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A feast
for all
WEEKEND | 21



MICHELLE LE

DRESS DRIVE HELPS TEENS SPARKLE

Teenage girls preparing for prom night have one less thing to worry about. The Princess Project Silicon Valley, hosted in Mountain View over the weekend, provided free dresses and accessories to local teens struggling to afford with the high expenses of prom. "Fairy godmothers" working with the organization helped the high-schoolers find the perfect prom ensemble. See more photos on pages 12 and 13.

Few opt to build companion units

STATE LAW ELIMINATES CITY RULES FOR PARKING,
SETBACKS TO ENCOURAGE SECONDARY UNITS

By Mark Noack

It was a no-brainer last year when Mountain View leaders tried to recruit homeowners to help solve the local housing crisis. At the time, the city loosened rules and cut fees in hopes of encouraging more suburban homeowners to build secondary homes on their properties, known as companion units.

These smaller homes, typically a renovated garage or detached building, have been touted as the quickest and easiest way to boost low-cost housing in the Bay Area, free of the

hurdles that go with building dense apartments.

But on Tuesday, the Mountain View City Council learned its incentives didn't work quite as intended.

They received five times as many applications as past years, bringing the total number to ... five. City staff admitted it was pretty underwhelming.

"It's a small number, but it's still good compared to our past record," said Associate Planner Diana Pancholi.

It remains unclear exactly why more homeowners aren't jumping at the chance to build companion units, but the city is

taking another big step to make it easier.

Since easing the rules last year, Mountain View and other cities have been outflanked by an even looser set of companion-unit rules passed by state lawmakers. The laws — Senate Bill 1069 and Assembly Bill 2299 — would go much further in eliminating restrictions on building or converting companion units.

In particular, the new rules would essentially eliminate all parking requirements for companion units in Mountain View. While the language of the bill

► See **COMPANION UNITS**, page 9

No room in popular MV Whisman schools

AS WAIT LISTS FOR HUFF, BUBB AND LANDELS GROW,
DISTRICT TO DECIDE ON TEMPORARY SOLUTIONS

By Kevin Forestieri

Hundreds of Mountain View families have grabbed a ticket and staked out a place in line, hoping for a spot in one of the Mountain View Whisman School District's highest-performing schools. But the prospects for getting their kids into their preferred school — which in some cases, is their own neighborhood school — is looking worse than usual this year.

Wait lists to get into schools across the district, as of March 21, show that close to 450 families are bracing for disappointment. A total of 90 families, most of whom live near Bubb, Huff and Landels, have been given the bad news their children cannot attend their own neighborhood school because of space constraints. Another 368 families have requested transfers from their home schools throughout the city to another campus, or to the district's popular choice programs, Stevenson PACT and Mistral Elementary's Dual Immersion program.

The district has a long-running problem with too much demand and not enough room at its choice programs, but the growing number of families getting pushed out of their own local school has many parents furious that the district hasn't done more to avoid displacing students. Susan Tighe, who lives a few blocks south of Huff

Elementary, said she felt sick to her stomach when she heard the news that her child had been placed in Monta Loma for kindergarten instead. Not only is Monta Loma 5 miles away, but her daughter was looking forward to going to school with her friends at Huff.

"When I was pregnant I had heard rumblings of wait lists at the school, but I didn't think it would still be a problem by now," Tighe said.

Similar stories have started popping up on the social networking website Nextdoor. Parents living near Bubb Elementary — sometimes just a block away from the campus — told the Voice that their children have been turned away because of limited space, and instead placed in schools like Monta Loma and Castro Elementary, which have few, if any, children on a wait list.

The wait lists are constantly monitored and updated as parents move, change their minds or scramble for other options, and there's always a chance that, by the time school starts in August, kids can make it into their neighborhood school. In the case of Bubb Elementary last year, for example, all of the wait-listed kindergarteners made it in by the first day of school.

That's unlikely to happen again this year, said Assistant Superintendent Karen

**'The fact that
there's going to
be a new school
in 2019 is still a
day late and a
dollar short.'**

SUSAN TIGHE,
MOTHER OF WAIT-LISTED
KINDERGARTENER

► See **SCHOOLS**, page 16

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KARLA KANE

Jane Kim works on her new set of murals in downtown Redwood City.

'FLORA FROM FAUNA'

Redwood City, which was named one of the best places to see public art in 2017 by the New York Times, is gaining another set of whimsical murals in its art-loving downtown this month. Bay Area science illustrator and fine artist Jane Kim has started work on "Flora from Fauna," a series of small murals depicting creatures offering passersby bouquets of chrysanthemums.

"My goal is to create work that allows people an opportunity to learn and be inspired. Of course, plants and animals are consistent subjects in all of my work, but I wanted to also connect the images to something unique and specific to Redwood City and the history behind it being the 'Chrysanthemum Capital of the World,'" Kim said in a press release. The murals will be located on the exteriors of the Arthur Murray dance studio, Cafe La Tartine, Polam Credit Union, Marshall St. Garage (870 Jefferson Ave.) and on a concrete bench near City Hall. "Flora from Fauna" is the second half of a project started last spring (the result of a \$30,000 grant for public art from the Redwood City Improvement Association). The first half saw the installation of shadow stencils throughout the downtown area. It's all part of a larger trend of public art in the city, which has also embraced 3-D light shows and large-scale murals.

'ART & MUSIC IN HARMONY'

Can't decide between taking the family to an art museum or a concert hall this weekend? Do both at the Community School of Music & Art, which will hold a free concert for families, "Art & Music in Harmony," featuring

classical works by famous composers alongside images by prominent fine artists such as Picasso and Monet, on Sunday, April 2, at Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, at 2 p.m. The concert will be performed by Dawn Walker on flute, Heidi Saario on piano and Mark Walker on cello. Go to arts4all.org.

'BEYOND THE OBVIOUS'

Palo Alto's EcoCenter (2560 Embarcadero Road), a community resource for environmental education, will host an exhibition of abstract and semi-abstract artwork inspired by the natural beauty of the Baylands: "Beyond the Obvious: Abstract and Semi-Abstract Work From Nature," from April to June. An opening reception will be held on Sunday, April 2, 1-3 p.m. The 20 artists involved are members of "Artists Beyond Obvious," a group which meets weekly. The EcoCenter is open to the public Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the first and third Saturdays of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Go to evols.org/ecocenter.

VAL LEWTON FILM FESTIVAL

The Stanford Theatre (221 University Ave., Palo Alto) will present the classic horror films of producer Val Lewton (including "Cat People," "Bedlam," "I Walked With a Zombie"), Fridays-Sundays throughout April (see online schedule for exact show times). Lewton was a master of creating a sense of suspense and dread in his low-budget-but-enduringly atmospheric films. Admission to the Stanford Theatre is \$7, which includes both daily features, plus live music on the Wurlitzer organ between screenings. Go to stanfordtheatre.org.

—Karla Kane

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CRIME BRIEFS

SUSPECT DETAINED FOLLOWING MV MANHUNT

Four suspects were taken into custody Monday after all four allegedly tried to flee officers during a traffic stop, leading to a brief search of the area around San Antonio Circle.

Mountain View police pulled over the vehicle following a request by the Milpitas Police Department to track down suspects that had driven into Mountain View's city limits. The car was spotted around El Camino Real and Ortega Avenue around 2:30 p.m. on the afternoon of March 27, but when officers pulled over the vehicle, all four suspects inside jumped out and ran, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

Three suspects were immediately detained, but the fourth escaped. Officers, aided by canine officer Odin, searched the area around San Antonio Circle and eventually found the suspect hiding in some bushes, Nelson said. All four suspects were handed over to the Milpitas Police Department.

The search took around 20 minutes to complete, and the department alerted residents to the police activity. Police did not issue a lockdown or shelter in place at Monta Loma Elementary, but were preparing to tell school staff not to let students walk home from school until the search was completed, Nelson said.

"Fortunately the suspect was found before school even let out, so we didn't have to do that," she said.

The Voice made repeated requests to the Milpitas Police Department for information on the case. The department did not provide any information prior to the Voice's Wednesday press deadline.

HIGH-SPEED CHASE

Two suspects evaded arrest last week after a home burglary in Mountain View led to a high-speed chase that ended in San Jose, according to police.

A resident in the 1000 block of Marilyn Drive called police around 11:30 a.m. on March 23 after hearing two suspects, both men, enter the garage of the home through an unlocked side door. When the resident went into the garage, the two men were startled and fled, according to police.

The two men fled the area in a dark gray Toyota Highlander with paper license plates. A nearby officer spotted the vehicle and pursued the suspects onto eastbound Highway 237.

► See CRIME BRIEFS, page 15

POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

2600 block Charleston Rd., 3/22
200 block E. Dana St., 3/23
1000 block El Monte Av., 3/23
700 block Emily Dr., 3/24
2400 block Charleston Rd., 3/24
2400 block Charleston Rd., 3/24
2400 block Charleston Rd., 3/24
2400 block Charleston Rd., 3/24
500 block Tahoe Tr., 3/25
1900 block Crisanto Av., 3/25
Charleston Rd. & Independence Av., 3/25
1200 block Dale Av., 3/27
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 3/28

BATTERY

700 block W. Middlefield Rd., 3/23

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

400 block N. Whisman Rd., 3/22
400 block Fairchild Dr., 3/23
1300 block Grant Rd., 3/25

FALSE IMPRISONMENT

200 block E. El Camino Real, 3/25

GRAND THEFT

1900 block W. El Camino Real, 3/25
2000 block W. Middlefield Rd., 3/27
1600 block Villa St., 3/27

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

900 block Trophy Dr., 3/22
1800 block Van Buren Cir., 3/22
1000 block Marilyn Dr., 3/23
1200 block Dale Av., 3/23
1200 block Dale Av., 3/23
1 block Olive Ct., 3/27
2100 block W. Middlefield Rd., 3/27
2100 block W. Middlefield Rd., 3/27

STOLEN VEHICLE

1900 block W. Middlefield Rd., 3/22
1800 block W. El Camino Real, 3/24
1200 block Dale Av., 3/26

VANDALISM

2100 block University Av., 3/24

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MICHELLE LE

Diane Tasca, founder and head of the Pear Theatre, is stepping down after 15 years. The black-box theater in North Bayshore has a reputation for nurturing new playwrights and staging intellectually challenging plays.

Pear Theatre losing its impresario

COMPANY FOUNDER DIANE TASCA ANNOUNCES HER RETIREMENT

By Mark Noack

For anyone visiting for the first time, the Pear Theatre seems like a true oddity of the area — equal parts marvelous and strange.

The small theater company has been an artistic magnet, drawing in talented casts and paying crowds. Over its life, the Pear has produced more than 100 original plays, most written by local authors and aspiring

playwrights. For theater buffs, the Pear has a sterling reputation as an independent theater that nurtures new talent.

Yet the 90-seat black-box stage can seem out of its league given its surroundings. Located right in the heart of the city's North Bayshore tech hub, the Pear is tucked in the backyard of billion-dollar giants. Even though the small theater company is sustainable, it operates each year on funds that would

barely pay a tech worker's salary.

Many credit the theater's success and survival to its artistic director — Diane Tasca. After launching the theater as a moonshot dream about 15 years ago, Tasca has worked, unpaid, as the troupe's impresario, putting herself in charge of the finances, productions and creative vision.

► See **PEAR THEATRE**, page 8

More help for struggling students

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT COULD SPEND \$1M TO BRING RELIEF TO STRESSED AND SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

By Kevin Forestieri

For some students in Mountain View's high schools, just getting out of bed and going to class seems like an insurmountable challenge. The stressful academic environment, with the pressure to take a full load of tough classes, is pushing some teens to the point where they start avoiding school altogether.

"We literally walk up to cars and take kids out," said Los Altos High School Principal Wynne Satterwhite at a recent board meeting. "We get calls saying 'Susie won't get out of bed, can you come here?'"

School avoidance isn't new, but with a little extra cash in the budget, the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District can finally put some money into addressing the problem. At a Feb. 27 study session, board members mulled the possibility of allocating quite a bit of the district's discretionary spending for the year — \$500,000 — on a school avoidance program, described as an on-campus clinical program with academics for teens who are struggling with anxiety.

The school avoidance program is one of two high-cost proposals

aimed at small groups of high-need students. District staff also proposed a \$500,000 behavioral program for special needs students struggling to learn in a mainstream academic environment, and whose behavior is so disruptive that school staff have to spend an inordinate amount of time managing individual students. Both programs would help between 12 and 15 students each year.

'It's like a pressure-cooker for some students.'

BRIGITTE SARRAF,
 MVLA ASSOCIATE
 SUPERINTENDENT

Teens are definitely under more pressure to compete with one another and get into a high-ranking college than in previous years, said Associate Superintendent Brigitte Sarraf. That

competition often means students feel the need to overload their schedule with five or six Advanced Placement and honors classes, on top of extracurricular activities and after-school jobs. Such a heavy load of classwork is more than students can handle, and some kids react by just "shutting down."

"There's definitely an uptick in depression and anxiety, and that anxiety is often fueled by these unrealistic expectations that they put upon themselves," she said. "It's like a pressure

► See **MENTAL HEALTH**, page 15

Council passes strict rules on mobile-fueling startups

By Mark Noack

Mountain View City Council members on Tuesday second-guessed a package of new rules they passed one week earlier to regulate a new wave of fuel-delivery start-ups. While they left the door open to making looser rules in the future, council members approved the ordinance that mobile fuel company representatives said would put them out of business. The ordinance will go into effect at the end of April.

The nascent companies,

including Filld and Yoshi, operate by sending out fleets of truck equipped with fuel tanks to fill up customers' vehicles in parking lots, on the street or at their homes. The companies have been pumping gas in Mountain View and other Peninsula cities for nearly two years, even though their business model was illegal, according to fire officials.

Last week, after much discussion, the Mountain View City Council approved a package of regulations tailored by state fire officials to bring the new businesses within established safety

standards, which includes \$170 permits and inspections of all fueling sites. But company representatives described the regulations and new fees as essentially dooming their business.

It was a true wedge issue for the city's elected leaders. On one hand, most of the council members were unsympathetic to the startups, since they had circumvented rules for a hazardous substance, albeit with a track record of no major spills or fires. Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga pressed the company representatives to explain how they

complied with the law.

"The fire code does not forbid what we do, but it doesn't state that it's allowed," explained Filld founder Christopher Aubuchon. He noted that his trucks operated under a fire-code exemption allowing landscaping and construction contractors to lug 110-gallon tanks to work sites. His company's trucks were each outfitted with two to four of these tanks, he said.

The industry had apparently gained some allies since the last meeting. At the March 28 meeting, Mayor Ken Rosenberg,

Councilman Chris Clark and local business leaders went to bat for the companies, saying they had operated safely for years and didn't deserve to see their business squashed.

Clark proposed a "middle ground" that would somehow satisfy both sides. In a rare move, he pulled the second reading of the ordinance off the consent agenda, and the council rehashed the issues all over again.

City Fire Chief Juan Diaz, on the other hand, did not budge

► See **MOBILE FUEL**, page 17

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Five-story apartment project gets icy reception

NEIGHBORS, COUNCIL MEMBERS BALK AT PROJECT SIZE

By Mark Noack

A massive 240-unit apartment project planned for the Shoreline West neighborhood has become the latest flash point in Mountain View’s challenging path to dramatically grow its housing stock.

The project by San Mateo-based developer Prometheus calls for a five-story apartment complex that some say would stand out like a sore thumb in a neighborhood consisting mainly of single-family homes.

Taller and denser than anything currently in the area, the new apartments proposed for 1696 Villa St. spurred an angry response from homeowners who would be living next to what they described as a towering monolith.

“I moved here to be in a single-family neighborhood, and now they’re talking about increasing the density by 60 percent,” said Mike McDowell, a nearby resident. “(Prometheus) hit the jackpot. They’re able to do this, and we’re the ones who suffer.”

These complaints are nothing new. Every city across the Bay Area is dealing with similar conflicts as developers look to densify suburban neighborhoods built at a time when space seemed limitless. Prometheus representatives were upfront that their proposed housing is intended for Google employees, and would be priced accordingly.

Usually developers can soothe

these tensions by offering some perks to the neighbors, such as paying for new parks, trails or playgrounds. Following this playbook, Prometheus representatives pledged to build a large park that could be deeded over to the city. However that offer didn’t do much to assuage public resistance, since the proposed park would be about a half-mile away off Mariposa Avenue, close to El Camino Real. That public park would replace a parking lot at another Prometheus-owned

would be able to build less than half the number of apartments, he said. Similarly, Moss warned they would also halve about 30 subsidized apartments promised with the project.

“Most of the parks are concentrated in the northern part of town, so this does seem to be a good part of town to provide a park,” Moss said. “But if there’s a simpler solution, we’d be in favor of that.”

In that regard, the developer and city leaders were in agreement, at least in concept. As City Council members reviewed the project, it became clear that roughly half of them found the project too complicated and gigantic for the area. Echoing a sentiment shared by most of his colleagues, Councilman John McAlister suggested the project needed to be scaled down.

“We need affordable housing, but do we need it at the stake of building massive structures for a few more units?” said McAlister. “We need to slow down. We have a lot of growth in town and we need to take a step back.”

Practically every council member expressed some qualms with the Villa Street project. Councilman Lenny Siegel said he was fine with the proposed building height, but he wanted more affordable housing since the project would require demolishing 19 “naturally affordable” homes.

► See **APARTMENTS**, page 8

‘I moved here to be in a single-family neighborhood, and now they’re talking about increasing the density by 60 percent.’

MIKE MCDOWELL, SHORELINE WEST RESIDENT

apartment complex, where the developer plans to build a new underground garage.

The park would have to be built far away if city leaders are intent on getting as much housing as possible, said Jon Moss, Prometheus vice president. If they tried to add a park on the 3.3-acre Villa Street property, they



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Mentor Tutor Connection, a local nonprofit that recruits, trains and places volunteer tutors and mentors in MV and LA schools is seeking a Middle School Tutor Coordinator. This person will make and manage matches between students identified by school staff as needing academic support with approved MTC volunteers. Part-time, paid position. Desirable skills include effective communicator, ability to work with people of all ages, and proficient computer skills; experience in education or volunteering in schools preferred. Respond with your interest and a resume to programs@mentortutorconnection.org.

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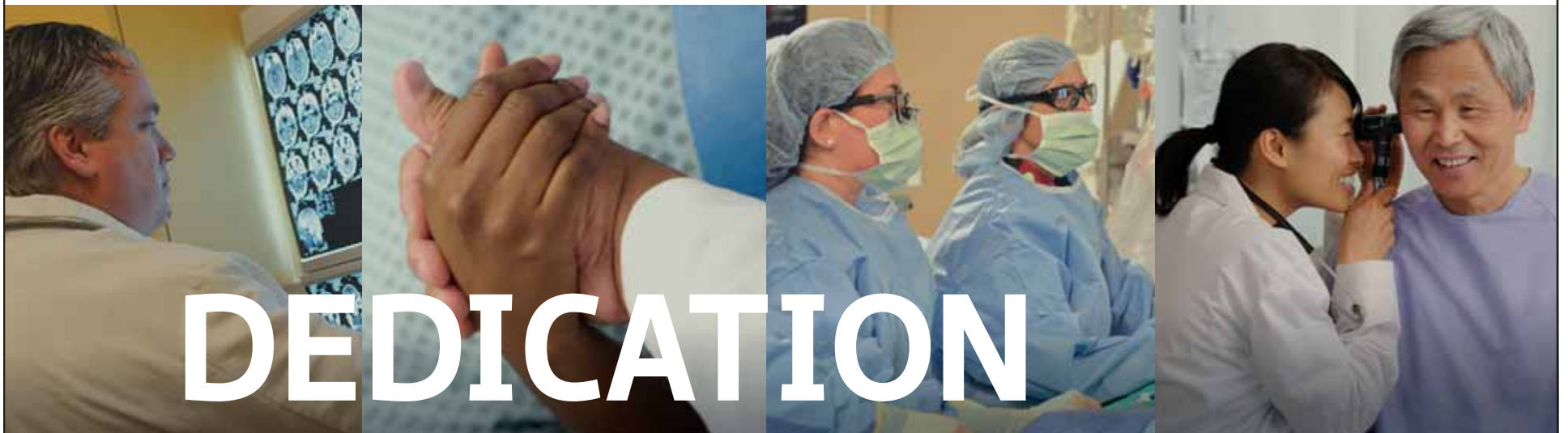
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DAN GRATTAN

TIME FOR LUNCH

It was a good day to be a hawk, and a bad day to be a squirrel. Voice reader Dan Grattan spotted this mighty bird at Mountain View’s Shoreline Park on Saturday, March 25, as it took a break from what appears to be a very successful hunting expedition.



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PEAR THEATRE

► Continued from page 5

Now Tasca, 70, wants to hand over those reins to someone new. She recently announced she will be stepping down to retire.

“It’s time for a younger person to take over,” she said in an interview with theVoice. “We have the theater on good footing and have a great reputation, and now we need to build on that.”

Over its 15 year history, the Pear hasn’t wavered from its core mission to put on “intellectually stimulating” collections of plays that might not get much attention from larger theater companies. Tasca adopted this goal back in the late 1990s after she produced the play “Fanny and Walt” in San Francisco. Originally she thought of the role of a producer was a “necessary evil” for the artistic

process, but it turned out that she loved coordinating the backstage elements.

Around that time, Tasca began dreaming of starting her own theater, but it was still the kind of goal that she could only justify if she landed on a life-changing windfall, like winning the lottery.

The push she needed came from an unlikely source — the 9/11 terrorist attacks. After watching the tragedy unfold, Tasca realized that if she didn’t give her dream a try, she might never get another chance.

“We all know we’re not immortal — you can’t wait around for something fabulous to happen,” she said. “So that’s what I did. Rather than joining a country club or something that people might do in my position, I spent my money on this.”

Tasca’s mid-life pursuit was supported by her husband,

Palo Alto patent attorney Norm Beamer, who also had a soft spot for theater from participating in productions since his school days. Beamer is matter-of-fact about helping finance his wife’s wish.

“We had the funds available to start it up,” Beamer said. “For me, this was like a hobby. But for her, it was like her main job.”

They scouted out a low-cost space off Pear Avenue in Mountain View, basically a garage at the end of a row of industrial buildings. At 1,500 square feet, it wasn’t large, and the location left something to be desired. But Tasca liked the spot: it seemed like a place suitable for intimate theater, she said.

Tasca estimates they invested just over \$100,000 in getting the Pear Theater off the ground, which she partly paid for through freelance editorial work. Early on, costs were high

for the young theater company because it needed to buy its own stage equipment. Rent at the Pear Avenue space ran \$1,800 a month.

The resource that Tasca had in surplus was talent. After years of drama classes and theater productions, Tasca was well acquainted with actors, directors and theater buffs in the area. Those friends became the core group who helped the nascent theater carve out its niche.

“Diane has been the main force behind the Pear for the last 15 years,” said Sharmon Hilfinger, a Pear board member who has directed multiple plays at the venue. “She was always willing to do theater that wasn’t being done elsewhere. Somehow nothing seemed to stop us from going ahead and taking on challenges.”

There was plenty of trouble-shooting early on. In the middle of one production, the fire marshal arrived to warn that the theater was too crowded and people needed to leave. Members of the audience as well as the cast would often have to line up to wait their turn for the theater’s one restroom.

But the plucky theater persevered. A tradition began at the theater to have at least one original play each season, giving a new crop of aspiring playwrights a chance to showcase their work. For more than a dozen years, the troupe has held a biweekly play-writing sessions, which culminate in “Pear Slices,” an annual program of one-act original plays.

The Pear’s current show, a critically acclaimed production of Arthur Miller’s “A View From the Bridge,” runs through April 2.

The Pear developed its own signature style, a mix of classics and outside works, said Dale Albright, a spokesman for the Theater Bay Area association. He credited the Pear for inspiring other small independent theaters on the Peninsula, including the Dragon in Redwood City.

“The Bay Area is home to nationally known playwrights

— where the Pear fits in is they have a commitment to help playwrights that are up and coming and who will be great in a few years,” he said. “That’s an extraordinary commitment to make.”

As the Pear was gaining enough stability to operate without outside funds, a new danger emerged. In 2008, an arm of Google acquired ownership of the industrial lot, including the Pear’s space. It seemed like a foregone conclusion that the tech company planned to redevelop the site, and that the community theater would have to find a new home.

But the theater company landed on its feet. In 2015, as a Google affiliate announced plans to demolish the site, the company offered the Pear Theatre a new space off La Avenida at a bargain price. The new location was a dramatic improvement, allowing them audiences about twice the size of the old location.

Describing her decision to retire, Tasca said it was simply time for her to take a step back. She acknowledged her age, and said the Pear now was making enough to pay for a full-time professional to take over administration.

Whoever assumes that role will have big shoes to fill, many say. A new artistic director will need to grow the theater’s audience, which usually hovers around 70 percent capacity, Tasca said. Additionally, many involved at the Pear pointed out the theater needs to cultivate more patrons in the tech community. With Google and Microsoft right down the street, it would seem like a natural fit.

But perhaps the biggest challenge of all will be balancing the Pear’s artistic traditions with the possible need to transform, Albright said.

“It’s always a challenge to be the first person to replace a founding artistic director,” he said. “You want to honor the legacy, but you might need to do things that are going to help take the company forward.”

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

Public hearing notice

Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Groundwater Production and Surface Water Charges



Topic: Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Groundwater Production and Surface Water Charges

Who: Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors

What: Public hearings on proposed fiscal year 2017/2018 Groundwater Production and Surface Water Charges

When: April 11, 2017 at 1 p.m. – open public hearing
April 13, 2017 at 6 p.m. – open house in South County;
7 p.m. – continued public hearing in South County
April 25, 2017 at 6 p.m. – close public hearing

Where: April 11 and April 25, 2017
Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Room
5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118

April 13, 2017
Morgan Hill City Council Chambers
17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (water district) has prepared an annual report on the Protection and Augmentation of Water Supplies documenting financial and water supply information, which provides the basis for recommended groundwater production and surface water charges for fiscal year 2017/2018.

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

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

Based upon findings and determinations made at the public hearing, including the results of any protest procedure, the water district Board of Directors will decide whether or not groundwater production and surface water charges should be increased, and if so, to what level, in each charge zone or zones for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017.

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

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

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

3/2017_SK

APARTMENTS

► Continued from page 6

Councilwoman Pat Showalter urged Prometheus to take the extra steps for the new apartments to be converted to for-sale condominiums, so that more people could someday own homes. Councilwoman Lisa Matichak worried about parking, especially the optimistic assumption that most future

households would need space for only one vehicle.

As the meeting was a study session, the council did not make a final decision. Council members took turns giving input on the various features of the proposed development, so that staff and the developer would tailor the project so that it could be approved.

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

Big donations kick off Measure B campaign

COMPANIES WITH TIES TO THE DISTRICT PITCH TO PASS PARCEL TAX

By Kevin Forestieri

The campaign to pass the Mountain View Whisman School District's new parcel tax got off to a quick start last month, with large donations from city leaders as well as legal firms, architects and construction companies that have a close relationship with the district, according to campaign finance documents.

The district's \$191 parcel tax, which will be on the May 2 all-mail ballot as Measure B, received \$25,575 in contributions through March 18. The biggest contributor on the report is Greystone West Inc., which donated \$15,000 to the campaign effort. Greystone has been the construction manager for the district for years, and is currently overseeing projects at all of the district's schools fueled by Measure G bond money.

The campaign received \$3,500

from Dreiling Terrones Architecture, the firm in charge of designing new campuses at Stevenson, Theuerkauf and the future Slater elementary schools, and \$1,500 from Quattrocchi Kwok Architects, the firm that designed projects at Castro, Mistral and Monta Loma elementaries. Two of the district's legal firms also pitched in: Orbach Huff Suarez & Henderson LLP gave \$1,500 and Dannis Woliver Kelley gave \$1,000.

Other notable contributors include the Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association (\$500), Mountain View City Council member Margaret Abekoga (\$500), former Councilman Mike Kasperzak (\$250) and Mountain View-Los Altos High School District trustees Fiona Walter (\$250) and Sanjay Dave (\$100).

Lucas Ramirez, who ran for the City Council unsuccessfully last year, pitched in \$500 through his

campaign finance committee Ramirez for Council 2016.

Since the filing period, Measure B campaign members have sought endorsements and donations from each of the school PTAs in the district. Crittenden Middle School's PTA appears to be the first to act, with a donation of \$1,000 to the campaign as of March 21.

Measure B would generate about \$2.8 million annually for the public school district over eight years, and would effectively preserve programs funded through the existing Measure C parcel tax, which expires at the end of June.

The measure requires a two-thirds majority to pass, which the district's parcel tax consultants say is within reach. Ballots will be mailed out to district residents next week, and the deadline the registrar to vote is April 17. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

COMPANION UNITS

► Continued from page 1

doesn't explicitly say this, the law states that secondary units require no dedicated parking if they are within a half-mile of "public transit."

That term is undefined, Pancholi said, but city staff interpreted it to mean public buses, Caltrain or light rail. That means that essentially all residential areas of Mountain View, except for North Bayshore, would be free to build companion units with no parking, she said.

Parking was a big sticking point for council members as they mulled the rules in the past. At the time, the council agreed to require homeowners to provide at least one parking spot per companion unit. But some members thought that requirement was going too far, and they worried it would lead to neighborhoods with vehicles hogging all the on-street parking.

That was hardly the only city rule that was torpedoed. The new state law also changed standards for setbacks needed for companion units, essentially allowing garages to be converted to housing right along the property line under certain situations. Previously, Mountain View council members had agreed that companion units should be built at least

10 feet away from the back and 5 feet from the side of a parcel. Having these homes right next to their neighbors will probably lead to some real privacy issues, Pancholi warned.

Councilwoman Pat Showalter wondered if homeowner could build a detached garage or shed right along the fence-line and then just convert it to housing after it was built. That was correct, Pancholi said, although a homeowner would still need to comply with the city's building code. She described it as a "loophole" in the new state law.

"As far as the state legislation goes, it would be allowed," she said. "You could build a very nice shed in the backyard and then covert it into an accessory unit."

The new rules indicate that companion units can be a fraction the size of a typical home or apartment. The state law sets a minimum size of 150 square feet, smaller than most studios or tiny houses, but they would still need to somehow fit in a bathroom and kitchen.

The authors of the state bills — Santa Monica Assemblyman Richard Bloom and Fremont State Senator Bob Wieckowski — said they specifically designed the legislation to prevent local regulations from creating a barrier to companion units. The new rules would encourage more affordable housing, they said.

Like previous times the topic of companion units came up, the conversation quickly switched to Airbnb and other short-term rental sites. Councilman Lenny Siegel urged city staff to make it a priority to regulate the local short-term rental industry, otherwise any new companion units might not wind up helping the local housing problems but instead be used as vacation rentals.

"There's a lot of units that fly under the radar," he said. "We have to bring our ordinances up to date."

Siegel made a motion to approve the new rules, and Councilwoman Pat Showalter suggested making some tweaks to reduce the city's required setbacks for building — not converting — new companion units. Siegel declined her suggestion, saying he wasn't prepared to consider that idea.

The City Council approved the new rules in a 5-1 vote, with Showalter opposed. She asked that the city consider loosening the setback rules as part of the goal-setting session planned in the coming days.

"We've had quite a bit of input that these setback are too onerous," she said. "We haven't gotten the onslaught of (companion unit) permits that we hoped for, that means we still haven't gotten this right yet." ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) withdrawn for internal review

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) recently released a Draft EA and FNSI for the use of currently vacant Army Reserve Property in Mountain View, CA, for public comment. The Army is withdrawing the EA for further internal review and revision. When this is complete, the EA will be made available for an additional 30-day comment period.

John O. Reller, Jr

John O. Reller, Jr. was born in Rochester, NY, in 1922 to Anna Marie (née Speidel) and J. Otto Reller, a minister. John moved with his parents and younger brother, Herbert, to Evansville, IN, where he attended Campbell/Culver Grammar School, Bosse High School, and Evansville College (now University of Evansville) for two years. He continued his education at Purdue University where he became an aeronautical engineer. After graduating in 1943, he accepted a position with Boeing in Seattle, WA, where he met and married Phyllis (Kit) Marie Malmgren. At war's end, John attained his master's degree at the University of Washington. He and Kit then moved to Cleveland, OH, where John worked at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA). In 1950, he transferred to the Ames Research Center at Moffett Field in Sunnyvale, CA, continuing his work at NACA (which became the National Aeronautics & Space Administration — NASA — in 1958). John participated as a member and leader of a myriad of projects. Many of these employed wind tunnels in the development of jet aircraft and the advancement of the United States' space program. He retired from NASA as a respected senior aeronautical engineer after 47 years. Prior to his retirement, he was the Expedition Team Leader for high altitude research, part of the Global Research Lab with the Airborne Science Office. He enjoyed his travels throughout the world for experiments and research while airborne, studying the effects of climate change and global warming on glaciers, and changes in sea level. In addition, they studied atmospheric phenomena such as monsoons, meteor showers, and the Aurora Borealis.

After retirement, John and Kit enjoyed the rest of their lives in Oxford, OH, near John's brother, Herbert (deceased), and his family. In March 2014, John and Kit celebrated 69 years of marriage. Sadly, Kit passed away in November that same year. In his spare time, John tended to his beautiful garden and enjoyed other outdoor interests such as hiking in redwood forests, scaling Mt. Whitney, and camping outdoors where he reveled in the night sky and love of astronomy. He maintained a lifetime interest in ancient history, biblical studies, ecology, and science in general. He was a charter member and founder of the Foothills Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) in Los Altos, CA. In addition, John and his wife, Kit, enthusiastically supported the Special Olympics, USO, Save the Redwoods, Sempervirens, Sierra Club, his alma maters, his churches, and many others. Those that knew John enjoyed his keen intellect, integrity, and genuine goodness. John was looking forward to being a great-grandfather, but passed away of natural causes on October 16, 2016, at the age of 94; just a couple of months before his great-grandson, Julian, was born. He will live forever in the hearts of his daughter, Susan Flyer; granddaughter, Vanessa Flyer; nephew, Mark Reller; nieces, Marsha Zimmerman and Christine Miller; as well as their families and his many friends. Condolences may be sent online to www.oglepaulyoungfuneralhome.com.

PAID OBITUARY



OPEN HOUSE
Saturday & Sunday, 1 - 5pm
Complimentary
Gourmet Snacks & Lattes

SUN-LIT SPACES DISPLAY OPEN-CONCEPT LIVING

2131 Hanover Street, Palo Alto

Located in the beautiful College Terrace neighborhood is this incredible 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home of over 1,000 sq. ft. (per drawing) on over 3,000 sq. ft. (per county) of property. Basking in abundant sunlight streaming through extensive windows and skylights, the remodeled spaces boast minimalist style with features such as hardwood floors, high ceilings, and versatile rooms. Take an easy stroll to beautiful Werry Park and world-renowned Stanford University, while fine dining and shopping are within close proximity on bustling California Avenue. Excellent schools are also nearby, such as Escondido Elementary (API 927), Jordan Middle (API 934), and Palo Alto High (API 905) (buyer to verify eligibility).

Offered at \$1,488,000



For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.2131Hanover.com



OPEN HOUSE
Saturday & Sunday, 1 - 5pm
Complimentary
Gourmet Snacks & Lattes

OPEN-CONCEPT SPACES SHOWCASE FUNCTION

4214 Juniper Lane, Palo Alto

This incredible 4 bed, 3.5 bath detached home enjoys approx. 2,800 sq. ft. (per county). Modern sophistication abounds with features like bamboo flooring throughout, stainless-steel kitchen appliances, spacious rooms, and tall ceilings, while abundant natural light and classic crown molding display warmth and charm throughout. Located in a private community, this home boasts access to the community pool while being within strolling distance to Robles Park. Popular shopping centers, commuter routes, and excellent schools such as Briones Elementary (API 941), Terman Middle (API 968), and Gunn High (API 917) are also within close proximity (buyer to verify eligibility).

Offered at \$1,998,000



For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.4214Juniper.com

Princesses FOR A DAY

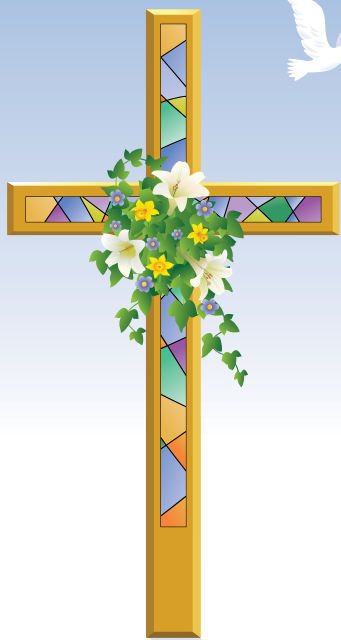
PHOTOS BY
MICHELLE LE

Right: Starr Rey, who's president of the Princess Project's board of directors, models accessories at the prom dress give-away in Mountain View on March 26. The event aims to make sure every teen has a chance to experience a magical prom night that might otherwise be unaffordable. **Below:** Makda Berhanu, one of the volunteer "fairy godmothers," helps high school girls pick out a donated gown.





Top: Nataly hugs her "fairy godmother" Starr Rey as she holds the prom dress she selected. Participating girls also chose from donated shoes and accessories, and took home their prizes in black garment bags. **Above:** Two teens stand in line with the prom dresses they've chosen. **Left:** A high school student considers the fit in a make-shift dressing room at the Princess Project's prom dress give-away in Mountain View on March 26.



Peninsula Easter Services

RESURRECTION WEEKEND
April 14-16

Good Friday | 4.14 | 12-1pm
Communion served

Resurrection Sunday | 4.16 | 10am
Family friendly celebration

ALCF ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

ALCF.net 2440 Leghorn St. MV 650.625.1500

Grace Lutheran Church
3149 Waverley Street • Palo Alto, CA 94306 | www.gracepa.org | 650.494.1212

Holy Week

Palm Sunday
April 9 | 8:30 & 10:45 am

Maundy Thursday
April 13 | 7:00 pm

Good Friday
April 14 | 12:00 & 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil
April 15 | 7:44 PM (Sunset)

Easter Sunday
April 16 | 8:30 and 10:45 am

Easter Breakfast: 9:00 - 10:30 am

Staffed child care available at all services.

EASTER
APRIL 16, 9 & 11AM

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 14, 7PM

For more info:
650 494 3840 | pbc.org/easter

pbc Peninsula Bible Church
3505 Middlefield Rd.
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Peninsula Easter Services is a resource for ongoing religious services and special events. To inquire about or to reserve space in Peninsula Easter Services, please contact Blanca Yoc at 223-6596 or email byoc@paweb.com

HOLY WEEK at FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
600 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto 650-322-4669 www.flcpa.org
Pastors Katherine Marshall and Bernt Hilleland

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY, April 9
8:30 & 10:30 am Procession with Palms, Holy Communion

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 13
6:00 pm Light Supper | 7:00 pm Word and Foot Washing

GOOD FRIDAY, April 14
12:00 noon Stations of the Cross | 7:30 pm Procession of the Cross

EASTER VIGIL, April 15
8:00 pm Fire, Word, Renewal of Baptism, Bread, and Wine

EASTER CELEBRATION, April 16
9:00 am Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 am Festival Holy Communion

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH PALO ALTO

6:15pm
Maundy Thursday — April 13
Monastic Supper & Liturgy of the Word followed by Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar

Noon to 2:00pm
Good Friday — April 14
A service focused on "The Adversaries and Companions of Jesus"

2:00 to 3:00pm
Devotional Labyrinth Meditation

7:30 to 8:30pm
Tenebrae: The Office of Shadows

Easter — April 16

5:30am
Easter Vigil, Eucharist & Baptism

8:00 to 9:30am
Festive Breakfast & Family Easter Activities

10:00am
Festive Holy Eucharist

600 Colorado Ave, P.A. (650) 326-3800
www.saint-marks.com

Los Altos Lutheran Church

PALM SUNDAY: April 9, Worship at 10 AM
9:30 AM - Hot Cross Buns, picnic area

HOLY WEEK: The Three Days

- + Maundy Thursday - Apr. 13 at 7 PM
love one another, the Last Supper
- + Good Friday - Apr. 14 at 2 PM / Tenebrae 7 PM
praying for the world / meditating on the cross
- + Easter Vigil - Apr. 15 at 6:30 PM
candlelight service, gather in patio

EGG HUNT! Saturday, April 15

10 AM - Crafts, balloons, popcorn / 11 AM - Egg Hunt
12 PM - Bring picnic lunch, play yard & tables open

EASTER SUNDAY: April 16
9 AM - Easter Breakfast / 10 AM Worship & piñata after
www.LosAltosLutheran.org / 460 S. El Monte Ave. at Cuesta

The HOPE of EASTER

Palm Sunday Cantata | April 9 at 10:00 am
Maundy Thursday | April 13 at 7:00 pm
Good Friday | April 14 at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunrise | April 16 at 6:30 am
Easter Worship | April 16 at 10:00 am

First Presbyterian Church
1667 Miramonte Avenue | www.fpcmv.org



Join Us for Easter!

Community Breakfast

8:30-10:00am, Fellowship Hall

Early Church: Small Group Gathering

8:30-9:30am, Chapel

Communal Worship Service with Brass

10:30-11:30am, Sanctuary

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

11:30am-12:00pm, Courtyard

www.fprespa.org • 1140 Cowper St. • 650-325-5659

Immanuel Lutheran Church

1715 Grant Road | Los Altos
650.967.4906 | www.ilclosaltos.com



Come Join Us for Holy Week Services!

Palm Sunday, April 9 at 10am

Procession with Palms

Good Friday, April 14 from 7 - 7:30pm

"Prayer Vigil"

Meditation, Song, and Prayer

Easter Sunday, April 16 at 9 & 11am

Festive celebration for the whole family!

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

Three officers drove after the suspects east on Highway 237, and later onto Highway 101 in San Jose and northbound Interstate 280. Officers said the pursuit reached "unsafe" speeds over 100 miles per hour, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

The suspects exited Interstate 280 onto Bird Avenue in San Jose and drove on surface streets before officers called off the chase to avoid endangering the public, Nelson said. Police notified the San Jose Police Department and the California Highway patrol about the missing suspects.

Both men are described as Hispanic, in their late teens or early 20s, with black hair. One was wearing a dark sweatshirt

and the other was wearing a red sweatshirt.

Anyone who may have surveillance footage of the two men are asked to contact the Mountain View Police Department at 650-903-6344. Police are also warning residents to keep doors locked and windows closed, even if someone is home.

FALSE IMPRISONMENT ARREST

Police arrested a San Jose man early Saturday morning after he allegedly tried to keep a woman from leaving a hotel room.

Officers received reports around 6:15 a.m. on March 25 that a man, later identified as 42-year-old Efrain Chavez, was harassing a woman in

the parking lot of Hotel Zico at 200 E. El Camino Real. Officers detained Chavez, and later found the woman who was involved in the incident, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

The woman told police that she was in a dating relationship with Chavez and was with him in a hotel room that morning. She said that Chavez was upset and allegedly became violent after she woke him up early to check out, Nelson said. Chavez allegedly pushed and grabbed her, and tried to keep her from leaving, Nelson said.

The woman was able to run to staff at the hotel's front desk for help. Chavez was arrested on false imprisonment and domestic battery charges. He was booked into Santa Clara County jail with a bail set at \$20,000.

—Kevin Forestieri

MENTAL HEALTH

► Continued from page 5

cooker for some students."

School avoidance is distinctly different from normal truancy, said Susan Flatmo, the district's clinical services director. Students are missing out on class time because of "emotional strain," and there's usually a clear pattern of absences and tardies as students get overwhelmed. She said students will often tell her that anxiety about their academic achievement, and concerns about what other people think about them, are why they started avoiding school.

Flatmo has been hosting training classes to teach parents about what school avoidance is, and what's going on in their child biologically and psychologically when they struggle with emotional stress at school. Kids will say they have a stomach-ache or a headache and parents will think they're sick, Flatmo said, and while the physical symptoms of anxiety are real, parents need to rule out that there isn't something else going on.

The hope is that through working with parents, the district can minimize the amount of class time students miss, and ensure that teens have access to counseling and therapy on and off campus to manage academic pressure. The longer students stay away from school, Flatmo said, the more difficult it is for them to come back.

Therapists at the Community Health Awareness Council (CHAC), which provides mental health services for the district, have also noticed the increase in school avoidance due to academic pressure, said Marsha Deslauriers, executive director of CHAC. Students, many of them

high-achievers, are overwhelmed by depression and anxiety "so significant that they cannot or will not attend school," she said. Parents overwhelmed by their own workload will often just let their kids stay home, and after a few days, the problem starts to compound.

"The kids get so far behind in school work it's very hard to catch up," Deslauriers said. "This leads to more days missed — sometimes even weeks — as the student becomes further and further behind in their school work."

Flatmo said it would make a big difference to have an intervention program specifically tailored for the dozen or so students in the district who haven't been able to return to school, or can only take a few classes, and their anxiety appears to be getting worse.

"We want to support those students so they can come in and get back into the routine and feel better again," she said.

Behavioral problems on campus

Also up for consideration next year is the adoption of a behavioral program that would put high-maintenance special education students in a therapeutic program, rather at one of the two comprehensive high school campuses. The program would serve a small number of students — 12 to 15 kids in total — but it would be a boon for school staff trying to manage classroom disruptions.

At the Feb. 27 meeting, Sarraf said handling high-needs students with behavioral problems has been increasingly challenging, and that school staff are spending much of their time "managing them and protecting other students' opportunity to learn." Satterwhite added that

there's one student who spends fifth and sixth period in her office every day.

Sarraf told the *Voice* Monday that when students at either of the district's comprehensive high schools are disengaged, out of control or despondent, there's no program or "circle of care" in place for them. The result is that they end up in various school offices, and their behavior often detracts from other students' ability to learn.

"As a district, we need to come up with an organized system to rehabilitate these students in an efficient way," Sarraf said.

Over the years, Sarraf said the district has adopted several alternate options to traditional high school in order to meet the needs of as many students as possible, whether it be the district's own continuation high school — Alta Vista — or the Middle College program on the Foothill College campus. Even then, she said there are still probably about 100 students who require some kind of support program for their "unique aspirations and needs."

Superintendent Jeff Harding told board members that the behavioral program, and its associated \$500,000 price tag, is part of the district's effort to help all students succeed instead of sending the most challenging teens to a county continuation program and chalking them up as dropouts.

"We have a dropout rate as low as it is, but there's still that population of students that need something that we're not offering," Harding said. "This (behavioral) program right here would not exist in most of California, it's just not worth the expense." ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

SCHOOLS

▶ Continued from page 1

Robinson. Because of growing enrollment year-over-year, there are about twice as many kindergarteners who have been displaced by the open enrollment process. For parents like Tighe, the odds of her daughter getting into Huff aren't great — she is No. 19 out of the 22 kindergarten students lined up to get into the school.

Tally up the wait lists across all grade levels, and a total of 44 families zoned for Huff are on a wait list for their own school, followed by 34 families who live within the attendance boundaries for Bubb and 5 families for Landels. Parents are unlikely to find any relief by opting for the choice programs as a fall-back: 88 kids have been wait-listed for kindergarten at Stevenson, out of a total of 198 kids at all grade levels who are on the wait list for the popular parent-participation school.

At the March 16 board meeting, Robinson announced that the district will be opening up extra kindergarten classes at Monta Loma and Castro to accommodate the students rerouted away from Bubb, Huff and Landels. As of March 6, she said, all of the students who didn't make it into their neighborhood school had at least been placed somewhere.

"Those students are in a class somewhere, at the right grade level, but not necessarily (in) their neighborhood schools," Robinson said.

It's hard to pin the problem

on any one particular reason, but the district's flawed school boundaries is a good start. The number of elementary school-aged students zoned for Huff Elementary surpassed 700 students last year — followed by Landels at 637 and Bubb at 575 — which is well beyond the school's capacity. Huff already has four kindergarten classrooms packed to the brim, and adding a fifth class would be unsustainable in subsequent years, Robinson said.

District staff have been trying to find an elegant solution to the problem for years, and could be nearing the answer. New boundaries are currently being drafted by the district's Student Attendance Area Task Force, in hopes of re-balancing enrollment so that each school will have close to 450 students. The boundaries are being drawn under the assumption that a new school, Slater Elementary, will be open by the 2019-20 school year.

Though the boundary-drawing process is still underway, parents on the task force are taking a crack at solving over-enrollment at Huff and Bubb. Both schools are south of El Camino Real and split enrollment in the southern end of the city along Grant Road and Phyllis Avenue, but also include neighborhoods north of the busy thoroughfare. Shoreline West, with its roughly 200 elementary school-aged students, is zoned for Bubb, while the Wagon Wheel neighborhood — a Whisman neighborhood with about 170 students — is zoned for Huff. All of the "scenarios"

currently on the table call for rezoning the Wagon Wheel and Shoreline West neighborhoods out of the two popular schools' boundaries.

The district is banking on these new boundaries to even out enrollment. Construction is set to begin in just a few months at Bubb, Huff and Landels, and each school is only going to get 18 permanent classrooms — enough to house about 450 students with three classrooms for each grade level. The assumption is that new boundaries will not only resolve the wait list problem, but also allow the district to reduce the number of kindergarten classrooms.

Even that basic assumption seemed tenuous at the March 16 board meeting. When board member Greg Coladonato asked if it's possible some schools will continue to have four classrooms at each grade level despite the construction plans, Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph said "anything is possible."

Coladonato later told the *Voice* in an email that he had concerns about whether Slater will kick off its inaugural year in the same position as Huff, with too many students clamoring to get in and prompting what the district calls "forced moves" to other schools. Even if it doesn't, schools like Slater are faced with a great deal of uncertainty in the years to come. The city plans to re-zone the East Whisman and North Bayshore areas to allow the construction of thousands of new homes to the city, and there's been no long-term planning on how to handle the potential for hundreds of new students.

"If we aren't thoughtful with our planning, we could likely end up with over-enrollment

problems in the schools nearest to North Bayshore and East Whisman a few years down the road, but without any land on which we could build another new school," Coladonato said.

Although the opening of Slater Elementary and new boundaries could finally provide some relief to schools like Huff and Bubb, that doesn't do much for parents of incoming kindergarteners this year. With the wait list throwing her plans into limbo, Tighe said she's keeping her options open by applying to private school.

"The fact that there's going to be a new school in 2019 is still a day late and a dollar short," she said.

A quick fix

In the two-year period between now and when Slater opens, what — if anything — should be done to avoid displacing students? That's the big question that will be facing board members at the Thursday, April 6, board meeting. Rudolph told the *Voice* on Tuesday that the board will consider 11 different ways to bring down the wait list and allow students to attend their own neighborhood schools.

Options include opening satellite classrooms for Bubb and Huff on district-owned land at either Slater or Cooper Park, adding a fourth kindergarten class at the district's choice programs or simply adding more classrooms at the two crowded schools. The district could also do a "soft open" of Slater elementary starting as early as this August for kindergarten only. Each option has its own logistics problems, and some of them could be cost-prohibitive.

Rudolph described the list as

a way of getting all the options on the table: "everything under the sun including the kitchen sink." He said the district owes it to families to explore all options. The one unifying factor is that all of the possibilities have to be viable for at least two years.

"Some of these are extremely doable, some of these are extremely expensive, and some of these are not viable options," he said. "We want to explore what these options look like."

The list of options, as of March 28, are the following:

- Continue the current practice (do nothing)
- Open Bubb and Huff satellite classrooms at Slater
- Delay construction at Bubb and Huff, and use planned temporary portables to house wait-listed students
- Open Bubb and Huff satellite classrooms at Cooper Park
- Open a fourth kindergarten class at Mistral and Stevenson
- Open kindergarten classrooms at Slater for the 2018-19 school year
- Open kindergarten classrooms at Slater for the 2017-18 school year, followed by kindergarten and first grade in the 2018-19 school year
- End extended-day kindergarten at Bubb and Huff and move to half-day kindergarten
- Add additional portable classrooms at Bubb and Huff to house wait-listed students
- Add additional portables at Bubb and Huff and end extended-day kindergarten in the 2018-19 school year
- Add additional portables at Huff and Bubb and open kindergarten at Slater in the 2018-19 school year. ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

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Bill would require seatbelt use on buses

A state senator has introduced legislation requiring bus drivers and passengers to wear seatbelts in response to a fatal 2016 Greyhound crash that killed two people and injured 13 others in San Jose.

State Sen. Jerry Hill, a Democrat representing San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, said Senate Bill 20 will close a loophole in federal safety standards that requires new buses to be equipped with seatbelts but does not require passengers to wear them.

"Federal regulations require bus drivers to wear seatbelts, but the requirement is not in state law, making it unenforceable," Hill said in a statement Tuesday evening. "What's the point of a seatbelt if passengers and drivers aren't required to wear them?"

The state Senate's Transportation and Housing Committee voted 12-0 Tuesday in favor of the bill, sending it to the Senate

Appropriations Committee.

The move comes on the heels of a report issued by the National Transportation Safety Board on Monday finding that seatbelts could have prevented deaths and injuries on Jan. 19, 2016, when a Greyhound bus struck a crash attenuator on U.S. Highway 101 in San Jose. The attenuator in that incident was a large yellow barrel-like object, the kind that are often used along freeway off-ramps.

The report cited a lack of adequate highway markings around the attenuator as the cause of the crash, which took the lives of 51-year-old Fely Olivera from San Francisco and 76-year-old Maria De Jesus Ortiz Velasquez from Salinas.

The full text of SB20 can be found online at <http://bit.ly/2nvMaGW>.

—Bay City News Service

MOBILE FUEL

► Continued from page 5

from his position. He once again urged the council not to weaken the rules, warning that they presented a real danger in trucking hundreds of gallons of gas into residential areas.

“Mobile fuel dispensing in a residential neighborhood, as I interpret it, is completely illegal,” he said. “I’m concerned about having mobile-fuel dispensing. If we have a fire, how will we deal with this problem?”

Despite those warnings, council members seemed to agree that they needed to retool the rules to be more accommodating. They requested the fire

chief to cooperate with state and county fire officials to find more options, but they didn’t specify when a new set of rules should be established.

That said, the council approved the second reading of the original ordinance in a 5-1 vote with Rosenberg opposed, and Councilman John McAlister absent. It will take effect in 30 days.

“Legislating a company out of business doesn’t seem like the right approach, especially one with a clear safety record,” Rosenberg explained. “The letter of the law for this company doesn’t seem suitable yet.”

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

■ **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

NEW HIRE AT SECOND HARVEST

Cat Cvengros packed her belongings and relocated to the Silicon Valley, ready to serve a larger population and combat a problem bigger than she ever fought against: hunger.

The Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties hired Cvengros as the new VP of Development & Marketing on Feb. 27.

Cvengros moved from Santa Rosa where she worked as the chief development officer for Social Advocates for Youth, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping at-risk youth with housing, counseling and career training.

“This felt like a natural transition to me,” Cvengros said. “I was really looking to move to an organization that a strong impact and strong leadership, and I found it here at Second Harvest.”

Second Harvest partners with 320 organizations around the Peninsula and has 12 partners based in Mountain View. The nonprofit recently launched its Stand Up For Kids campaign, a multi-week effort focusing on ensuring local children have enough on their plates.

Second Harvest’s goal for the fiscal year is to raise \$37 million dollars. But for Cvengros, quantity does not trump quality.

“One of the reasons I was excited to come to Second Harvest was not because they just want to serve more people, but because they want to serve people in a healthier way.”

Cvengros said she is excited to live in Silicon Valley and to begin a new chapter in her life.

“I’m looking at poverty in a much larger way. (In my previous job) I was really focused on homeless young people. Hunger covers homeless people and working families as well as students and children, so it’s a much bigger picture,” she said.

—Shauli Bar-On

NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT MVHS

The Mountain View-Los Altos High School District has tapped one of its own to become the new assistant principal of Mountain View High School.

Teri Fought, who taught in the district for 13 years and currently serves as a technology expert for the district’s teaching staff, has been selected to replace assistant principal Lynne Ewald, who will be retiring this year and moving to Oregon. Fought began teaching in the district as a science teacher in 2004 and started the district’s Earth Curriculum program. She later joined the district’s Instructional Support Team, which trains teachers on education technology initiatives.

“I am honored to get to serve the teachers of Mountain View High, who I know to be passionate about providing an excellent education to all students,” Fought said in a statement Monday. She starts the new job in July.

The district has started seeking a replacement for Fought on the district’s technology training team, according to Eric Goddard, the district’s associate superintendent of human resources.

—Kevin Forestieri

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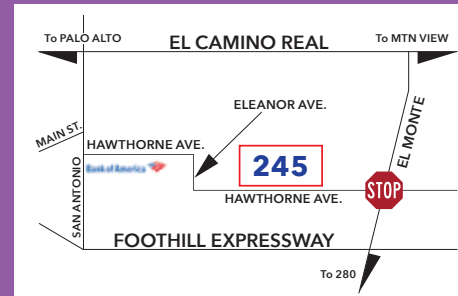
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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

More work needed on new 'high-tech report card' on student performance

The state Department of Education has come up with a new measuring tool to assess public school student performance in the Common Core curriculum era. The new assessment program replaces the Academic Performance Index (API) used for many years by the state. Although the new California School Dashboard that was rolled out earlier this month provides some useful data to help school districts identify areas in need of improvement, it has shown itself to be in considerable need of improvement itself.

Thankfully, the first issuance of the new "high-tech report card" — so described by state Superintendent of Schools Tom Torlakson — is considered a field test. The Dashboard's "design and features will be changed over time based on user feedback," according to information at caschooldashboard.org, where the first Dashboard rankings of the state's public schools can be found.

Those rankings cover absenteeism, suspension rates, English learner progress, and performance in English language arts and math. The problem is that, with this new metrics system, "performance" is assessed not only by test scores but also by the rate of improvement in those areas from one year to the next — all in one measure. This offers the school community a misleading picture of how closely students are actually coming to meeting academic standards at their particular grade level.

Measuring improvement is essential. But to lump that measure in with student achievement as measured by tested performance skews the assessment. Why not two assessment categories: level of improvement, and performance measured against academic standards?

For an example of a misleading assessment in the first Dashboard report card, compare the ranking of Stevenson Elementary with that of Theuerkauf, both in the Mountain View Whisman School District. Although only 45 percent of Theuerkauf students met or surpassed state standards in English language arts, it was given the same high ranking in that category as Stevenson, where 84 percent of students met or exceeded the standards.

On the positive side, the new measuring tool can help schools target possibly systemic problems in areas such as student absenteeism and suspensions, and the school district is already working with principals in some of its schools on lowering the troubling rate of suspensions; the high suspension rate in several of the schools particularly affect children with disabilities.

The state education department deserves kudos for seeking feedback from the school community on the Dashboard "field test." Next fall, it intends to put a fine-tuned assessment tool in place, and begin to use the Dashboard data for individual school accountability purposes. In the next few months, the state will focus on improving its first version of the Dashboard. We hope that Version 2 is less confusing and that it will provide school districts with meaningful data to help them improve student achievement. ■

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

COUNTRY IMPERILED BY AN 'EVIL OLIGARCHY'

We are witnessing the beginning of a cult of personality at the highest levels of our government.

Control of all government appointments is being held to a tiny group of Trump insiders (Bannon and Kushner) who have run roughshod over the requests of cabinet-level secretaries and who are well along in centralizing all decision-making in their hands, hands which are racist, radical and dangerous.

Existing appointees with high levels of skill and expertise are being snubbed (Secretary of Defense Mattis has already threatened to resign based on resistance to his requests from the White House cabal; General McMaster has also been sidelined).

Since Trump appears to care only about benefiting Trump, our country is now in the position of a company taken over by vulture capitalists. These hyenas will be selling off our country for parts and on the cheap unless we can rise up and force them to

respect the wishes of the great majority by actively opposing their evil oligarchy.

Ed Taub
Devoto Street

A PEACEFUL OFFERING FROM A WHITE GUY

In response to Pam Rasmussen's letter entitled, "Planned Parenthood Needs Our Support" (Mountain View Voice, March 24):

I read with interest Ms. Rasmussen's letter, which opened with, "It makes absolutely no sense to me that a bunch of old white men I've never met could have more decision-making power over my body than I do."

Ms. Rasmussen's letter was so convincing that I made a contribution to Planned Parenthood of Mountain View in her honor.

A note to Ms. Rasmussen, whom I have never met: I am a 62-year-old white guy.

Pax.

Phil Cali
Fremont, California
(Priced out of Mountain View)





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