3/4 ounce of chartreuse
- 3/4 ounce of Benedictine

In a mixing glass, combine the sugar and whole egg; shake for about 10 seconds until frothy. Add the Bulleit rye whiskey, chartreuse and Benedictine; fill with ice and shake vigorously for 20 seconds. Double-strain into a chilled coupe glass. Using a microplane, grate cinnamon and nutmeg over the drink to garnish.

Pomegranate Gingerade

If you're a non-drinker, try a pomegranate gingerade (Pro tip: Drink after dinner, as ginger aids with digestion).

How to make a pomegranate gingerade

- 1 ounce of pomegranate syrup (for house-made grenadine: use equal parts of POM juice and super-fine sugar)
- 1 ounce of simple syrup
- 2 ounces of freshly squeezed lemon juice
- ginger beer (or ginger ale)
- pomegranate seeds

Combine the pomegranate syrup, simple syrup and lemon juice in a tall glass and add the ginger beer. Fill with ice and sprinkle with a few pomegranate seeds. Garnish with a lemon wheel.

MICHELLE LE

Pizzeria Delfina's red wine sangria is made with pomegranate grenadine, orange juice, fernet and Cocchi Americano (an Italian aperitif wine) and garnished with an orange wheel studded with a clove.



Apple Orchard

Can making cocktails be as much of a family affair as Thanksgiving dinner? Seems impossible, but Shawn Rezazadeh, bartender at Madera at the Rosewood Sand Hill in Menlo Park, said it can be. For the restaurant's "Apple Orchard" cocktail, which really sounds more like dessert than a drink, start by taking the core out of an apple. Save the core to use to muddle the cocktail ingredients.

Take fall-friendly ingredients like brown sugar, raisins, pecans and cinnamon, and stuff them inside the apple and bake it for a mid-day treat or dessert that guests of all ages can enjoy.

"It almost tastes like an apple pie," Rezazadeh said. "It's something to do with the family, with the kids."

How to make the Apple Orchard cocktail

- 1/4 teaspoon of brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon of cinnamon
- two apple wedges
- 1 1/2 ounces of apple brandy (Calvados is recommended)
- 1/4 ounce of lemon juice
- 1/4 ounce of simple syrup

Combine all ingredients into a metal shaker. Muddle until thoroughly mixed. Add ice and shake vigorously. Pour mixture through a mesh strainer into a rocks glass with one large ice cube. Garnish with a cinnamon stick and an apple slice.

How to make spiced and baked apples

- 4 medium apples
- 1/4 cup of brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon of cinnamon
- 1/4 cup of chopped pecans
- 1/4 cup of raisins
- 3 tablespoons of butter
- 3/4 cup of boiling water

Mix together brown sugar, cinnamon, pecans and raisins. Core four apples and stuff them with the spice mixture. Place the apples on a baking pan at least an inch apart and pour boiling water into the bottom of the pan, surrounding the apples. Bake the apples at 375 degrees for 30 minutes. Let cool for at least one hour. Cut each apple along the stuffed core into quarters.

Tales of turkey and tempeh

Local 'turkey experts' share stories, recommendations

by Muna Sadek

Roasted, fried, smoked or deconstructed — there is an abundance of ways to cook a turkey for Thanksgiving. Or is a turkey even necessary? Read on for a number of ways to change things up at the dinner table this holiday season.

Everything's better deep-fried

Adam Karon was inspired to try his hand at cooking a turkey after he attended a Thanksgiving dinner where the star of the meal — the bird — “just wasn't good,” he said. After hearing the hype around deep-fried turkey from many of his Southern-raised clients, Karon, a sports agent living in Menlo Park, took to the Internet last year to find the necessary cooking equipment: 7 gallons of peanut oil, a large colander, an oil thermometer, a propane tank and a stand with a burner.

The initial plan for Thanksgiving, Karon said, was to deep-fry one turkey and oven roast the second, but after a successful dry run, Karon ended up deep-frying both birds.

“It's not a crazy amount of prep (work), and it just cooks so fast,” he said. “It cooks from the

outside in, and the hot oil seals all the moisture inside.”

Karon recommends brining the turkey — which not only hydrates the meat, but uniformly seasons it — for a few hours or overnight to lock in moisture, and then basting it with a large syringe. The turkey should be patted dry with a paper towel to avoid dangerous splattering and then lowered into the heated oil, which should be at 365 degrees for optimal frying. The oil itself, Karon said, takes longer to heat than the turkey takes to cook — approximately an hour and a half.

The turkey takes about 45 minutes to cook through, Karon said, which is about three and a half minutes per pound, he added.

“You pull it out and it looks like you totally ruined Thanksgiving,” he said.

But don't be deceived by the dark outer layer, he said. After pulling out the internal frying basket holding the turkey, let it rest for about 30 minutes before carving and then serving.

After dinner, Karon was left with a large vat of oil, which he used to deep-fry more food. The oil can be reused for up to two months, he said.

Frying should be done outside, Karon added, away from any buildings. He said it is important

to set up a circular barrier of chairs or cones around the frying apparatus so dinner guests don't trip over the burner's hose which extends to the propane tank.

“You read every year about people burning their houses down,” he said. “I didn't want to be that guy.”

Back to basics

Marc Drucker's interest in cooking began when he married his wife, Robin, 18 years ago.

“She doesn't cook at all,” Drucker said, so he started learning how to cook, specifically experimenting with baked dessert and turkey recipes.

Years — and various turkey dishes — later, Drucker of Menlo Park said he always goes back to the classic brined and roasted bird.

Drucker prefers a salt-and-sugar-based brine — with an aromatic of rosemary, juniper berries, garlic, thyme and pepper — to ensure the turkey is moist and flavorful.

He puts the turkey in a plastic garbage bag and pours the brine into the bag until the turkey is completely submerged. Then the bag is stored in the refrigerator (Drucker uses a cooler in the garage) for 24 to 48 hours, he said.

Then he rinses the turkey, pats it dry with paper towels and roasts it in the oven.

Lately, Drucker has been getting into more “interesting” ways to cook turkey, he said. Drucker has experimented with a Poly-Science immersion circulator, which uses hot water to cook the turkey.

Also, “I've got a smoker or I deconstruct the turkey,” he said.

For a deconstructed bird, Drucker cuts off the breasts, wings and drumsticks — parts of the turkey that often go to waste, he said — and marinates them in the brine before tossing them in the oven or smoker.

Smoking a turkey results in a very flavorful dish, Drucker said.

“It's really incredible. It comes out really good with flavor from the smoke that is imparted to it,” he said.

I can't believe it's not turkey

Thanksgiving dinner doesn't have to be disappointing for vegans and vegetarians.

Gary Alinder, a professional chef with 30 years of experience under his belt and a knack for vegan and vegetarian cooking, whips up gourmet meatless meals for himself and guests at Monday night dinners for the Peninsula Macrobiotic Community in Palo Alto.

Alinder, who isn't a vegan or vegetarian, previously worked for a natural foods restaurant in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he drew inspiration for his wild rice croquettes, which can be transformed into a “turkey” dish.

The croquettes are made with two cups of short-grain brown rice, a half cup of wild rice, minced vegetables (including mushrooms, onions, carrots and celery), 1 teaspoon of dried herbs (sage, thyme or rosemary are recommended), salt, black pepper, umeboshi vinegar and soy sauce to taste, and a cup of diced tempeh for added richness and protein. Tempeh,

which has a nutty or earthy taste, is made from slightly fermented soybeans.

Alinder washes the rices and combines them in a pot with five cups of water or vegetable stock and a pinch of salt before covering and bringing the pot to a boil. He reduces it to a simmer then cooks it for about an hour or until the rice is tender.

In a heated pan, he sautes the minced vegetables and adds in the dried herbs. After the rice is cooked, he adds the sauteed vegetables and tempeh to the pot and seasons to taste. He will also add three-quarters of a cup of toasted pecans, stir the mixture until it's completely combined and then let it cool before forming burger-sized croquettes.

To cook the croquettes, he heats olive oil in a pan over medium heat and will fry the croquettes for about five to 10 minutes a side, or until golden and crisp.

Top the croquettes with roasted mushroom gravy, Alinder said, for a suitable turkey replacement for vegetarian dinner guests.

“(It) leaves you feeling satisfied, (and) you can have all the things you normally have on the side like mashed potatoes and green beans,” he said.

Alinder explained that the recipe can also be transformed into a loaf or stuffing by opting not to mold them into individual patties and placing the loose mixture into a turkey or baking it in a loaf pan.

Add cranberries, a common feature of Thanksgiving cooking, to either dish, he recommended.

The best part about a vegetarian Thanksgiving? “No turkey to get rid of,” Alinder said. ▀

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Making sense of latest hypertension news

By Dr. Peter Fung

Guest Opinion

I really appreciate Kevin Forestieri's article (the Voice, "Battling an overlooked killer," Oct. 30, 2015) to bring awareness to the community of the devastating effects of hypertension. I am also very pleased to see the responses/questions you have.

You are absolutely correct if you are wondering what the exact level of systolic (the higher number) and the diastolic (the lower number) blood pressure should be, as the medical community itself has not been quite sure for a long time, and you most probably have heard different numbers from different sources.

The American Heart Association's present recommendation is 140/90 for most people. Over this number, intervention (lifestyle changes and medications) would be necessary. It also says that the ideal level is 120/80. Somewhat less universally agreed upon is the opinion for people 60 and older: 150/90.

Now, after you have gotten and remember these numbers, the guidelines are about

to change! The results of a recent study, SPRINT (Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial), just published in the New England Journal of Medicine on Nov. 9, 2015, clearly showed that the group with the target 120 systolic had a significantly much lower rate of heart failure and deaths compared with the group targeted at systolic BP of 140 in the two groups of 9,300 participants. The results were so overwhelming that the researchers stopped the trial two years early because they could not justify keeping the group at the higher target.

So, number one, you need to understand that guidelines are constantly evolving with emergent clinical evidences. Some very dedicated and devoted people are doing these—our tax dollars and donations at work, and we are the beneficiaries of these.

Number two, even at this time, before the actual guidelines are changed, my recom-

mendation to all my patients and the people who come to my health seminars is: Unless there are any reasons why your blood pressure needs to be higher, such as when you have dizziness on standing up, in the very old, or it requires several different medications to control your blood pressure, and these cause unacceptable side effects, it is better for your heart and brain to keep the blood pressure to the ideal level of 120/80.

You do need to consult with your physician to see what that ideal level is for you. Regular periodic medical check-up/lab tests are necessary.

Please also keep in mind the need for dietary salt reduction, a nutritious low-fat diet, a good exercise regimen, and an ideal BMI.

Spread the word to your family members and friends as we head into the holiday season. Thank you.

Dr. Peter Fung is a neurologist and a member of the El Camino Healthcare District board.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

WHAT IS THE CITYWIDE TRAFFIC PLAN?

I was sitting in traffic on El Camino Real, staring at another apartment complex being built and wondering what the city plan for traffic was with all this building going on.

I'd like to see multiple series discussing citywide plans for traffic, highlighting El Camino Real, San Antonio Road, and Grant Road.

*Shirley Luna
Carmelita Drive*

LOST AND FOUND

On Tuesday, Oct. 27, around 12:30 p.m., I lost my red "Make America Great Again" hat on Castro Street and felt devastated. Given the passions always inherent during election cycles, I had a sick feeling that if someone with a radically opposing political sway found my hat, they would "spike

the ball" by dumping it into the first trash can in their path.

As I had an appointment to keep, I was unable to search until two hours later. Pushing my walker, hobbling on an injured foot, I retraced my path on Castro, inspecting every trash can. It took a long time, but in the can near California Street I found my red hat, unharmed.

As excited as I was, it was also sad to have been correct about what happened. Let's not let our differing passions lead to what amounted to theft. I forgive the person for their impulsive act, and hope he/she is sorry. You'll see me and my red hat again.

*Peggie Bacon-McDaniel
Sylvan Avenue*

HOUSING AT MOFFETT?

The Mountain View City Council's decision to have staff look into building 9,100 homes

in North Bayshore is a good first step in turning what is now a 1960s-style industrial park into a vibrant, urban community.

Urban areas profit from population density, but fitting that number of buildings into the existing developable space will be a challenge. More land is needed; why not ask the federal government to de-dedicate some of Moffett Field, rather than letting it sit and languish? The government has plans to heavily

develop the area anyway, with local authorities exercising no control over the land-use decisions, a recipe for transportation and utility problems.

The cities of Sunnyvale and Mountain View should approach our representatives in Washington and ask them to transfer some part of Moffett to local governments to help address the housing crisis in the Bay Area.

*James Kempf
Foxborough Drive*



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