

Mountain View VOICE

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MOVIES | 21



MARK NOACK

Muslim men gather for the late afternoon prayer at the Seerah Conference held at the Muslim Community Association in Santa Clara on Dec. 12. The annual event focused on the community's challenges amid recent terrorist attacks.

Putting faith to the test

TERROR ATTACKS BRING ADVERSITY TO LOCAL MUSLIM COMMUNITY

By Mark Noack

For the estimated 250,000 Muslims living in the Bay Area, these are the times when faith is put to the test.

Following the Islamic State-inspired terrorist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, a pall of suspicion has been cast on the Islamic community that reminds some of the dark days after the Sept. 11 attacks. On a day-to-day basis, local Muslims say this backlash can play

out through glares, derogatory slurs or cold treatment from strangers. And the animosity is fueled by politicians calling for surveillance on mosques, banning Syrian refugees or Donald Trump's extreme proposal to totally bar Muslims from entering the country.

Even in the Bay Area, a region that prides itself on tolerance and diversity, there are plenty of examples of anti-Muslim hostility. Earlier this month, a group of Muslims picnicking

at Lake Chabot in Alameda County were berated and had hot coffee thrown at them by a woman who saw them praying. Last week, the Santa Clara offices of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (ISNA) received an envelope containing white powder meant to resemble anthrax. The powder wasn't hazardous, but the incident resulted in a full evacuation of the building

► See **MUSLIMS**, page 6

Split school board votes to open Slater Elementary

By Kevin Forestieri

Possibly ending a years-long effort by families in the Whisman and Slater area lobbying for a neighborhood school, the Mountain View Whisman School District board

voted 3-2 last week to reopen an elementary school on the Slater Elementary campus.

Since April 2014, the board has agreed that the northeast end of the city needs a school of its own — it was just a matter of figuring out the right timing. But worries

that the new school would siphon off students essential to the functioning of nearby schools, and concerns that there isn't enough money to fund construction, forced the board to postpone

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Hats off to Cetrella
WEEKEND | 18

A kid's best friend

VOLUNTEERS TEACH MV STUDENTS HOW TO TREAT ANIMALS IN 'CRITTER CLUB'

By Kevin Forestieri

Students at Mistral Elementary's Beyond The Bell afterschool program got a surprise visitor last week, when Rubi, the 6-year-old yellow Labrador, waltzed up to the front of the class. With a tail wagging at full speed, it wasn't clear who was more excited — the children or the dog.

Rubi is a search and rescue dog, explained Steve Garcia, a volunteer for the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, and her job is to sniff out a missing person with her super-human sense of smell. One student in the front row was floored when Garcia said kids would have next to no chance winning a game of hide-and-seek with Rubi once she gets their scent.

"She can smell the tiniest, tiniest things," Garcia told the students.

The lesson on search and rescue dogs was the latest in a series of classes called "Critter Club," hosted by the Palo Alto Humane Society. Volunteers with the Humane Society visit several

schools in the area, including Castro and Mistral Elementary, to teach students about how to treat and take care of animals.

Leonor Delgado, an educator and translator for the program, said they expose students to animals including birds, dogs, cats, rabbits and chickens to give students a first-hand experience with animals. The variety they bring into the classroom depends on local volunteers who lend their pets, but that rarely seems to be a hurdle for Delgado.

"We have a lot of people who get really interested and want to help," she said.

Critter Club started in 2013 as a popular program in the east Menlo Park neighborhood of Belle Haven at Beechwood School — a private school serving mostly low-income students. Delgado said they try to visit under-served communities to teach students about the humane treatment of animals, and started coming to Castro last year.

"We target areas where kids might not get this kind of educa-

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MICHELLE LE

Rubi, a search-and-rescue dog, visits a classroom at Castro School with Steve Garcia as part of a lesson in animal care from the Palo Alto Humane Society.

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'ESCAPE THE HOLIDAY MADNESS'

Whether you love the holidays or find them taxing, it's a great time of year to take a pause from all the shopping and parties to reconnect with nature. On Saturday, Dec. 19, at 10 a.m., Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District will host a free group hike at Picchetti Ranch Preserve, located above Stevens Creek Reservoir. Dubbed "Escape the Holiday Madness," the moderately-paced 4.5-mile hike will be led by experienced docents who will introduce participants to local plant communities. Weather permitting, hikers will share a picnic lunch at Stevens Creek. Wine lovers can linger at the end of the hike for a tasting at Picchetti Winery. No registration is necessary. Meet at the preserve's parking lot on Montebello Road. To learn more, go to openspace.org.



COURTESY DEANE LITTLE

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District will host a free group hike at **Picchetti Ranch Preserve** on Saturday, Dec. 19.

'BEYOND SPACE AND TIME'

Add a little art to your weekend. Join Israeli-born San Francisco artist Chagit Ofir for a free reception at Palo Alto's Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 6:30 p.m. Go to goo.gl/mBiyPa or call 650-799-1854.

'A DARING JOURNEY'

Menlo Park resident and documentary filmmaker Dorothy Fadiman's latest film, "A Daring Journey: From Immigration to Education," tells the stories of three families who cross the border from Mexico to the United States. The film will screen for free online throughout December. Go to adaringjourneyfilm.org or goo.gl/HrYncy.

'POPS HOLIDAY MAGIC'

Don your holiday attire and catch the Christmas spirit when California Pops Orchestra puts on its annual holiday concert, "Pops Holiday Magic,"

on Sunday, Dec. 20. The show takes place at 3 p.m. at Foothill College's Smithwick Theatre, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Tickets are \$20-\$40. Go to goo.gl/rQW1PY or call 650-856-8432.



COURTESY CALIFORNIA POPS ORCHESTRA

California Pops Orchestra cellists Jonathan Humphries, left, Donna Musik and Sarah Gandt share a laugh.

MASTERING MANGA WINTER BREAK CAMP

Calling all manga and anime fans age 10-14: Teen manga expert Valentina Begun will hold a winter break camp at Palo Alto's Art School of SF Bay, 392 S. California Ave. Participants will learn how to draw in both shoujo and shounen styles. Classes take place Dec. 21-23 and 28-30. Camp admission is \$150 for half-day sessions, \$300 for full days. Go to goo.gl/AJx9m8 or call 650-561-6501.



COURTESY VALENTINA BEGUN

Teen manga expert **Valentina Begun** will hold a winter break camp in Palo Alto for manga fans age 10-14.

CHOPSHTICKS WITH WAYNE FEDERMAN

For an evening of laugh-out-loud comedy and tasty Chinese food, head to Palo Alto's Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, on Thursday, Dec. 24. Dinner begins at 7:45 p.m.; Comedian Wayne Federman will entertain the crowd starting at 8:45 p.m. Tickets are \$55-\$65. Go to goo.gl/YkX7zh or call 650-223-8791.

— Elizabeth Schwyzer



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Watch videos of Wayne Federman, "A Daring Journey" and more in the online version of this story at mv-voice.com.

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■ CRIME BRIEFS

WINE ARGUMENT LEADS TO ARREST

Police arrested a Mountain View man on charges of attempted murder earlier this month after he allegedly threatened family members and attacked them with a baseball bat.

Officers arrived at the residence on the 1500 block of Begen Avenue around 11 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, following a report of a family disturbance. Riley Toby Moran, a 23-year-old resident, had allegedly been in an argument with his family over his

consumption of two bottles of wine, according to police spokeswoman Leslie Hardie. Moran was also allegedly upset with family members because he had his phone taken away from him, Hardie said.

During the altercation, Moran allegedly struck three family members in the head with a baseball bat, and verbally threatened them. The victims suffered minor to moderate injuries, Hardie said.

Moran was charged with attempted murder and booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail.

LAUNDRY MAT ARREST

A 19-year-old transient man was arrested late last week after he had allegedly groped a transient woman inside a laundry mat in Mountain View.

The 55-year-old victim was sitting inside the laundry mat at 334 San Antonio Road on at about 8 p.m. Dec. 11 when the man, identified as Jose Armando Laguna, allegedly sat next to her and rubbed her thighs, according to police spokeswoman Leslie Hardie.

When officers arrived, they

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 12

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

2300 block Rock St., 12/10
700 block Telford Av., 12/10

BATTERY

1000 block Space Park Way, 12/10
300 block San Antonio Road, 12/11
200 block Castro St., 12/13
100 block E. El Camino Real, 12/14
2500 block Grant Rd., 12/15

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

400 block W. Evelyn Av., 12/9

DEFRAUDING AN INNKEEPER

800 block W. Dana St., 12/13
1000 block W. El Camino Real, 12/11

GRAND THEFT

2000 block Montecito Av., 12/9

PEEPING TOM

100 block Mayfield Av., 12/10

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

300 block Easy St., 11/25

STOLEN VEHICLE

2100 block W. Middlefield Rd., 12/10
600 block N. Whisman Rd., 12/11
500 block Oak St., 12/12
1900 block Latham St., 12/13

VANDALISM

200 block Castro St., 12/12
Spring St. & Telford Av., 12/14

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

POLICE SEEK GIFT DONATIONS

The Mountain View Police Department is asking for the public's support in the annual "Cops That Care" holiday event, which provides presents to underprivileged kids in Mountain View.

The event will be hosted at the Mountain View Community Center on 201 S. Rengstorff Drive on Saturday, Dec. 19. Over 1,300 kids are expected to attend the event, where they will be able to choose from hundreds of available toys. The goal of the event is to provide gifts to children whose families may not be able to afford them during the holidays — all of the children are pre-selected for the event based on school referrals.

The event relies on donations from the community. Anyone interested in contributing can bring new, unwrapped gifts to the front counter of the Mountain View Police Department

at 1000 Villa Street. People can also donate gift cards online at roonga.com/2015copsthatcare. All gifts will be accepted up until the day of the event.

Questions about the event can be directed to Sgt. Ken Leal at ken.leal@mountainview.gov. Anyone seeking a formal receipt for donations can contact officer Robert Taylor at robert.taylor@mountainview.gov.

SCHOOLS RECEIVE \$400,000 FROM GOOGLE

The Mountain View Educational Foundation will receive \$400,000 in matching grant money from Google this year to help fund tech upgrades, libraries and music programs in the Mountain View Whisman School District.

Google announced in

► See **COMMUNITY**, page 11

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MICHELLE LE

Kirsten Shallenberg teaches Maria how to read the notes to play "Yankee Doodle" at an introductory keyboard class at CSMA on Dec. 15.

Enhancing education through music and art

CSMA PARTNERS WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS TO ENRICH KIDS FROM LOW-WEALTH FAMILIES

By Renee Batti

What do art, chickens, and a very shy little boy have in common? Ask art teacher Whitney Couch, a Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) teacher working with low-

wealth and special needs preschool students, and she might tear up a bit with the following story.

One of her students, she says, "would not look at me or say a word to me" during the first two months of school. "He spoke no English and really



saw me as a threat to him."

But earlier this month, Couch says, "he looked me in the eyes and said to me, 'Miss Whitney, art is my best day of the whole week.'" Her reaction? "My heart melted," she recalls.

Couch is one of two CSMA teachers who work with children in the Mountain View

► See **MUSIC AND ART**, page 11

Google to launch Hangar One cleanup

By Mark Noack

Now in control of the Moffett Federal Airfield, local tech giant Google is set to begin a pilot program to rehabilitate and restore the iconic Hangar One.

In the coming months, Google, through its space-research arm Planetary Ventures, will reportedly start testing out a variety of different methods to purge a mix of hazardous chemicals embedded in the coating of the hangar's steel skeleton. The structure is known to contain lead, asbestos

and polychlorinated biphenyls, each of which pose an environmental health danger for the surrounding area.

Years ago, those hazards led military officials to consider tearing down the hangar rather than pay its hefty clean-up costs. That plan was jettisoned after the local community rallied to preserve Hangar One as a local historic landmark.

As a condition of its lease deal for the airfield with NASA, Google agreed to handle the environmental cleanup costs at Hangar One, which are expected to cost upward of \$40 million. In

the coming months, the company will begin testing out sandblasting and a variety of different high-pressure water treatments to remove the toxic coating from the steel framework. According to the lease agreement, Google has two years to complete the cleanup project, said Don Chuck, chief of the Environmental Management Division at NASA Ames.

Once Google is done with the cleanup, the company has also agreed to replace the panel siding along the exterior of the hangar, restoring it to its original appearance. ■

Trustees butt heads over new school parcel tax

SUPERINTENDENT URGES BOARD MEMBERS NOT TO PLAY 'CHICKEN' WITH CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Whisman School District is in the midst of drafting a new parcel tax measure to put on the ballot next year, and school board members are clashing over changes that could expose the district to a lawsuit.

Up until the Dec. 10 meeting, the board was prepared to ask voters to approve a tax that levied a flat rate on every parcel in the district, regardless of size. The new parcel tax would replace Measure C, which expires in June 2017 and brings in about \$2.8 million a year.

But board member Greg Coladonato disagreed with a flat-tax approach, and said he was troubled by the idea that homeowners would have to pay the same amount as some of the largest property owners in North Bayshore.

"I don't think that it's a very good tax if it taxes the owner of a 37-acre parcel the same as a person who has a 435-square-foot condo," he said. The district's current Measure C tax has tiered rates based on the size of the parcel.

Coladonato proposed that the district add an extra half-cent per square foot levy to the measure, which he said would make it more fair and maybe even more appealing to voters.

Coladonato said the square-foot tax could be tacked on to the already-proposed flat rate of roughly \$200. That would mean the owners of Santiago Villa in North Bayshore would have to pay an additional \$8,000 in taxes to support local schools. Some of Google's larger campuses would also have to pay between \$2,000 and \$4,000 extra.

Whether Coladonato's proposal would be legal is another matter.

Charles Heath, the district's parcel tax consultant, was quick

to note that Coladonato's proposal would be a bad idea, as the district would almost certainly run into legal trouble with a per-square-foot tax. In 2008, property owners sued the Alameda Unified School District over the district's Measure H parcel tax, which levied different amounts based on the size of commercial and industrial properties. Parcels under 2,000 square feet were taxed a flat \$120 annually, whereas the larger parcels were taxed 15 cents per square foot up to a maximum of \$9,500.

After a lengthy court battle, an



Greg Coladonato

'If we're not willing to stand up for what we think is fair, then we've got a bigger problem.'

BOARD MEMBER GREG COLADONATO

appellate court ruled in favor of the property owners and invalidated portions of the district's parcel tax. The per-square-foot tax, the court decision said, violates California law, which states that school districts can enact special taxes only if they "apply uniformly to all taxpayers." In 2013, the California Supreme Court declined to review the case, essentially validating the decision.

Alameda Unified has since had to set aside \$5.8 million for refunds to the district's commercial property owners.

The court ruling sets a precedent, essentially saying that school districts should be wary of anything other than a flat tax that treats all parcels the same. Phil Henderson, the district's legal counsel, told the board in September that the Alameda decision makes clear that the parcel tax must be uniform.

Coladonato said he does not believe the verdict was a slam

► See **PARCEL TAX**, page 12

MUSLIMS

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and three employees were sent to the hospital as a precaution.

Under this backdrop, the Islamic community in the Bay Area is coping with how to respond in the face of many misunderstandings from the public at large.

Mountain View office

Leaders of ISNA say they have a renewed focus on the Bay Area, and earlier this year the organization opened its main West Coast office in Mountain View. Up until recently, ISNA had operated out of its main offices in Indiana and Washington, D.C. Opening a new Mountain View office should allow the group to address local cases of so-called Islamophobia and coordinate the network of mosques and schools in the area, said Manzoor Ghori, an ISNA board member and Palo Alto resident. Along with its advocacy role, the new office also offers a prayer space.

Mountain View's new ISNA offices will also spearhead inter-faith efforts. The most ardent allies Muslims may have during precarious times are the religious leaders from other faiths, said

Ustadh Faraz Khan, an Islamic teacher with the Zaytuna College. He recounted how Jewish and Christian clergy had rallied with the Islamic community to deter crowds threatening to burn down mosques after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. In turn, it is just as important that Muslims show support for other faiths when they face persecution, Khan said.

This type of adversity brings out both the worst and the best in people, said Hazem Bata, ISNA secretary general.

"What we're going through is nothing new — just ask the African-Americans, ask the Jews, ask the Japanese, ask the Chinese," he said. "We're another cog in the wheel."

Facing the challenges

The questions surrounding being both Muslim and American took center stage on Saturday at an ISNA conference titled "What Did Muhammad Do: The Challenges of Being a Minority" held in Santa Clara at the Muslim Community Association. During the all-day event, local imams and Islamic leaders urged the congregation of hundreds to remain engaged citizens of their communities, even if they face adversity or blatant bigotry.

Suspicious among the wider U.S. public about Islam are based on ignorance, and the best remedy is for average Muslims to openly show others who they are, urged Zahra Billoo, who directs the Santa Clara CAIR offices targeted by the powder-filled letter.

"If we're afraid to talk about our faith, people are going to get their information from Fox News," she said. "We're going to get through this. It's certainly more tense now than it previously was."

On Saturday, Billoo talked to a small group of about 20 teens for an afternoon session discussing the contemporary challenges of being Muslim. The young audience was evenly split between boys and girls, many of whom wore headscarves or skullcaps. Asked if they had been bullied at school about their religion, many hands went up in the air.

Billoo urged the teens not to shy away from expressing their experiences as Muslims, whether through face-to-face interaction or social media.

Still, the current U.S. political climate presents real fears, especially for Muslim parents and their children. Farha Andrabi, an Islamic Society coordinator, described getting texts from her

daughter who was feeling scared following the San Bernardino shooting. On a daily basis, peaceful Muslims are reminded through media coverage that they are lumped together with violent terrorists.

"This bombardment of negativity on the screen, how do you escape it?" Andrabi said. "How do you show grief? How do you show that we're just as much grieving as everyone else?"

This is the 15th year the Muslim association has organized a South Bay speaker series. While this year's event had been planned for months, it took on new significance in light of the recent attacks.

For American Muslims, the aftermath of an extremist attack prompts a barrage of many of the questions they have come to expect and dread: Does the Muslim community condone acts of terror? How can the community allow violent extremists into their ranks? Shouldn't they apologize to the victims for their losses?

These questions are loaded with biases, Billoo and other speakers said. More than one speaker pointed out that other religious groups don't face similar scrutiny following atrocities.

A Planned Parenthood clinic shooting, for example, generally doesn't prompt questions on violence in Christian doctrine.

In cases where Muslim radicals did commit mass violence, such as the attacks in San Bernardino, groups like the Islamic Society of North America are left walking a fine line between feeling no obligation to respond and not wanting to sound insensitive. Following the Nov. 13 Paris attacks, ISNA issued a press statement condemning the carnage and noting that violence was antithetical to the tenets of the Islam. Mosques throughout the Bay Area organized prayer circles after the San Bernardino shooting.

Muslim advocates blame media organizations for instilling the idea that regular Muslims owe the public some kind of apology after violent acts perpetrated by others. Billoo urged her audience not to give credence to that line of thought.

"I don't have to apologize for San Bernardino or Paris because I had nothing to do with it, but I'll still condemn it," Billoo said. "I'll condemn these acts, but I'll also condemn when Israeli air strikes kill Palestinian children or when U.S. drones kill Pakistanis." ■



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December 18, 2015

To El Camino Hospital Anthem Blue Cross Patients:

For the last several months, El Camino Hospital has been in discussions with Anthem Blue Cross regarding the terms of our contract. Our goal is to come to a fair and equitable agreement for the care we provide to our Anthem Blue Cross patients. Unless reasonable terms are achieved, our contract with Anthem Blue Cross will be terminated effective December 31, 2015.

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El Camino Hospital will continue to welcome Anthem Blue Cross members with PPO plans and will honor in-network copayment amounts for services and care. As always, we will treat and stabilize any patient coming to our emergency department, regardless of insurance coverage.

High quality, personalized care for our patients is our first priority and we have been reluctant to take any action that potentially disrupts to the lives of our patients. Our discussions with Anthem Blue Cross continue, and we sincerely hope that we will reach agreement before the termination date.

For a list of all insurers with whom we hold contracts, visit **www.elcaminohospital.org/insurance**. If you have questions about this matter, please call our patient accounting office at **650-988-8481**.

Sincerely,



Tomi Ryba
President and Chief Executive Officer
El Camino Hospital

SLATER

► Continued from page 1

the decision in June. The board majority endorsed reopening the school in a straw vote last month.

At its Dec. 10 meeting, the board committed to opening a new school, but agreed that details about when it would open, how big the school would be and how attendance boundaries would be redrawn would be determined at a later date.

Board member Greg Coladonato voted for the new school, along with trustees Ellen Wheeler and Steve Nelson, saying it is important not to delay the decision any longer. Coladonato said the board has a responsibility to alleviate overcrowding at Huff, Bubb and Landels schools, which he said all had tremendous kindergarten enrollment this year.

"We'd be negligent of our duties to let another year of projected over-enrollment at some of our schools come and go without doing anything about it," he said.

District parent Tamara Wilson told the board she believes all the demographic data in the district points towards a big bump in enrollment in the next five years, particularly as the Mountain View City Council continues to green-light more housing. Last week, the council tentatively agreed to allow as many as 1,600 additional new housing units throughout the city.

Slater resident Christina Oran said the expected population growth in Mountain View is going to cause major enrollment growth in the district, and it would be prudent for the district to start building for it now.

"We're just going to need more facilities," she said. "We're going to need another school."

Though the design of the new school remains undecided, Coladonato said Slater doesn't need to be a large campus with permanent classrooms, and could easily consist of six portables if that's what it takes to stay within financial constraints.

But Wheeler said she was hesitant to support any half-measures, and that settling on a temporary solution with portables means the district will risk not attracting enough families to keep the school afloat.

"If people did not come, or they did not (return) the next year, I think you'd do irreparable damage to the idea of a quality Slater in that community."

Decision marks a big reversal

The decision to reopen the school goes against recommendations by two district committees made earlier this year; the committees found that the district lacks both the enrollment and the capital funds needed to build

a thriving school in the northeast quadrant of the city. Doing so, they argued, could severely hinder the education programs at neighboring schools and would leave the district strapped for cash.

Looking at the recommendations, board member José Gutiérrez said he couldn't see how opening a new school could work out. He said the district is already deep in debt, there are no plans on how to handle opening the new facility, and revenue from the \$198 million Measure G school bond has been mismanaged so far. It's also still not clear, he said, how the district plans to mitigate any negative effects on other schools if it opens Slater.

'We spend more time talking about Measure G (and) opening Slater than we do talking about the academic concerns of our district.'

SUPERINTENDENT AYINDÉ RUDOLPH

"I don't hear solutions. I don't find solutions in how we can help a community that's in need of a school and balance that out with the ramifications that would come afterward," Gutiérrez said.

Board member Bill Lambert said opening a new school now could detract from other important district initiatives, including finishing construction at all the existing schools using Measure G money. The recent audit by Cambridge Education revealed significant problems in the educational programs throughout the district, which Lambert said need to be addressed as well.

"We need to focus on completing the current projects, demonstrate responsibility and get our house in order in terms of the curriculum and education that we're providing our students," Lambert said.

Parent Laura Blakely urged the board to postpone the decision, and said the community has lost confidence in the district's ability to be fiscally prudent. At the last update, district staff reported that Measure G construction costs could go \$20 million over budget unless big cuts are made. Constructing a new school at Slater is expected to cost \$30 million, based on designs presented by the district's architect at the Oct. 8 board meeting.

Public support for future parcel taxes could dwindle she said, if the district continues to pile resources into construction instead of education programs.

It's time to refocus on the kids,"

Blakely said. "The district has to shift its gears back to the students."

Former board member Steve Olson was also skeptical. As a member of the District Facilities Committee, he said he spent well over 1,000 hours poring over all the information and data, and always came to the same painful conclusion: Now is not the time to open a new school. Olson said the public deserves a good reason why the board has since decided to vote against the recommendation.

"What I would ask of the district is that you formally respond to the committee with an explanation of what's changed and where we were wrong," he said.

Olson also warned against the assumption that the district has the ability to raise bond money for an additional school, and that opening the school will somehow balance out enrollment at some of the district's most crowded schools.

"If the assumption is that you can decrease enrollment at Huff and Bubb to 450, good luck," he said. "I don't think that would fly."

A problem of micromanagement?

The Dec. 10 agenda called for the board to determine a tentative opening date for the school, enrollment capacity, and whether Slater should be a neighborhood school.

Superintendent Ayindé Rudolph suggested that most of these recommendations be postponed to a later date, and district staff could come back with a list of options the board could choose from. But Coladonato said he was concerned that district staff wouldn't explore all of the options on the table, including his idea of a minimal, six-classroom school.

Nelson said he was concerned the board hadn't given enough direction to the district on how to figure out what the new school would look like.

Rudolph, frustrated with the added requests of staff, said the board has to learn where to draw the line and let staff take over, rather than discussing new facilities at great length across several meetings.

"We spend more time talking about Measure G (and) opening Slater than we do talking about the academic concerns of our district," Rudolph said. "Normally I have the patience of Job, I really do. But I honestly think that enough time has been spent on this topic."

"I hate to lose my cool on this one, but I honestly think that instead of micromanaging the district staff and asking them ... to try and jump through 20 hoops to try and answer a question for the next board meeting, that you simply allow us to do our job and investigate this problem." ■

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**MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
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The Board of Trustees of the Mountain View Whisman School District is seeking qualified, interested individuals to serve on a committee of community leaders which will serve as the independent Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) for the implementation of the District's Measure G school facilities bond program.

On June 5, 2012, Mountain View Whisman School District voters passed Measure G, a \$198 million bond measure. State law requires that the Mountain View Whisman School District Board of Trustees appoint a Bond Oversight Committee to inform the public regarding the District's expenditure of bond proceeds, ensure bond proceeds are expended only for the purposes set forth in Measure G, and present an annual report to the Board of Trustees on their conclusions regarding the expenditure of Measure G proceeds.

Currently, the District is seeking two (2) members to fill the current BOC vacancies and is only accepting applications for those interested parties to fill the Business Representative or the Taxpayer Organization Member positions.

If you wish to serve on this important committee, please review the committee bylaws for more information about the committee's role and responsibilities and complete the application from the BOC website at <http://www.mvwsd.org/bond-oversight-committee>. Applications are due by 2:00pm on Friday, January 8, 2016. Completed applications can be mailed to: Mountain View Whisman School District, Attn: Dr. Robert Clark, Associate Superintendent/Chief Business Officer, 750-A San Pierre Way, Mountain View, CA 94043 or faxed to 650-964-8907. If any questions, please call Dr. Robert Clark at 650-526-3500.

Board considers big cuts in school construction plans

BUILDING PROJECTS ARE WAY OVER BUDGET IN MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN DISTRICT

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Whisman School District must make major cuts to projects on school campuses to get back on budget with the \$198 million Measure G construction plans.

The district, which has overspent on several projects to date, is roughly \$20 million over budget so far on school construction, and risks running out of money before making improvements at all of its schools. At the Dec. 10 meeting, Chief Business Officer Robert Clark told the board that it's still possible to get back within the budget — provided the board is willing to make some hefty cuts.

In a straw poll, a majority of the board agreed to installing new portable classrooms, instead of building permanent ones, in order to save millions of dollars in construction costs. At the district's neighborhood schools, for example, there could be 18 permanent classrooms and any additional rooms could be modular buildings, Clark said.

Choice programs, like par-

ent-participation at Stevenson Elementary and dual immersion at Mistral Elementary, would be the exceptions, and could be entirely housed in modular buildings, Clark said. This could very well alter the \$43 million plan to build a shared Castro and Mistral Elementary campus that the board approved last month. That plan called for permanent classrooms for Mistral. Housing Mistral in portable classrooms would save the district between \$7 million and \$9 million from the project's cost.

Board member Greg Coladonato was thrilled with the proposal, and said the board should applaud district staff for getting construction plans back on budget. Coladonato had advocated for a cheaper alternative at the Castro campus, and voted no on the original plans. He said the board over-allocated funds for the school, and now district staff is trying to find a remedy.

"Which is awesome," Coladonato said. "I'm glad Dr. Clark is trying to make it fit."

Board member José Gutiérrez,

► See **CONSTRUCTION**, page 13

ANIMALS

► Continued from page 1

tion," she said.

One of the eye-opening lessons at Castro was teaching kids about the importance of spaying and neutering cats, Delgado said. Students were taught how to handle encounters with feral cats, abandoned cats and strays, and the "trap-neuter-return" response to feral cats. She said they presented a graphic showing just how fast a population of cats can grow in just a few years.

Last week, the focus was on Rubi and other service dogs. Volunteer Patty Hurley told students that they should be wary of approaching and petting service dogs because many of them are "working," supporting their owners with mobility and other tasks. Some dogs, Hurley told the dozen or so kids, have the ability to sense when humans are about to have a seizure.

Students were audibly impressed to find out that dogs also have keen senses that can detect an earthquake shortly before the ground begins to shake.

Rubi, the star of the show, has

traveled in the Bay Area and beyond to help in rescue efforts, Garcia said. Over the summer they traveled to Redding to search for a young girl who had gone missing, and more recently searched for a lost hunter near the Iron Lakes in Madera County.

Garcia told the students how Rubi is trained to put a leather strap around her neck, called a bringsel, in her mouth once she sniffs out someone. Rubi's training included loads of positive reinforcement for finding people, Garcia said, and the students could see it. With Garcia dressed up in his uniform and equipped with the bringsel, Rubi could hardly sit still.

"She really likes doing it," Garcia told the kids. "She loves finding people."

Delgado said the free program helps teach students as young as preschoolers to be responsible pet owners, but kids can return the favor as well. Students can drop by the Humane Society and help to socialize animals. Many students have offered their own time to help socialize cats at the shelter, she said. ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



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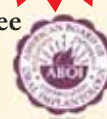
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Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar to the extent possible and will go directly to the nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year, more than 150 Voice readers and the Wakerly, the William and Flora Hewlett and the David and Lucile Packard foundations contributed \$91,000, or \$13,000 each for the nonprofit agencies supported by the Voice Holiday Fund. We are indebted to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation which handles all donations, and deducts no administrative costs from your gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies.

This year, the following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

Day Worker Center

The Day Worker Center of Mountain View provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages and work conditions. It serves an average of 60 workers a day with job placements, English lessons, job skills workshops or guidance.

Mentor Tutor Connection

Mentor Tutor Connection matches adult volunteer mentors with at-risk youth in the Mountain View, Los Altos and the Los Altos Hills area and offers tutoring to many students, including some in high school and beyond.

Community School of Music and Arts

The Community School of Music and Arts provides hands-on art and music education in the classrooms of the Mountain View Whisman School District. Nearly 45 percent of the students are socio-economically disadvantaged, and 28 percent have limited English proficiency.

Mountain View RotaCare Clinic

The RotaCare Free Clinic provides uninsured local residents with primary care and many specialty care services. The clinic is frequently the last resort for this underserved demographic group.

YWCA Support Network for Domestic Violence

This group operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline and a safe shelter for women and their children. It also offers counseling and other services for families dealing with domestic violence.

Community Services Agency

CSA is the community's safety-net providing critical support services for low-income individuals and families, the homeless and seniors in northern Santa Clara County, including Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

Community Health Awareness Council

CHAC serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Among other things, it offers school-based programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse.

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MUSIC AND ART

► Continued from page 5

Whisman School District's preschool program that's primarily funded by the California Department of Education and Head Start, which supports children from low-wealth families. She and her young charges had been immersed in a lively art project that yielded nests, young chickens, and a chick emerging from an egg — and in the process, kindled the imagination and zeal of a withdrawn little boy.

"I love making chickens," the boy told Couch after revealing his enthusiasm for art class. "We then proceeded to have a long conversation about chickens and what he knew about them," she says.

Couch and other teachers at CSMA, located in Mountain View, have many stories highlighting the capacity for art and music to make connections, to help children develop a range of abilities, and to enrich the lives of people of all ages.

CSMA is one of seven nonprofit organizations that benefit from the *Voice's* annual Holiday Fund. Donations to the fund are divided equally among the non-

profits and are administered by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation at no cost, so 100 percent of contributions go to the recipients.

CSMA's art and music instruction in the school district's preschool program "has provided amazing learning experiences for students who would not otherwise have access to these types of enrichment activities," says Terri Wallace-Bielecki, the school district's preschool program director. "Many of their more affluent peers are able to participate in similar enrichment activities outside the context of school, but financial, linguistic and social barriers often prevent our families from enrolling their children in such programs."

The district's preschool teachers, Wallace-Bielecki notes, are excellent specialists in early childhood development, but the CSMA teachers offer expertise in music and hand-on arts instruction, making for a sound collaboration.

"We know that these (art and music) experiences will also enhance development in all other areas of learning, including social, emotional, motor

skills, language development and mathematics," she says.

In addition to the preschool program, CSMA partners with the Mountain View Whisman School District to provide music and art instruction at all of its schools, according to CSMA's Sharon Kenney. The nonprofit also has programs at all elementary school grade levels in about 40 schools in 14 school districts throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, she says.

After-school programs at partner elementary schools include choruses and art clubs.

Headquartered in the Finn Center at 230 San Antonio Circle, CSMA also offers a range of classes for children and adults, as well as private instruction.

The center's Tateuchi Hall is a community hub for free concerts, some of which are geared for the family. The center also features art exhibits, and a new "Arts World" program, spotlighting the art, music and cuisine of specific regions of the world, Kenney says.

Go to arts4all.org for more information about CSMA. ▀

Email Renee Batti at rbatti@mv-voice.com

COMMUNITY

► Continued from page 4

October that it would match up to \$400,000 in donations made to the foundation between Aug. 1 and Dec. 11. The foundation met the funding goal with four days to spare, with renewing donors contributing \$339,000 and new donors giving \$74,000.

"We are deeply grateful for every donation we've received," MVEF board president Adrienne Heiskanen said in a statement.

The grant money will also help fund other programs in the foundation's 2015-16 budget, which includes art classes, environmental education and a hands-on science program. The foundation hopes to raise \$700,000 this year in addition to the Google grant.

—Kevin Forestieri

NEW MEMBERS FOR CITY COMMISSIONS

The Mountain View City Council last week picked two new members for the Environmental Planning Commission, the advisory body that helps review and refine most large development proposals. The new members joining the seven-seat commission are Preeti Hehmeyer and Andrew Heaton.

Hehmeyer, a 21-year resident of Mountain View, works as associate director at the Bill

Lane Center for the American West at Stanford University. Heaton works as a business development analyst and has lived in the city for two years. They were selected out of a pool of five applicants for the commission.

The two new members are replacing former planning commissioners Todd Fernandez and Kathy Trontell, both of whom left their posts due to term limits.

In the same vote, the council appointed Rick Meyer and Merry Yen as new members to the Downtown Committee. A series of other current commissioners were reappointed to new terms for the commissions for parks and recreation, the library, visual arts, seniors, and bicycle and pedestrian matters.

The new commissioners were approved by the City Council in a unanimous vote on Dec. 8.

NEW ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

Mountain View City Hall has a new No. 2 joining the staff. Audrey Seymour Ramberg, a longtime public servant with 20 years in local government, is joining the city's ranks as the new assistant city manager.

Ramberg steps into the new position formerly held by Melissa Stevenson Diaz, who resigned

in September to become city manager of Redwood City. Ramberg last worked as finance director of Redwood City before coming to Mountain View.

Among her previous posts, Ramberg worked for years as assistant city manager in both Redwood City and Menlo Park. She has also held positions in Palo Alto and San Mateo County. Taking the new position means working for her hometown — she currently resides in Mountain View and has a daughter enrolled in a local public school, according to Kimberly Thomas, the assistant to the city manager.

Among her duties, Ramberg will be responsible for overseeing the city manager's office, human resources and other interdepartmental projects. She will also assume leadership when City Manager Dan Rich is absent.

Ramberg was selected for the position out of more than 90 applicants, according to a Mountain View press release issued Wednesday. She will earn an annual salary of \$215,000, and starts work Feb. 8.

—Mark Noack



Audrey Seymour Ramberg



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PARCEL TAX

► Continued from page 5

dunk in favor of flat taxes, and that a per-square-foot parcel tax measure could still pass legal scrutiny. Board member Steve Nelson said he was also in favor of pursuing a more equitable tax, and announced he would be willing to put down \$50,000 of his own money in order to fight any legal challenges.

But the other board members, and district administrators, had no stomach for taking any risks with \$2.8 million in annual funding on the line. Board member Bill Lambert called it “ludicrous” to go against the legal consensus and start a lawsuit when the district desperately needs the parcel tax revenue to fund school programs.

“The uncertainty that’s going to cause to the funding in our district ... it’s just absurd,” Lambert said. “And to think you’re going to resolve this in court in any reasonable time-frame is just nuts. This could go on for years.”

Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph criticized Coladonato’s proposal, saying he was playing “chicken” with \$2.8 million.

“We are already in jeopardy of not passing the parcel tax. The more you add to it, the more in jeopardy you put our kids’ education,” Rudolph said.

Board president Ellen Wheeler said she would prefer to have something like what Coladonato proposed, but that the board has to be realistic and accept the confines of the law. In recent meetings, Wheeler has frequently referred to passing the parcel tax as a top priority for the school board.

“I don’t want anyone to think that because I don’t want to fight a brick wall that I don’t prefer a tiered rate or a half-cent rate or something else,” Wheeler said.

Board member José Gutiérrez said taking a stand on a political matter is a totally separate issue from addressing the needs of students with a new parcel

tax. Gutiérrez told Coladonato that there are ways he can oppose the legal decision, but the school board is not the place to do it.

Coladonato stood by his proposal throughout the meeting, and encouraged the rest of the board to stand on principle rather than on what they thought was less risky.

‘To think you’re going to resolve this in court in any reasonable time-frame is just nuts.’

BOARD MEMBER BILL LAMBERT

“If we’re not willing to stand up for what we think is fair, then we’ve got a bigger problem,” he said.

A majority of the board agreed at the meeting that the best time to put the tax measure on the ballot would be the May 3 special election, but the board needs approval by four of its five members to do so. A 3-2 vote could lead to a delay into 2017, Wheeler said.

Stiff opposition

Things didn’t work out the last time the district tried for a parcel tax based on square footage. In 2003, the it attempted to pass Measure E, which would have levied a tax of 5 cents per square foot annually on property owners in the district.

Heath told the board that Measure E lost, getting 63 percent of the vote when it needed 66.7 percent, primarily because it motivated aggressive and well-funded opposition. On top of the legal vulnerability, he said, the district could face serious political opposition.

Steve Sherman, a parent in the district, told the board that the local landlords’ association was responsible for “single-handedly”

defeating Measure E, and that he had doubts that the district could raise enough money to fight local landlords. In a city where 53 percent of residents are living in rental housing, Sherman said, it’s a foregone conclusion that a per-square-foot parcel tax would fail.

“It would not be close,” Sherman said. “That kind of an outcome would impair our ability to go back the next year and try (to) correct the situation.”

In 2003, the *Voice* reported that Measure E would have been the first per-square-foot tax rate for a school district in Santa Clara County. The tax would have cost the average homeowner \$70 a year, the average business \$370, and some of the city’s largest businesses upwards of \$50,000. The Tri-County Apartment Association, one of the biggest opposition groups at the time, helped to raise about \$79,000 to defeat the measure.

Losing focus

Near the end of the long board meeting, Rudolph chided the board for getting caught up in a lengthy debate about “the politics on the timing of a parcel tax that hasn’t even been approved,” and said it’s a good example of the underlying problems with the board.

Quoting parts of the recent district audit by the firm Cambridge Education, Rudolph said the board often gets caught up in debates that “descend into prolonged arguments that ultimately arrive at no consensus,” which he said is exactly what was happening at that meeting.

Rudolph told Coladonato that his stance was about the fairness of a tax, rather than what was the best choice for the kids in the district, and that it will be the students who suffer if the district loses the \$2.8 million in annual tax revenue.

“This conversation is not about our kids; this conversation is about what you believe is right about the law that has already been settled,” Rudolph said. ▀

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

determined that Laguna was intoxicated; he refused to follow directions from officers, Hardie said.

Laguna was arrested on charges of battery, public intoxication, being a minor in possession of alcohol, and resisting, obstructing or delaying an investigation. He was booked into San Jose Main Jail.

MOTEL TRESPASS

Police arrested a transient man at the Budget Motel in Mountain View last week after he allegedly entered a room he had not paid for.

Officers responded to a report of a trespasser at the motel at 1028 W. El Camino Real shortly after 1 p.m. on Dec. 11. They found that 54-year-old John Damian Leclere had entered an open room there and didn’t have

money to pay for it, according to police spokeswoman Leslie Hardie.

Officers also located drug paraphernalia inside the room Leclere was in, Hardie said.

Leclere was arrested on charges of defrauding an innkeeper and possession of drug paraphernalia; he also had an outstanding warrant. He was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail without bail.

—Kevin Forestieri

Serious about ballet

BAYER BALLET ACADEMY PRESENTS 'THE SNOW QUEEN'

by Elizabeth Schwyzer

Danish writer Hans Christian Andersen wasn't known for his cozy bedtime stories. The 19th century author is best remembered for his dark, sometimes downright haunting fairy tales. "The Ugly Duckling" tells the story of a homely little bird who is bullied by the rest of the flock. In "The Little Mermaid," the heroine gives up her life in the sea for human love, only to find that love unrequited. Among the most famous of Andersen's tales is "The Snow Queen," an epic story of good and evil that features an evil troll, a magical mirror, a jealous queen and the innocent children caught in her spell.

This weekend, the Bayer Ballet Academy will stage an original dance production of "The Snow Queen" at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. Choreographed by the company's director, Ina Bayer, this is the show's second staging; it premiered last year. With "The Snow Queen," Bayer Ballet aims to offer audiences both a refreshing alternative to traditional holiday "Nutcracker" productions and a vision of what can be accomplished through rigorous training and a dedication to high-level artistry.

Founded in 2005 and housed in an unassuming building on Old Middlefield Way in Moun-

tain View, the academy has established itself as a serious training facility for young dancers interested in learning classical ballet in the Vaganova style, a technique named for Russian dancer and educator Agripina Vaganova. Five years, ago, Bayer launched the Bayer Ballet Company, offering her students regular opportunities to perform fully-staged works for the larger community.

One step through the door at Bayer Ballet Academy, and it's clear this is a school that takes its training and performance seriously. Young girls in leotards and tights sit quietly in the lobby, stretching as they wait for their class to begin. Piano music floats in from the studio: technique classes are taught with live accompanists rather than recorded music. In the corner, a standing dress form displays a jeweled corset with a drop waist and full romantic tutu: an example of the costumes for "The Snow Queen," all of which were commissioned especially for this production and custom-sewn in Russia.

"Miss Inna spares no expense when it comes to ensuring a top-quality production," explained parent volunteer Oriana Halevy, whose daughter Karina has been dancing with Bayer Ballet for the past five years.

From the original sets for "The Snow Queen" designed by

a Mountain View artist to the recent hire of master teacher and Bolshoi Ballet graduate Ivan Goliandin, and the academy's roster of visiting teachers that includes former New York City Ballet principal dancer Stephanie Saland, Bayer has set the bar exceptionally high. She's serious about ballet, yet her passion is as much for artistic expression as it is for technical prowess, and her commitment to quality doesn't seem to weigh heavily on her students. Instead, it seems to motivate them.

"The kids of Silicon Valley deserve the highest quality of ballet, both in class and on stage," the director explained during a break from rehearsal last week.

"This is a beautiful area full of educated, smart people," she noted. "It's very international, and people here value children's education — they value serious classes with serious results."

Serious results she has had; among Bayer's current students is Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School eighth grader Alina Taratorin, a three-time first place winner at the World Ballet Competition. Taratorin will play the lead role of Gerda in this year's "Snow Queen" production.

Such student achievements are a source of pride, yet they're not the primary goal at the academy, where the majority of students have no intention of pursuing a professional career in dance. Instead, like Los Altos High School freshman Karina Halevy, most students value the training in its own right.

At 5 feet 10 inches tall, Halevy



SHARON PENG

Bayer Ballet Company will perform an original production of "The Snow Queen" at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts.

towers above the rest of the girls in her technique class.

"Pirouettes have always been a challenge," she explained. "Every time I find my balance, I grow and have to learn them again." Rather than finding the process discouraging, Halevy described the constant struggle to teach her body to perform the technique properly as "rewarding."

"Ballet has taught me never to give up," she noted. "I never say, 'I can't.' I always say, 'Just give me a little time to get it.'"

Like the Danish author whose stories combine a certain severity with an undeniable magic, Inna Bayer offers an unusual combination of no-nonsense rigor and true warmth. During rehearsal, she stands at the front of the studio calling out both praise and correction as the girls dance. "Beautiful, Anya — beautiful, Masha!" she shouts. A moment later, she stops the music to dem-

■ INFORMATION

What: "The Snow Queen," presented by Bayer Ballet

Where: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street

When: Saturday, Dec. 19 and Sunday, Dec. 20, 1 and 6 p.m.

Cost: \$40-\$50

Info: Go to bayerballetacademy.com or mvcpa.com, or call 650-903-6000.

YouTube videos of Bayer Ballet's "The Snow Queen":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Moxl39s5RsE&feature=youtu.be>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISVQ_YWoNiW

Bayer Ballet Academy website: <http://bayerballetacademy.com>

onstrate what she doesn't want to see. Hopping around awkwardly with her head bent forward and her knees jutting out to the sides, she makes the girls giggle. "This is horsey," she says, smiling widely at them. "Don't give me this. Again." The dancers fall quickly back into position, determined to do better.

This year, after many years in what her mother referred to as "wallpaper roles," Halevy will dance the role of the Snow Queen. Performing on stage is the ultimate reward for so many hours of hard work in the studio, Halevy said.

Taratorin agreed. "When I go on stage, I feel a different kind of happy — an out of the this world happy — it's glorious." ■

Email Elizabeth Schwyzer at eschwyzer@pawekly.com

CONSTRUCTION

► Continued from page 9

on the other hand, said he felt like it amounted to the board going back on its word. The board had gone through a "whole song and dance" at previous meetings and finally approved the plans, Gutiérrez said, only for the board to decide on cuts without consulting with the Mistral community first.

But the situation has changed "dramatically" since then, said board member Bill Lambert, who voted in favor of the original Castro construction plans. He said the board recently approved building a new school at Slater Elementary, which means the district has to be careful how it spends its limited budget.

"I firmly believe now that we have to be extremely cost-conscious as a district and conserve our resources as much as possible," Lambert said.

Gutiérrez later told the *Voice* that he wants to avoid going back and forth on construction plans

any more, and that the Castro community has already been through two or three rounds of budget cuts. Castro families, he said, are worried they'll have to go through another difficult round of construction reviews.

"The inability to have a concrete plan and stick to it is my main concern," Gutiérrez said. "I don't want any of the other schools to go through what Castro and Mistral have been going through right now."

Another shared campus?

Another key issue left unresolved earlier this year is whether to build a shared campus for the adjacent Stevenson and Theuerkauf elementary schools, where both schools would share facilities such as a multipurpose room and library. The shared campus would not only save on construction costs, but would also make better use of the limited space at the site.

Board members Steve Nelson, Coladonato and Gutiérrez said they would be willing to see what design options are available and

whether a deal can be brokered between the two schools. But board president Ellen Wheeler said she heard "loud and clear" from both schools that their communities were not comfortable with the idea of sharing facilities.

Also on the chopping block was the district office, which is expected to cost \$6 million for new construction, or \$4 million for extensive renovation, or \$2 million for bare-bones fixes, Clark said. While a majority of the board said they would be willing to scrap the more ambitious plans to improve the district office if money is tight, Lambert made a point to say that it's important to have a quality, permanent facility for the district office that parents can be proud of. That isn't the case right now, Lambert said.

"It's really embarrassing, what we have right now," he said.

New funding sources

While the Measure G budget is completely strapped for cash right now, there are other

sources of money that could fund district construction and make up the difference. A total of \$1 million in deferred maintenance, \$6 million in developer fees and \$7.5 million in Shoreline reserves are up for grabs, and a majority of the board agreed it's time to use that money to balance the budget.

The Shoreline money comes from an agreement between the city of Mountain View and the Mountain View Whisman School District to funnel roughly \$3 million in tax revenue from the Shoreline Regional Park Community special tax district to the school district. The deal, which was brokered between the city and neighboring school districts four years ago, means the district now receives a portion of the \$8 million in property taxes that are diverted to the Shoreline tax district.

While the money is earmarked for technology-related programs, the district can use it for construction of school facili-

ties. But the board has gone back and forth on whether that's an appropriate use of the funds. Last year, the board approved using Shoreline reserves to pay for classroom facilities at both Graham and Crittenden Middle School.

But earlier this year, under Interim Superintendent Kevin Skelly, staff recommended that the board revert back to strictly using Measure G bond funds, and instead use the Shoreline reserves to pay for three years of professional development and Common Core preparation at the district's lowest performing schools, Castro and Theuerkauf.

Nelson complained about the back and forth from staff, and said the money would be better spent on academic programs than construction.

"It's lost opportunity money if we spend it on buildings," Nelson said. "Buildings don't teach kids. Buildings aren't learning programs." ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

Building sandcastles in December

Local families take holiday festivities outdoors to create special memories

By Chrissi Angeles

Although snowy white winters are not typical in the Bay Area, local families have taken advantage of the Peninsula's sunny holiday season by heading outdoors to create their own winter traditions — spanning from train rides in the redwoods of the Santa Cruz mountains to exploring the beaches of Half Moon Bay.

This past summer, Mountain View resident Shayla Danenberg created a to-do list of state beaches and parks to visit with her husband and their four children, ranging in age from 3 years to 5 months old.

The initial plan, she said, was to start a weekly family tradition as a way to get her children to reflect upon each weekend with more enthusiasm. After documenting each trip by creating videos using Google Pictures, Danenberg's son seemed more receptive to having conversations about what he did each day. This observation led to plans to continue the tradition into the holiday season.

"We said, 'Why don't we just get (the kids) some warmer coats and go through the list of beaches and state beaches?' Within our area there are so many different

beautiful places to see. We've been doing this for about three months. We're pretty serious about it!" she said, laughing. "It started out as a summer thing, and it's been a little bit colder, but we still want to keep it up."

"I really want my kids to see these memories. There are so many ways for them to see their memories now with YouTube, photo books and stuff like that. I'm inspired to show them what they do," she said. "I think my husband's inspiration is (that) he wants to show them the outdoors. It makes family life more fun."

In November, the family took a trip to Half Moon Bay to experience the crisp fall weather, sandy beaches and autumn colors. After spending the afternoon building sand castles and searching for sand crabs, they packed up for a trip home along Highway 17. Along the route they purchased a Christmas tree at Santa's Village in Scotts Valley. For the Danenberg family, it's not just about the destination — it's about the experience on the way there.

After nearly two seasons of taking weekend road trips around the Bay Area with her family, Danenberg has become adept at preparing for messy scenarios. Before each trip she



COURTESY OF DANENBERG FAMILY

The Danenberg family — Peter, holding Arete, 2, and Chronos, 5 months, and Shayla, holding Aletheia, 18 months, and Kairos, 3 — ventured into Big Basin Redwoods State Park in Boulder Creek on Nov. 27.

packs extra clothes, shoes and towels for everyone. Moist towels and wipes have also become a crucial part of her road-trip packing. Hiking shoes have taken up permanent real estate in their car for impromptu hikes.

Danenberg mentioned that her favorite outdoor memory took place at Roaring Camp Railroads in Felton. On this particular afternoon, she witnessed her husband taking in the sights of the redwood trees on an open-air steam-train ride bound to the summit of Bear Mountain as he embraced their youngest child.

"It was kinda sweet to see my husband bonding with our baby. I thought it was pretty cute," she said.

Although she has enjoyed the experience of getting out of town each weekend, Danenberg stated

that having the chance to see the changing seasons through her children's eyes has brought her the most joy.

"We don't like to rush the kids," she said. "We go at their pace. Look around; have them tell you what they're looking at. Get your essential stuff, grab your family and go have fun somewhere."

Visiting the coast

Mountain View resident Miguel Luna and his family have been visiting the coast each Christmas for the past four years. Luna enjoys the traditional aspects of the holiday season, such as holiday light displays and Christmas music, but said that his family's annual Christmas tradition of visiting the coast has become a more pivotal part of his holiday season.

"It was Christmas Day ... and my dad was like, 'Hey, you guys wanna go to the beach?' And my

brothers and I were kinda looking at each other like, 'Uh, you're kinda crazy, Dad! It's kinda cold to go to the beach.'"

After a bit of debate, the Luna family embarked on its first Christmas Day trip to see the ocean. Upon arrival in Half Moon Bay, Luna and his family noticed that other thrill-seeking families had already arrived at the beach, with bonfires ablaze.

"We all kinda shared the same idea; we all wanted to get away from all the crazy stuff going on with the holidays, like shopping and traffic."

After the birth of his daughter Audrey Elena, who will turn 2 years old in January, Luna was determined to return to the coast with his daughter. With a diaper bag, warm drinks and extra blankets in tow — the Luna family introduced their youngest family member to the coast for her first Christmas.

"She's still really young, but it was nice to be at the beach with her. We went out there, and it was a little on the windy side so we took some blankets, grabbed some coffee and we walked around a little bit and collected a few rocks," Luna said.

"It was really nice being out there and being able to hold my daughter and telling her, 'This is the ocean!' She was kinda cold; cuddling up to me, and I thought, 'Wow, look at this; this is amazing.' I can't wait to do it again this year."

The Luna family has accumulated an ample collection of sand-blown rocks found along the shore after each coastal holiday. Each rock is marked with the date it was found, along with a few words or quotes to describe the day. No two rocks within the collection are alike; Luna jokingly noted that he now owns what he calls a "pet rock," which resembles the characteristic features of a human face.

If a winter day indoors seems to be taking a turn towards monotony, Luna suggests that families rekindle their sense of adventure by visiting Shoreline Lake in Mountain View. Families can take in a panoramic view of the San Francisco Bay, fly a kite, ride their bikes along the coastal trails or check out the ducks and geese inhabiting the area. Further up the Peninsula, Luna said that the atmosphere of Stulsaft Park in Redwood City feels like a forest getaway in the middle of the city.

"I'm no longer stressed when we visit the parks. If you can, put the phones down and put them away. ... It's family time," Luna said. ▀

Editorial Intern Chrissi Angeles can be emailed at cangeles@paweb.com.

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VERONICA WEBER

The Terman family enjoys a variety of activities, whether at home in Palo Alto or on the road. Nadine Terman, left, plays strategy-game Blokus with her 7-year-old twins Zack and Sabrina.

Kids driving you crazy?

Planning ahead can take the trauma out of travel

By Carol Blitzer

*Over the river and through the woods
To Grandfather's house we go.*

*The horse knows the way to carry
the sleigh*

Through white and drifted snow.

— Lydia Maria Child

Sure, in the olden days, just getting to grandpa's house was an adventure. These days, whether traveling long distances by car or by plane, it can be less of an adventure and more of a royal pain — unless you're prepared.

Nadine Terman, a Palo Alto mother of a 9-year-old and 7-year-old twins, aims for somewhere "between surprise and order" when preparing for long trips. That translates to a backpack for each child, with "a blanket or stuffy or book. The rest is a surprise," she said.

She's found a resource online, KrazyDad (krazydad.com), which offers free downloadable mazes and printable puzzles. "Each kid gets something exciting to work on: word searches, mazes, blank paper and a new set of crayons, markers. ... They tend to create their own drawings. ... I print out 50 mazes per kid (of varying difficulty)," she said.

Origami paper is tucked into each backpack ("It takes time to perfect new ones," she said) as well as little packets from Michaels. She aims for things that keep them occupied and are fun, such as Creatology projects that can take "an hour to build a foam house," she said.

"I do the same thing for everybody so no fights," she added.

Normally, the Terman kids are allowed 20 minutes of iPad time, but on a long plane ride that could be extended to 45 minutes to an hour.

"The problem is, if you let them have screen (time) too much, their necks will hurt. You want projects where

they're moving their arms and neck, turning to the side to look at you, are more engaged," she said.

Halfway through the flight, the Termans play musical chairs, switching who gets to sit next to Mom. "Our kids do like to sit next to a stranger; we're five people, we can't sit in full row. We've met nice people who fully engage with them. It's really cute," she added.

Amy and Evan Silletto have had plenty of practice driving to Southern California with their now 3-year-old son, Evan. The Mountain View family heads south about once a month to visit grandma, embarking on an eight-hour trip in the car.

But instead of packing tons of toys, they mostly engage him in conversation.

"If we observe a train from the highway, we'll talk about it. We'll talk about anything. He likes to look out the window," Amy said, adding that they do play observation games, such as finding all the blue cars.

"It helps to make stops every few hours. Then he can run around, get some energy out," she said.

"We usually stop for food; it breaks up the trip and gives him a chance. In a plane, that's not a possibility. On a plane, I'd bring snacks — goldfish and graham crackers — I try to bring something he likes," she added.

Depending on the age of the children, other parents have found a variety of ways to entertain them on long car or plane rides.

But Annie Jenkins of East Palo Alto probably summed it up best in her email: "I love all of these great activities that don't involve just handing the kid an iPad... good ol' fashioned I Spy, count the cars plain look out the window! That's what we used to do when I was a kid." ▀

Freelance writer Carol Blitzer can be emailed at cblitzer@sbcglobal.net.

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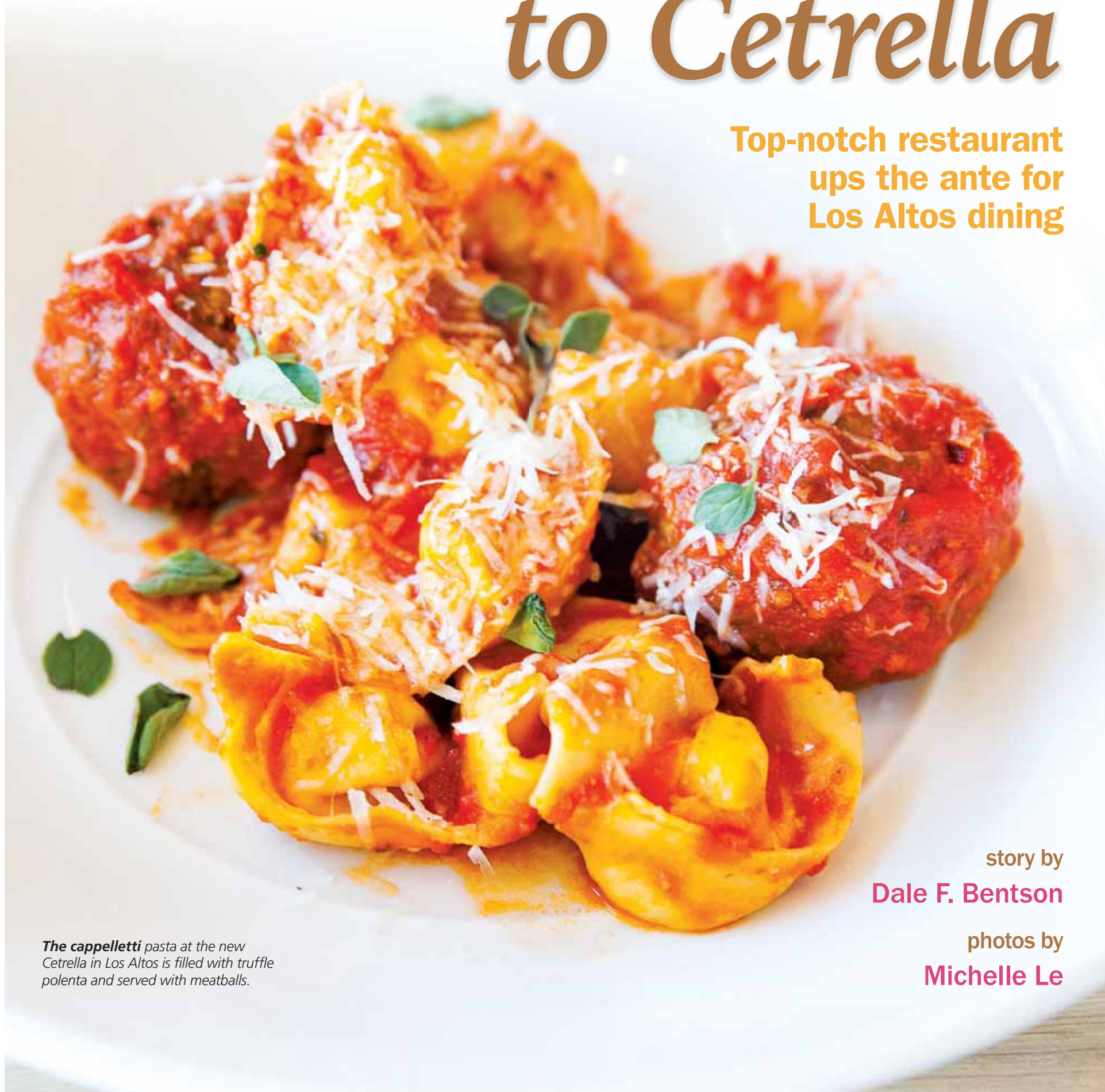
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Hats off to Cetrella

Top-notch restaurant
ups the ante for
Los Altos dining



The cappelletti pasta at the new Cetrella in Los Altos is filled with truffle polenta and served with meatballs.

story by
Dale F. Bentson

photos by
Michelle Le

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

First, a doff of the hat to the food, service and decor at 4-month-old Cetrella on Main Street in Los Altos. It's pronounced "Che-trella," by the way, and named after a lush valley on the Isle of Capri. Now that we're speaking the same language, we can talk about the mouthwatering California-Mediterranean cuisine prepared by Chef Michael Ellis.

An East Coaster, Ellis learned his craft in Washington, D.C. at the Ritz-Carlton, Watergate Hotel and Charlie Palmer's kitchens. A decade ago, Palmer relocated Ellis to his Dry Creek Kitchen in Healdsburg, where Ellis eventually became executive chef and the restaurant earned a Michelin star. More recently, Ellis cooked in San Francisco and the Palo Alto area before joining Cetrella.

The menu is almost too big with 14 starters, eight pastas and eight entrees. It took some time to decide what to order, because everything sounded tantalizing. Nothing we tried disappointed, from the organic Tuscan kale salad (\$12) with pears, pecorino cheese, sunflower seed kernels and roasted shallot and sherry vinaigrette to the mouthwatering seared diver scallops (\$36) with braised Thompson River Ranch wagyu beef, salsify and truffle.

Every dish was expertly prepared, artistically plated and served with perfect timing by both kitchen and waitstaff. The servers knew their stuff, too, and could answer any question tossed their way about ingredients and preparation. Water glasses were discretely filled and utensils quietly replaced.

Succulent and meaty Saltspring Island mussels (\$16) from British Columbia were steamed in white wine, accented with harissa butter and green onions, and served with a hunk of grilled house-baked ciabatta.

The grilled marinated Spanish octopus (\$18) presentation resembled an artist's palette. Pieces of the octopus were placed over thin slices of fingerling potatoes, then over a smear of avocado purée. Charred lemon and dots of red romesco sauce resembling paint droplets infused the plate with color, while micro-cilantro added flourish to the platter.

The bruschetta (\$12) was equally colorful and almost a meal in itself. Smothering the grilled bread was jambon de Bayonne (a salted, air-dried ham from southwest France), marinated mozzarella, radish, frisée, fruity Spanish Arbequina olive



Grilled Spanish octopus is artistically presented with avocado purée and red romesco sauce.

oil and saba (an Italian syrup made from a reduction of grape must). It was a most unexpected and exciting bruschetta.

The black pepper tonnarelli (square spaghetti) carbonara (\$24) with pancetta, sweet onion puree and flakes of pecorino cheese was topped

with a duck egg yolk. The black pepper in the pasta turned the strands brown, and with the egg atop, the dish resembled a most edible nest. The pepper added pep to the pasta, but it wasn't spicy.

► Continued on next page

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Cetrella's chocolate trio layers cake with milk chocolate and dark chocolate mousse.

► Continued from previous page

Fat, aromatic cappelletti (\$24), which resemble tortellini, were filled with truffle polenta and accompanied by organic pork-and-beef meatballs in a light tomato sauce, all topped with pecorino and fresh oregano. The dish was perfumed and earthy.

Braised, fork-tender short rib (\$28) with fingerling potatoes, baby carrots and cipollino

onions was crowned with grated fresh horseradish and herbs. The texture and temperature made it the perfect comfort food.

For dessert, frozen lemon mousse (\$9), chocolate cake (\$10) and a Basque cake (\$9) with blood orange segments and blood orange sorbet were irresistible conclusions.

The wine list was deep in first-class reds from the West Coast, France and Italy. There was a

particularly nice selection of Oregon pinot noirs, as well as many local options. The bar menu offered a half-dozen bar bite selections including pizza from the wood oven.

While the building that sits on the corner of Main and 1st streets is rather bland, Cetrella's interior is contemporary, with lush appointments in the bar and separate dining room. Floor-to-ceiling windows line

the entire dining room and offer a street panorama with a view of passers-by. While the space is bright and airy, it's more elegant at night.

The dining room features several long banquette booths, which make conversation nearly impossible for those seated at opposite ends. There are also tables for twos and fours, an open kitchen, private dining rooms and space for the jazz combos that perform on weekends. Overall, it's an inviting and comfortable space.

Los Altos marks Cetrella's second location; the original in Half Moon Bay still garners accolades. M'hamed Bahet is the partner and general manager who orchestrates everything from the kitchen to server training at both restaurants. Bahet said he has been looking for a suitable location in the area for six years.

"A high percentage of the Half Moon Bay business comes from over the hill," he explained. "We wanted to make it easier for people on this side to get to us." Hats off to a new and enticing dining experience in downtown Los Altos. ▀

Email Dale Bentson at dfbentson@gmail.com.

DINING NOTES

Cetrella

400 Main Street, Los Altos
650-948-0400
cetrella.com

Hours:

Lunch:

Mon.–Fri., 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Dinner: Sun.–Thu.,
5–9:30 p.m.;

Fri.–Sat., 5–10 p.m.

Brunch:

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(650) 386-6471

www.TheVoyaRestaurant.com



COURTESY OF LUCASFILM

Harrison Ford and Peter Mayhew return in "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

'Force' majeure

MEET THE NEW 'STAR WARS,' SAME AS THE OLD 'STAR WARS'

★★★ (Century 16, Century 20)

If you like "Star Wars" at all, you need to see "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," J.J. Abrams' 30-years-later sequel to "Star Wars: Return of the Jedi." No spoilers here, I promise. I will say a few things, though, about this ultimate in critic-proof movies.

There's nothing bold or particularly unexpected about the script by Abrams, Lawrence Kasdan and Michael Arndt or the direction by Abrams. Lucasfilm

(sold by founder and "Star Wars" creator George Lucas in 2012), Disney and the creative trust have agreed to stay true to the franchise's established universe, characters and style, inviting back old characters and establishing new ones capable of winning young hearts.

The big innovation here is to put a young woman front and center. Although Rey (Daisy Ridley) proves conspicuously

unconvincing in muscling opponents off their feet in an early fight scene, she's entirely credible behind a blaster or the controls of the Millennium Falcon. If Rey is the new Luke, "best pilot in the resistance" Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac) and new recruit Finn (John Boyega) are the new Han, and orange is the new droid, by which I mean super-cute droid BB-8. CGI characters Maz Kana'ta (Lupita Nyong'o) and Supreme Leader Snoke (Andy Serkis) are essentially the new Yoda and Emperor, respectively; General Hux (Domhnall Gleeson) is the new Grand Moff Tarkin and Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) is the new Darth Vader — with a twist.

Just about everything in "The Force Awakens" serves as a pastiche to the original trilogy, including the sandy, snowy and forested planets and the Death Star-style headquarters of mass destruction: Starkiller Base. The strategy is in keeping with Lucas' creative approach of cyclical storytelling and also serves as a stylistic rebuke to his digi-fied 1999-2005 prequel trilogy. Here, we get varying degrees of screen time from Solo (Harrison Ford),

who still has the old chemistry with Chewbacca (Peter Mayhew); Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill), General Leia Organa (Carrie Fisher), C-3PO (Anthony Daniels) and R2-D2.

Ford's the best thing about "TFA" and nails all the best lines, while the new cast acquit themselves admirably, suggesting future installments stand on solid ground. In story terms, the film can be dimwittedly obvious and self-plagiarizing, with little of real-world consequence and even less that's new (the Empire remains fascist while the Force remains a spiritual energy that

can tip powerfully to good or evil). Abrams makes epic use of the frame when he can (which is most of the time), and visual effects and production design remain the franchise's most convincing claims to artistry.

Of course, artistry isn't the point, so is "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" a fun-filled adventure at the movies and a license to print money? Yes and yes, with repeat business assured from pop-eyed kids and their tear-wipingly nostalgic parents. *Rated PG-13 for sci-fi action violence. Two hours, 15 minutes.*

— Peter Canavese

MOVIE TIMES

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip (PG)

Century 16: 9:30 a.m., noon, 2:30, 4:55, 7:30 & 9:55 p.m. **Century 20:** 9:30 a.m., 12:05, 2:30, 3:45, 5, 6:15, 7:30, 8:45, 10 & 11:15 p.m., Fri 10:40 a.m. & 1:05 p.m., Sat & Sun 10:45 a.m. & 1:15 p.m.

Bijirao Mastani (Not Rated)

Century 16: 10:05 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Brooklyn (PG-13) ★★★1/2

Century 16: 8:20 & 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:35, 7:35 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:30 a.m., Sat & Sun 7:40 p.m.

Carol (R) Palo Alto Square: 1, 3:30, 4, 5:30, 7 & 8:30 p.m., Fri & Sat 10 p.m.

City Girl (1930) (Not Rated)

Stanford Theatre: Sun 2 p.m.

Creed (PG-13) ★★★

Century 16: 10 a.m., 1:05, 4:10, 7:25 & 10:35 p.m. **Century 20:** 10 a.m., 1:20, 4:20, 7:25 & 10:30 p.m.

The Danish Girl (R)

Aquarius Theatre: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7:05, 8 & 9:55 p.m.

Dilwale (Not Rated)

Century 16: 9:45 p.m., Sat & Sun 2:10 p.m.

The Good Dinosaur (PG) ★★★1/2

Century 16: 8:25 & 10:55 a.m., 1:30, 4:05, 7 & 9:35 p.m. **Century 20:** 9:25 & 11:55 a.m., 2:40, 5:15, 7:55 & 10:25 p.m.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2 (PG-13)

★★★1/2 **Century 16:** 10:10 a.m., 1:25, 4:40, 7:55 & 11 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:40 a.m., Fri & Sat 3:45, 7:05 & 10:15 p.m., Sun 3:25, 6:30 & 10:20 p.m.

In the Heart of the Sea (PG-13) ★★★

Century 16: 1:15, 4:15, 7:15 & 10:10 p.m., Fri 10:15 a.m., Sat 8:30 a.m. **Century 20:** 10:55 a.m. & 7:45 p.m. In 3-D at 1:50, 4:40 & 10:45 p.m.

Krampus (PG-13)

Century 20: 12:30, 2:55, 5:30, 8:10 & 10:40 p.m.

Lucky Star (1929) (Not Rated)

Stanford Theatre: Sun 3:50 p.m.

AQUARIUS: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)

CENTURY CINEMA 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (800-326-3264)

CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (800-326-3264)

The Martian (PG-13) ★★★

Century 20: 4 & 10:15 p.m.

Miracle on 34th Street (1947) (Not Rated)

Century 20: Sun 2 & 7 p.m.

The Night Before (R)

Century 20: 2:20 & 10:35 p.m., Sat & Sun 5:10 p.m.

Sisters (R)

Century 16: 10:15 a.m., 1:05, 3:55, 7:05 & 10:05 p.m. **Century 20:** 9:55 & 11:20 a.m., 12:50, 2:10, 3:40, 5, 6:35, 7:50, 9:30 & 10:40 p.m.

Spectre (PG-13)

Century 16: 7:10 & 10:40 p.m., Sat & Sun 3:15 p.m., Sat 11:50 a.m., Sun 9:55 a.m. **Century 20:** Fri at noon, Sat & Sun 10:20 p.m., Sat 11:40 a.m., 2:50 & 6:30 p.m., Sun 10:35 a.m.

Spotlight (R) ★★★1/2

Century 16: 9:45 a.m., 12:50, 3:50, 7:05 & 10:25 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:35 a.m. & 7:15 p.m.

Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens

(PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 9:50 & 11:30 a.m., 1:10, 2:50, 4:30, 6:10, 7:50 & 11:10 p.m., Fri 10 a.m. In 3-D at 3:40, 4, 5:20, 7, 7:20, 8:40 & 9:30 p.m., Fri 3, 6:30 & 10 p.m., Sat & Sun 5, 8:20 & 10:20 p.m.

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

State Fair (1933) (Not Rated)

Stanford Theatre: Fri & Sat 7:30 p.m., Sat 3:35 p.m.

Sunnyside Up (1929) (Not Rated)

Stanford Theatre: Fri & Sat 5:25 & 9:20 p.m.

Youth (R)

Guild Theatre: 1, 4, 7:05 & 9:55 p.m.

CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)

STANFORD THEATRE: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (324-3700)

For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the Aquarius, visit www.LandmarkTheatres.com

JAZZ

at the Courtyard

Los Altos Courtyard by Marriott invites you to enjoy live music along with great food and beverages at their "Jazz at the Courtyard" event on Saturday, December 19th, 2015. BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

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



GoingsOn

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

HIGHLIGHT

CALIFORNIA POPS ORCHESTRA: 'HOLIDAY MAGIC!'

The California Pops Orchestra will present its annual family Christmas celebration concert, which will include "Merry Christmas, Darling" by The Carpenters, selections from "White Christmas," a swinging "Nutcracker" suite and many other holiday favorites. The guest singer will be Carly Honfi. Dec. 20, 3 p.m. \$20-\$40. Foothill College, Smithwick Theatre, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. calpops.org/cposhows.html

ART GALLERIES

'Got Art?' Gallery 9 in Los Altos will offer a holiday exhibit show during the month of December, featuring pieces by all its member artists. Dec. 1-Jan. 3, Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Free. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. Call 650-948-2961. gallery9losaltos.com

'Santa Cruz and San Francisco'

Viewpoints Gallery will next arrange a show of oil paintings by Katherine McGuire called "Santa Cruz and San Francisco," presenting cityscapes and landscapes of the two locales. Dec. 1-Jan. 2, Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. www.viewpointsgallery.com

BENEFITS/FUNDRAISERS

Free haircuts for foster children To give back during the holidays, Therapy Salon in Los Altos will be offering free haircuts for children in foster care. RSVP by phone is required, and haircuts are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Dec. 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Therapy Salon, 660 Fremont Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-948-5343. www.facebook.com/TherapyLosAltos/

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Adult School Winter/Spring Classes Registration Registration for Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School Winter and Spring classes began on Nov. 20. The winter session will run from Jan. 4 to March 18, and the

spring session from March 21 to June 3. Visit the website or call for more info. Nov. 20-Jan. 4. Prices vary. Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School, 333 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View. Call 650-940-1333. www.mvlae.net

Foothill College Winter Quarter

Registration Winter Quarter registration at Foothill College began on Nov. 18, and courses will meet from Jan. 4 to March 25. A full class schedule and registration instructions are available on the website. There is no application fee. Nov. 18-Jan. 3, 12:15 a.m.-11:45 p.m. \$31 per unit for California residents, plus basic fees. Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7325. www.foothill.edu/admissions.php

CONCERTS

'All Creatures Great and Small' The Aurora Singers will present a holiday concert, in which a jubilant cuckoo and a donkey traversing a bumpy road — as well as sheep, goats and cattle — will figure. The whimsical program will include modern and traditional classics, as well as new arrangements by director Dawn Reyen. Dec. 19, 7 p.m. \$10. Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto. aurorasingers.net

South Bay Gospel Concert The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir will perform the eighth annual South Bay Gospel Concert, sharing an exuberant program with gospel arrangements of traditional holiday favorites. The group will be joined by the Peninsula Community Gospel Choir. Dec. 18, 7:30-10 p.m. \$36 adult; \$31

senior, student; \$28 child age 12 or under. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 510-839-4361. www.oigc.org

DANCE

Bayer Ballet Academy: 'The Snow Queen'

To mark the holiday season, the students of Mountain View's Bayer Ballet Academy will perform "The Snow Queen," a two-act ballet based on the Hans Christian Andersen story. Dec. 19 and 20, 1 and 6 p.m. \$50 orchestra; \$40 balcony. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.bayerballetacademy.com

For the Love of Dance classes A family-owned studio, For the Love of Dance offers training in ballet, jazz, tap and other styles of dance to students, beginning at age 2 up through adults, from Mountain View, Palo Alto, Los Altos and Sunnyvale. Visit the website to learn about specific offerings. October through June. Prices vary. For the Love of Dance, 2483 Old Middlefield Way, Suite B, Mountain View. Call 650-861-0650. www.fortheLoveofDancemv.com

Holiday Season Tango This special holiday event will offer a tango lesson, a Milonga (tango party), a dance show, and live music by Tangonero and a DJ. Snacks and soft drinks will be served. Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. \$25 general (cash only). Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. www.paloaltojcc.org

New Year's Eve Dance The Friday Night Dancers and Tuxedo Junction will host a New Year's Eve event, an evening of social ballroom dancing. The event includes an hourlong waltz dance lesson, performances, a countdown to midnight with a sparkling cider toast and lots of dancing opportunities. Dec. 31, 8 p.m. \$15. Cubberley Community Center, Pavilion, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-648-3633. www.cubberleyballroom.com

EXHIBITS

'Beyond Space and Time' The Oshman Family JCC has on display an exhibit of work

by Chagit Ofir, a Bay Area-based artist who is inspired by her daily experience, family and friends, and Israeli history. Born in Israel, Ofir mainly works in the medium of oil painting, but she has recently branched out into sculpture. On Dec. 20, 6:30-8:30, there will be a reception with the artist. Dec. 7-March 21, regular facility hours. Free. Goldman Sports & Wellness Complex and Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. paloaltojcc.org/Events/beyond-space-and-time-by-chagit-ofir

'Spirits Return' The Los Altos History Museum is currently offering an exhibit called "Spirits Return: Cultural Traditions Keeping Memories Alive," which gives a multicultural look at how communities remember their ancestors. Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 29-April 17, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org

'The Sum of Parts' Students and faculty from the Community School of Music and Arts' visual arts classes will share their work in a collaborative art exhibition. Dec. 11-Jan. 18, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, Mohr Gallery, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org/attend/mohrgallery.htm

FAMILY AND KIDS

Holiday Art Camps at CSMA The Community School of Music and Arts will hold Holiday Art Camps for students in kindergarten to eighth grade, with full-day, half-day and extended-day-supervision options. Tuition assistance is available. Visit the website to learn about specific camps and to register. Dec. 21-23 and 28-30, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$110 three-day camp (half-day program). Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. register.asapconnected.com/default.aspx?org=3596

Python for Kids This three-day class held at the Mountain View Public Library will

teach the basics of Python — a powerful, expressive programming language — to kids in grades five to eight. Class size is limited, and registration is required. Dec. 21-23, 2-4 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7054. goo.gl/SzbHRU

HEALTH

Jacki's Aerobic Dancing Jacki's Aerobic Dancing classes guide participants in abdominal work, strength training and aerobic routines. Complimentary child care is provided by staff. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, year-round, 9 a.m. \$36 month; \$6 single class. Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View. joanier@pacbell.net

LIVE MUSIC

Red Rock Coffee Open Mic Each Monday night, Red Rock Coffee holds an open mic event on its second floor, where musicians, poets and comedians of all ages and experience levels can share their art. Each act is given 10 minutes or two songs, whichever comes first. Sign ups begin at 6:30 p.m., and performances begin at 7 p.m. Mondays, Nov. 2-Jan. 4, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-967-4473. redrockcoffee.org

ON STAGE

'Emma' For its holiday production, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley will stage a musical romance, Jane Austen's "Emma" — with music, lyrics and book by Paul Gordon. See the website for specific dates and times. Dec. 2-Jan. 2. \$54 adult; \$45 senior, educator; \$25 age 30 and under. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-463-1960. www.theatreworks.org

'Man of La Mancha' The Los Altos Stage Company will take audiences on a journey with the renowned knight errant Don Quixote in the play-within-a-play and classic musical, "Man of La Mancha." Nov. 19-Dec. 19, Wednesday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. \$18-\$36. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-941-0551. www.losaltosstage.org

Chopshticks with Comedian Wayne Federman At the Oshman Family JCC's annual Chopshticks event, visitors can enjoy Chinese food and comedy from Wayne Federman — a comedian, actor, writer and musician. Dec. 24, 7:45-9:45 p.m. \$60 general; \$55 member, J-Pass; \$65 at the door (space permitting). Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. www.paloaltojcc.org

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Christmas Eve Service The United Church of Christ Congregational Community Church of Sunnyvale will hold a Christmas Eve Service open to all families and community members. Dec. 24, 8-9 p.m. Freewill offering. Congregational Community Church of Sunnyvale, 1112 S. Bernardo Ave., Sunnyvale. Call 216-407-1470. www.uccsunnyvale.org

SENIORS

Learn to play Pickleball Held next to the tennis courts at Rengstorff Park, this event will teach seniors how to play pickleball, a growing sport in the U.S. that is easy on the joints. All equipment will be provided; participants should wear court shoes. Wednesdays, Dec. 9-Jan. 27, 1-3 p.m. Free (donations accepted). Rengstorff Park, 201 S. Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-254-1041. www.usapa.org

Mountain View Whisman School District



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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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Thinking of adoption? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families Nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 866-413-6293. Void in Illinois/ New Mexico/Indiana (AAN CAN)

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ASST SECTION MGRS FOR FOPAL

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January 2016 Dance Classes

Montclair Women's Big Band

Stanford Museum Volunteer

130 Classes & Instruction

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Does dementia stress your family

Holiday Dinner & Kirtan

Learn to Square Dance

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995 Fictitious Name Statement

GARDEN FRESH RESTAURANT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 611183

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

Garden Fresh Restaurant, located at 1245 West El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: A Corporation.

The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are): LIANG'S FAMILY INC. 460 Ramona St. Palo Alto, CA 94301

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/8/2009.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 17, 2015. (MVV Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 2015)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. 611252

The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s).

The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):

VOLTA LABORATORIES, INC.

144 S. Whisman Rd. Unit F

Mountain View, CA 94041

FILED IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY ON:

05/08/2015

UNDER FILE NO.: 603666

REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):

DAVID BUNDY BELL

144 S. Whisman Rd. Unit F

Mountain View, CA 94041

THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY: A Corporation.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 18, 2015.

(MVV Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 2015)

ACTEV MOTORS, INC.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611253

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

Actev Motors, Inc., located at 211 S.

Whisman Rd. Unit A, B, C, Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: A Corporation.

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

ACTEV MOTORS, INC.

211 S. Whisman Rd. Unit A, B, C

Mountain View, CA 94041

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/8/2015.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 18, 2015.

(MVV Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 2015)

TOPPET CLEANING

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 610594

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

Toppet Cleaning, located at 465

Calderon Avenue #1, Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.

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

TERESA BURGOS

465 Calderon Avenue #1

Mountain View, CA 94041

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/28/2015.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on October 29, 2015.

(MVV Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 2015)

COOL JAMS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611060

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

Cool Jams, located at 135 Franklin St.,

Apt. 109, Mountain View, CA 94041, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: A General Partnership.

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

AMY WOLFROM

135 Franklin St., Apt. 109

Mountain View, CA 94041

ROSE WOLFROM

135 Franklin St., Apt. 109

Mountain View, CA 94041

UNDER FILE NO.: 548598

Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/25/15.

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

(MVV Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 2015)

TRAIN YOUR BEST

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611483

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

Train Your Best, located at 128 Ada Ave.,

Apt. 6, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.

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

KATHI GUERRANT

128 Ada Ave., Apt. 6

Mountain View, CA 94043

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 24, 2015.

(MVV Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2015)

CINZILLA DESIGN

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611126

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

Cinzilla Design, located at 321 Anna

Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.

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

MARY PARTLAN

321 Anna Avenue

Mountain View, CA 94043

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 13, 2015.

(MVV Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2015)

THE MUSCLE DOC: INTEGRATIVE

PERFORMANCE THERAPY

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611631

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

The Muscle Doc: Integrative

Performance Therapy, located at 241

Polaris Ave., Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.

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

JORDAN SHALLOW

65 Rio Robles E

San Jose, CA 95134

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 2, 2015.

(MVV Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2015, Jan. 1, 2016)

PUNJABI PAPA CONSULTING

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611688

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

Punjabi Papa Consulting, located at

2421 Villa Nueva Way, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.

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

ROHIT SAWHNEY

2421 Villa Nueva Way

Mountain View, CA 94040

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

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

(MVV Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2015, Jan. 1, 2016)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. 611529

The following person(s)/ registrant(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s).

The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):

AMY WOLFROM

100 North Whisman Road, Apt. #4011

Mountain View, CA 94043

ROSE WOLFROM

100 North Whisman Road, Apt. #4011

Mountain View, CA 94043

UNDER FILE NO.: 548598

REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
JOANA LUISA PEIXOTO DOMINGUES
VIEIRA DE MAGALHAES
103 Ballentrae Court
Hendersonville, TN 37075
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY: An Individual.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 25, 2015
(MVV Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2015, Jan. 1, 2016)

AXTEL IMPORTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611764

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

Axtel Imports, located at 2030 California

Street, Apt. #12, Mountain View, CA

94040, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.

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

TAMANNA D GOVANI

2030 California Street, Apt. #12

Mountain View, CA 94040

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 7, 2015.

(MVV Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2015, Jan. 1, 2016)

DEEPAK GOVANI SERVICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611765

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

Deepak Govani Services, located at 2030

California Street, Apt. #12, Mountain

View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.

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

DEEPAK GOVANI

2030 California Street, Apt. #12

Mountain View, CA 94040

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

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 7, 2015.

(MVV Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2015, Jan. 1, 2016)

poppypeach

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 611853

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

poppypeach, located at 38 Devonshire Avenue Apt. 6,

Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

TRISHA PEACH

38 Devonshire Avenue Apt. 6

Mountain View, CA 94043

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/21/2010.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 9, 2015.

(MVV Dec. 18, 25, 2015, Jan. 1, 8, 2016)



Do You Know?

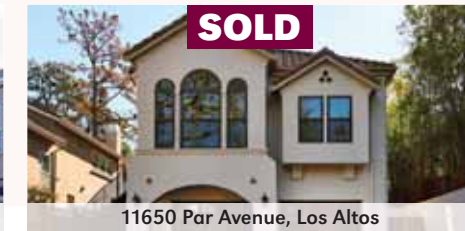
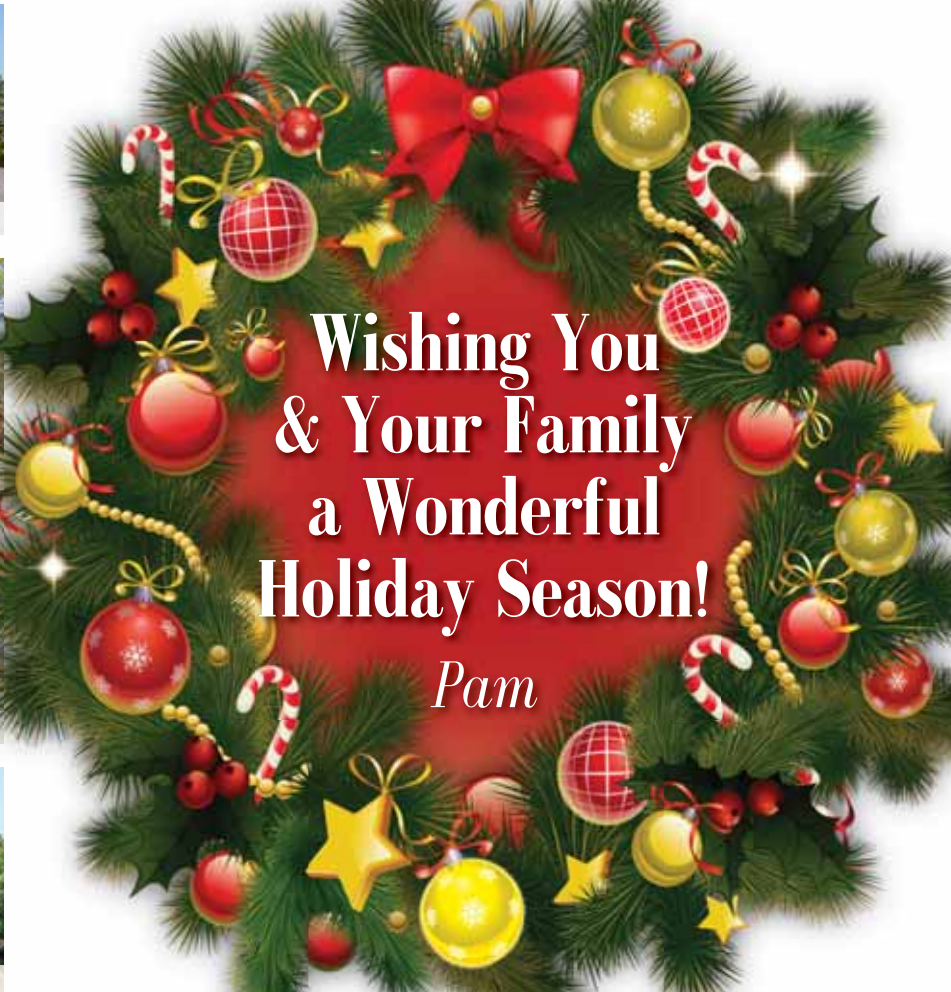
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*Sung to the tune of
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- just the chorus
(as that's all most of us know)*

Troyer got us top price for our rancher,
Even though it weren't a sight to see
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As for us at our house, we believe.

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Not a spec of old stuff did they leave
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454 ORANGE AVE
Represented the Seller



761 THORSEN COURT
Represented the Seller



**945 LORNE WAY,
SUNNYVALE**
Represented the Buyer



**25463 ADOBE LANE
LOS ALTOS HILLS**
Represented the Seller



**153 FREMONT AVE,
LOS ALTOS**
Represented the Buyer



**KINGSLEY,
LOS ALTOS HILLS**
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**945 YORKSHIRE DRIVE
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Represented the Seller



**998 LEIGHTON AVE,
SUNNYVALE**
Represented the Buyer



1 ADOBE CREEK WAY
Represented the Seller



1204 EUREKA COURT
Represented the Seller



**13826 TEMPLETON PLC,
LOS ALTOS HILLS**
Represented the Buyer



**733 EHRHORN AVE
MOUNTAIN VIEW**
Represented the Seller



**736 BRENTWOOD
PLACE, LOS ALTOS**
Represented the Buyer



1575 GRANT RD
Represented the Seller



1223 HERITAGE COURT
Represented the Seller



660 COVINGTON RD
Represented the Seller

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