

Mountain View VOICE



INSIDE
THIS ISSUE

Our
Neighborhoods

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MOVIES | 19

City prepares trio of new taxes

MORE BUSINESS TAX REVENUE NEEDED
FOR TRANSPORTATION UPGRADES

By Mark Noack

Lacking the money for an ambitious list of transportation upgrades, Mountain View officials are hoping the city's new generation of businesses can pay for it.

City officials plan to study three separate tax measure options that could go before voters as soon as next November. The measures could include a surcharge on future marijuana sellers, a new per-employee fee aimed at the city's largest companies, and an increase on local hotel fees intended to capture Airbnb and other short-term rentals.

At a meeting earlier this month, City Council members signaled support for studying and possibly conducting polling for all three tax measure options. Extra tax revenues will be needed, they said, for an upcoming series of costly capital improvements, such as a new automated transit system and a series of grade separation projects along the Caltrain line.

The tax on large employers like Google would be the most complicated of the three options, involving a comprehensive update of the city's business license fees to put higher fees on large employers that draw heavy commuter traffic, according to city staff. This measure would likely borrow from similar policies in other South Bay cities with per-employee fees, such as San Jose and Sunnyvale.

Earlier this year, San Jose updated its business license fees

to charge companies with more than three workers up to \$60 per employee as part of their license fee. If Mountain View adopted similar rules, it would generate about \$3.2 million annually, according to staff estimates.

Large tech employers are generating much of the local traffic, so using this pool of money to pay for transportation improvements seems logical, said Councilman Lenny Siegel. He pushed for bringing forward a tax measure on the November ballot.

"2020 will be too late," he said. "Mountain View is really growing, and I want to see us building a lot of housing — we need it — but if we don't do something about the traffic, then we're going to lose support for the housing."

Siegel hinted that officials of one of Mountain View's "major employers" had actually expressed support for the proposed fee in private talks with him.

It remains unclear exactly what this proposed fee increase would mean for smaller businesses like retailers and restaurants. The standard business license fee in Mountain View currently costs about \$30 per year, but the fee hasn't been updated in more than 30 years.

Council members emphasized they would perform an outreach campaign and gather input from local business owners before moving forward with the plan.

Another proposed idea for a future tax would be to raise the so-called transient-occupancy

► See **NEW TAXES**, page 6



MICHELLE LE

THE SEASON OF LIGHT

From snowmen and the Nutcracker soldier to the dueling Yoda and Darth, colorful characters shine on Mountain View Avenue each December, courtesy of the Horton family. It's a holiday tradition that brightens not only the night but the lives of passersby, judging by the thank-you notes the Hortons receive. See the story and more photos on Page 14.

VTA weighs transit options for Highway 85

STUDY WILL EXPLORE LIGHT RAIL AND BUS RAPID TRANSIT ALONG THE CLOGGED CORRIDOR

By Kevin Forestieri

In a bid to alleviate congested traffic on one of the Bay Area's busiest highways, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is exploring whether to convert the median along Highway 85 into light rail, bus lanes or another transit-oriented option — all with the ultimate goal of getting cars off the road.

VTA staff are putting together what's called an "alternatives analysis," set to be released in early or mid-2018, showing the cost and feasibility of a transit system along the Highway 85 median separated entirely from

'We're seeing a lot of people taking side roads to avoid 85.'

MOUNTAIN VIEW CITY COUNCILMAN
JOHN MCALISTER

the rest of the general traffic lanes. Whichever option the transit agency's board of directors approves, it's expected to be partially or fully paid for with revenue from the Measure B sales tax that voters approved last year.

VTA's SR85 Policy Advisory Board, composed of elected leaders throughout Santa Clara County, has weighed the options for how to ease the miserable commute on Highway 85 since 2015, grappling with a gridlock problem that affects long stretches of the highway during the peak commute hours. A traffic analysis in 2015 found that the highway reaches stop-and-go conditions during the northbound morning commute from Almaden Expressway to De Anza Boulevard. The average speed from Homestead Road to Interstate 280 at 9 a.m. is only 7 mph.

► See **TRANSIT**, page 6

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Voices

AROUND TOWN

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Anna Krause.

How do you expect the repeal of net neutrality to affect you personally?



"I don't think it will affect me. Since I don't work anymore I don't rely on the internet as much as I used to."

Gary Toepper, Mountain View



"It'll make it more challenging, because a lot of homework is online now and basically everything everybody does is online, so if I'm suddenly blocked from part of the internet that might be a problem."

Julia Conrad, Mountain View



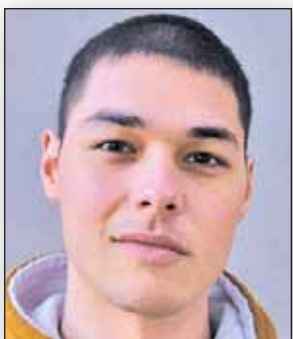
"For those who aren't very familiar with the internet and use it just for basic searches or maybe to keep track of bills ... especially if there's a language barrier, I'm sure that there will be some ... inequality in access to internet resources."

Héctor Navarro, South San Francisco



"I'm part of a startup so there's definitely worry about if the startups will be at any disadvantage to big companies because they won't be able to compete with the prices that they can pay to get high-speed internet or to use other services."

Jeremy Olson, Mountain View



"Imagine having to pay a fee to look at the sky."

Sam Wong, Mountain View

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■ CRIME BRIEFS

MAN ARRESTED FOR BOMB THREATS AT AVA'S

Police arrested a 44-year-old transient man Sunday evening after he allegedly claimed he planted a bomb in Ava's Downtown Market & Deli. Police did not find any explosives in the store.

The suspect reportedly entered the store shortly before 8 p.m. on Dec. 17 and was seen picking up and putting down several items in the store. Witnesses say he became "agitated" and eventually yelled that a bomb had been placed in the store and could go off, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

The man left the store, but was later spotted by officers near the intersection of Castro and Mercy streets, where he was detained. Employees confirmed he was the same man who made the threats, Nelson said.

Store employees say they are familiar with the man, and that he has made threats in the downtown grocery store in the past, she said.

The suspect was arrested on charges of making criminal threats, and was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail with bail set at \$25,000.

ARMED MAN ARRESTED FOR COCAINE POSSESSION

A Mountain View teenager was arrested last week after he was found with bags of cocaine and a loaded firearm in his car during a traffic stop in the San Antonio area.

An officer pulled over the 19-year-old driver near the intersection of Miller and Del Medio avenues around 2:20 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 13, after he failed to stop at several intersections, blowing through red lights and stop signs, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

The officer asked the suspect to step out of the car after seeing smoke inside the vehicle and smelling a strong odor of marijuana — driving while using marijuana is still barred under state law — and subsequently searched the vehicle.

The officer found several bags of cocaine and a loaded handgun in the car; the young man was charged for being in possession of a controlled substance while armed, a felony.

Nelson said there is no indication in the police report that the man was transporting the drugs for sale.

STEVENS CREEK TRAIL FLASHER ARRESTED

Mountain View police arrested a transient man last week after he allegedly exposed himself to people along Stevens Creek Trail on multiple occasions this month.

The 30-year-old man was arrested on Thursday, Dec. 14, around 1:30 p.m. following reports of a man exposing himself to someone on the trail, near Middlefield Road. An officer found and detained the suspect nearby on the 300 block of Easy Street, according to a statement by the Mountain View Police Department.

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 10

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/13
400 block Hope St., 12/14
400 block Hope St., 12/14
400 block Hope St., 12/14
400 block Hope St., 12/15
1500 block Shoreline Blvd., 12/17
900 block W. El Camino Real, 12/18
W. Dana St. & View St., 12/18

1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/15
200 block O'Keefe Way, 12/18

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

100 block Avellino Way, 12/14
3400 block Stacey Ct., 12/14
1400 block Todd St., 12/14

STOLEN VEHICLE

1700 block Ednamary Way, 12/13
200 block O'Keefe Way, 12/17

BATTERY

500 block View St., 12/15

GRAND THEFT

500 block W. Middlefield Rd., 12/14

VANDALISM

1900 block Gamel Way, 12/14
1 block Showers Dr., 12/15

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM COPHER

Saving a grove of seven trees at 575 Sierra Ave. has united residents in the Old Mountain View neighborhood.

Old Mountain View residents rally to save neighborhood trees

PLAN TO CHOP DOWN SEVEN REDWOODS STIRS UP UNSEEN OUTCRY

By Mark Noack

Blockbuster plans to redevelop North Bayshore met with widespread support at the Dec. 12 City Council meeting, but for some, the real news from last week's intense meeting was the fate of a small grove of redwoods.

A push to protect the redwoods has touched a nerve in the Old Mountain View neighborhood. Nearly two dozen residents appealed to the City Council last week in hopes of saving 10 heritage trees planted at 575 Sierra Ave. Those trees include seven mature redwoods,

each around 80 feet high, would all be chopped down to make way for a new single-family home.

"The developer is willing to maximize profit on the backs of the destruction of an irreplaceable asset," said Kim Copher, a local real estate agent who also sits on the city's Downtown Committee. "I'm not saying trees are more important than people, but they're more important than dollars."

The neighborhood desire to save the Sierra Avenue redwoods has launched an organized campaign that would rival any major advocacy issue

facing the city. The group started a website and online petition that collected nearly 1,000 signatures. In addition, Copher and her husband flew a drone to film a short video showing how the colossal trees fit into the neighborhood.

City officials say they've never before seen such uproar in Mountain View over the loss of trees.

"I really see this as a special outlier," said Bruce Hurlburt, city parks and open space manager. "Clearly, this has generated huge interest because there's

► See **TREES**, page 10

Massive housing plan wins council's backing

DEVELOPER PROPOSES ADVANCING MONEY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

By Mark Noack

The Mountain View City Council gave its blessing earlier this month to a dense new residential project intended for tech workers on the outskirts of downtown.

The proposal by Prometheus Real Estate Group calls for a five-story residential community totaling 226 apartments to be built along Villa Street across from Chiquita Avenue. The project wouldn't include any affordable housing, but Prometheus pledged to pay \$3.1 million to immediately help build affordable housing elsewhere in the city.

Prometheus representatives promised that, by going with their proposal, more subsidized housing would ultimately be built, and more quickly. The housing developers said they would immediately write a \$3.1 million check to Palo Alto Housing to "prefund" three other affordable housing projects in the city. Giving this money now should speed up the affordable housing projects, allowing them to be ready for development up to two years earlier, said Jon Moss, Prometheus vice president.

"(This) allows Palo Alto Housing to move forward on their entitlements faster than they would otherwise," he said. "As a result, you'd get more affordable housing and more market-rate housing as well."

The Villa Street apartment project has changed dramatically since it was originally filed as a

gatekeeper request nearly two years ago. Previously, the project called for building out the 3.3-acre site with 240 apartments. As the public amenity, Prometheus had offered to build a park and affordable housing about a half-mile away on Mariposa Avenue. That proposal received a lukewarm reaction from the council and public speakers at a review earlier this year.

At the December study session, the design was heavily revised. Prometheus representatives said they had found a way to package a half-acre park into the apartment project, and they emphasized that they had improved the design aesthetics.

In addition to the affordable housing, the council and city staff indicated they would seek new bike trails near the neighborhood. Among the possibilities, staff suggested the city could build a trail along the south side of the Caltrain tracks or along Villa Street. Many council members favored another idea, building a new underpass or overpass to cross the Caltrain tracks and Central Expressway.

City staff promised they would study potential bike paths for the neighborhood and return to the council with specific options at a future date.

The council signaled its support for the Prometheus development although it did not take a formal vote because the meeting was a study session. The project will continue to be refined and will be brought back to the city in the coming months. ■

Tax overhaul bill: Housing advocates see a silver lining

TAX CREDITS REMAIN INTACT IN FINAL VERSION OF TAX BILL

By Mark Noack

As a federal tax overhaul bill makes its way to the White House for approval, Peninsula affordable housing advocates are seeing one glimmer of hope in the bill's language. A variety of tax subsidies crucial for low-income housing are being preserved in the final version of the law despite threats to end them.

Affordable housing advocates last week were worried the Republican tax plan would have entirely eliminated low-income housing tax credits. This program, established under the Reagan administration, encourages private investment in below-market-rate housing by granting lucrative tax write-offs.

Since its establishment, the tax credits have become the cornerstone for financing affordable

housing, helping build 3 million homes across the country, including more than 8,700 on the Peninsula.

By last week, both Republican-led chambers of Congress had passed different tax bills, and work began on reconciling the two versions. The House version called for eliminating the tax-credit program entirely, prompting an outcry by housing advocates at the national and local level.

In an example close to home, the affordable housing developer Palo Alto Housing has three new low-income housing projects in Mountain View that will rely on financing through federal tax credits. Those new projects include plans to redevelop a Taco Bell at 950 El Camino Road into a 70-unit apartment complex.

Palo Alto Housing is also pursuing projects at two unspecified sites in the Terra Bella

neighborhood that could result in up to 170 affordable units.

These projects would have been severely hindered if the tax-credit subsidies were brought to an end, said Palo Alto Housing executive director Candice Gonzalez.

"This would have meant losing one of our main funding sources — you would have seen a halt to most of our affordable

► See **TAX OVERHAUL**, page 11

TRANSIT

▶ Continued from page 1

Drivers are plagued by the same problems during the south-bound evening commute as well, with similar conditions spanning from the Highway 101 interchange in Mountain View to Fremont Avenue in Sunnyvale, and again from Bascom Avenue in San Jose to Highway 87.

It's no secret that Highway 85 commuters, desperate to avoid the traffic snarl, are spilling out onto surface streets in the North County, said Mountain View City Council member John McAlister, who serves on the policy advisory board. Cars can be seen peeling off from Highway 85 onto Fremont Avenue every morning, heading west, and splintering out to major thoroughfares including Foothill Expressway, El Monte Avenue, San Antonio Road and Springer Road as an alternative way to get to work.

"What I hear from people in the community is that people are tired of the cut-through traffic," McAlister said. "We're seeing a lot of people taking side roads to avoid 85. Grant Road is really slammed in the morning and really slammed in the afternoon."

Measure B language carves out \$350 million of tax revenue to alleviate the traffic troubles on Highway 85, and specifically calls on VTA to study a light rail or bus rapid transit option in the analysis, senior transportation planner Adam Burger told the *Voice* last week. Beyond that, he said, the policy advisory board can include whatever transit option it thinks best fits the highway.

"The study can include any other future technology that is applicable, like autonomous transit solutions," Burger said. "The public has suggested things like subways and gondolas ... and with each one there may be sub-options."

Surveys conducted last month show that of the 2,440 respondents — a majority of whom live in San Jose and commute north on Highway 85 to get to work — about two-thirds were solo drivers enduring a long commute each day. Among San Jose residents in particular, more than a quarter reported sitting in traffic for more than an hour each way. The farther people commuted to work, the more likely they were to consider a transit option if it were built along the Highway 85 median.

"Age and home city correlate with an openness to transit and time sensitivity," according to

commute times and offer more frequent service.

Others argued for interim changes to the high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, which they criticized for being effectively useless and just as bad as the other lanes during the commute hours because it permits hybrid and electric vehicles. McAlister said he agrees, and that there needs to be a realistic incentive for people to carpool.

"We need to get people, even when they have their electric vehicles, out of the HOV lanes because it defeats the purpose," he said.

While the solution may still be

I avoid 85 like the plague during commute hours. But it's getting ugly as early as 2 (p.m.) so there is almost no avoiding it unless I take surface streets.'

COMMUTER, RESPONDING TO TRANSIT SURVEY

the survey. "Younger respondents and San Jose residents are more open to taking transit and less time-sensitive."

What ought to be built in the median? It depends on whom you ask. Residents who attended three VTA meetings on the future of Highway 85 last month, along with online respondents, were all over the map. Some demanded light rail or a frequent express bus service extending far south to Morgan Hill and Gilroy, while others advocated for more general use lanes to increase Highway 85's overall capacity. Some residents expressed skepticism that light rail could work unless VTA found a way to speed up the service, and said that it would better serve commuters if it emulated Caltrain's Baby Bullet express trains — which prioritizes a handful of the busiest stations in order to speed up the

up in the air, the overwhelming majority of comments agreed that traffic on Highway 85 is nigh intolerable.

"I avoid 85 like the plague during commute hours," one commenter wrote. "But it's getting ugly as early as 2 (p.m.) so there is almost no avoiding it unless I take surface streets."

"I already carpool, take a corporate shuttle, etc.," wrote another resident. "I do my part. Yet it still takes me more than an hour most days to get home — and I live around 15 miles door to door from my office. That's crazy."

A tight squeeze

Building a project that spans all 24 miles of Highway 85 is bound to be full of challenges and complications. Over-crossings and pedestrian bridges hang low above the highway, and the unused space in the

median — the linchpin of any major transit option — narrows from a comfortably wide 46 feet to only 20 feet in the northern segments of the highway, making it far too narrow for light rail or a fully protected bus-way.

Many of the difficulties spring from the fact that Highway 85 was built in two separate eras with different goals in mind, Burger said. The northern portion of the highway spanning from Mountain View to I-280 was completed in the 1960s, whereas the southern segments were completed in the 1990s. Only during the second phase of construction did Santa Clara County have a vision for light rail in the median, he said.

The scope of the problem depends on the transit option. Bus lanes require 24 feet of right of way; light rail, 32 feet; and fully protected bus lanes, 45 feet. That means the chosen option may require widening the median or, if that's impossible, a grade-separated guideway.

"We've got to make this service go all the way up to the north, which would require massive reconstruction. That could be an aerial guideway," Burger said.

The cost of the Highway 85 transit options will far exceed the available funding from Measure B. Early estimates put the cost of light rail at \$3.8 billion to build and \$595 per hour to operate; bus rapid transit is estimated to cost \$1.2 billion to build and \$187 dollars per hour to operate.

Burger said those were preliminary estimates for engineering and construction costs and were done long before the alternatives analysis; VTA could cut costs in some areas. But he conceded that the total price tag will be hefty, and VTA staff and the policy advisory board will have to find ways to finance the project.

"We played it safe in the early analysis, but it is a 10-figure

cost and that's well beyond what Measure B allocates," he said. "The (board) will have to take a realistic approach to these goals."

What remains up in the air is where the route will terminate. Early assumptions for the project put the northern tip of any Highway 85 transit option at the downtown Mountain View Transit Center, which links VTA services with Caltrain. McAlister said that would be a mistake, given that many commuters coming into Mountain View are headed to the jobs centers north of Highway 101, forcing another transfer that would lengthen commute times and exacerbate traffic conditions on and around Castro Street.

"That's what people are complaining about. With the VTA transit system it takes forever to get somewhere," McAlister said. "We don't want to have a main route that goes into downtown Mountain View, we don't want to have all the shuttles and congestion in downtown."

The city of Mountain View is simultaneously going through a similar process, exploring the possibility of using autonomous transit or a network of aerial vehicles to ferry people from the city's transit center into North Bayshore and the NASA Ames Research Center, circumnavigating the nearly at-capacity conditions on San Antonio Road, Rengstorff Avenue and Shoreline Boulevard. McAlister said he hopes the concurrent studies will land on a similar technology aimed at getting more people out of cars, which, he said, is the only way to reduce congestion.

"We can't be putting cars on the street; we've got to go aerial to get people off the roads," he said.

The VTA board of directors is expected to vote as early as late next year on the final project for Highway 85. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

NEW TAXES

▶ Continued from page 1

tax, which is basically a surcharge on hotel stays in the city. Mountain View now charges a 10 percent fee on hotel lodgings, but most other South Bay cities have pushed their rates higher. While they prepare a voter measure to raise the hotel fees, city staff said, they could also study expanding the tax to cover the surging local market for Airbnb and other short-term rentals.

A past investigation by the *Voice* found that the city is forfeiting about \$1 million

in annual revenues by not imposing hotel fees on about 800 Airbnb rentals in the city. City legal staff say they lack sufficient authority to charge the fees, but they have also declined to follow the example of nearby cities by allowing Airbnb to set aside those taxes until formal regulations are drafted.

"Now is the time to get Airbnb taxed — we're leaving a lot of money on the table," said Councilwoman Pat Showalter.

A tax on future marijuana dispensaries in Mountain View also received council member support, although officially the pot industry is

still prohibited in the city. Earlier in the same meeting, the council decided to place a temporary ban on dispensaries opening in the city, which could be extended through 2019. City staff say that time will be needed to fully prepare policies and regulations.

Despite that delay, discussions of a future marijuana tax indicated that Mountain View would eventually allow pot dispensaries in the city. Sean Kali-rai of the Silicon Valley Cannabis Alliance urged the city to consider using some of the taxes to help pay for treatment and "adverse impacts" of marijuana legalization.

For any of the tax options, city officials would need to decide whether to specify a use for the revenues. Under state law, tax measures with a specific purpose, such as paying for transportation improvements, are required to get support from two-thirds of voters. Unspecified tax measures that go directly into the general fund need only a simple majority to pass.

Councilman Chris Clark suggested that the city should play it safe. He said a tax measure could be written to suggest various possible uses without requiring that the revenues are spent on a specific project.

Mountain View's three potential tax measures could have some company on the November ballot. The Mountain View-Los Altos High School District is also considering a bond measure for November. Meanwhile, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and the Bay Area Council are pushing for a regional transportation tax, which could join the same ballot.

For Mountain View, "three measures on the ballot is something to be cautious about," warned City Manager Dan Rich. "But we can explore it." ▣

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

Mentor Tutor Connection

Mentor Tutor Connection matches adult volunteers who serve either as mentors with under-served youth in high school or as tutors to students in elementary and middle schools in Mountain View and Los Altos school districts.

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.

MayView Community Health Center

The MayView Community Health Center in Mountain View offers primary care services to low-income and uninsured patients in northern Santa Clara County. No patient is turned away for inability to pay for services, which include prenatal and pediatric care, cancer screenings and chronic disease management.

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 the services it offers are school-based counseling and programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors.

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YWCA's mission: Helping survivors of domestic violence

REGIONAL NONPROFIT OFFERS SHELTER, LEGAL HELP AND CRISIS COUNSELING TO VICTIMS

By Kevin Forestieri

For victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, YWCA Silicon Valley can be many different things. It can be the tool that pulls women and children out of an abusive household like a zip line, or it can be the shelter that prevents displaced families from sleeping on the street after fleeing violence.

In addition to a roof over the heads of those needing to escape a violent situation, the nonprofit provides residents throughout the region, including in the North County, with legal support, immigration services, child care and mental health counseling — a comprehensive network of services critical to helping people in dire situations.

“The YWCA is one door to many solutions,” said YWCA Silicon Valley CEO Tanis Crosby. “We are the rape crisis center for Mountain View, for our community. We are here for survivors of sexual assault, and we are also working in really close partnership to prevent domestic violence.”



YWCA is one of seven nonprofit organizations that benefit from the Voice's annual Holiday Fund. Donations to the fund are divided equally among the nonprofits and are administered by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation at no cost, so 100 percent of contributions go to the recipients.

Close to 40 percent of women in California experience physical violence from their partner in their lifetime, according to the nonprofit — a situation that forces many survivors to make a difficult decision to either endure the abusive relationship or face homelessness. YWCA cites multiple studies showing that from 22 to 57 percent of homeless women are on the streets as a direct result of domestic violence.

YWCA operates a confidential emergency shelter to offer a sanctuary for families fleeing domestic violence, aiding 190

survivors over the 2016-17 year. But the demand far outweighs the 63 available beds in Santa Clara County, and 2,300 requests have to be turned down each year, according to the nonprofit.

For the women who do get into the shelters, however, Crosby said a growing number are able to get back on their feet and find stable housing, thanks in part to rental subsidies provided by the nonprofit. Just a few years ago, only 7 percent of people leaving YWCA's shelters had secured an affordable place to live. That number has since tripled, Crosby said.

“Yes, there is still a big need,” she said. “Yes, we are still turning away far too many people because our shelters are too full, but we are also seeing significant traction, and that's because of donor support.”

YWCA services also include a 24-hour crisis support hotline, child care support exceeding \$330,000 each year, and mental health counseling and clinical therapy for parents and children

► See **YWCA**, page 11

CSMA unveils expansion plans

NEW CLASSROOMS AND STUDIOS WOULD EASE NONPROFIT'S WAIT LIST

By Kevin Forestieri

The Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) has been on a mission to spread art and music education to as many children as possible on the Peninsula. But lately, turning that mission into a reality has hit a consistent snag.

CSMA's headquarters, known as the Finn Center at 230 San Antonio Circle, off San Antonio Road, has been packed to the brim for years. Every day from 2 p.m. through the evening hours, the increased demand for art lessons and classes has surpassed the available space for professional artists and musicians to teach children at the nonprofit's flagship location.

“We have every nook and cranny filled,” said Executive Director Vickie Grove. “Our school has operated on the site since 2004, when the Finn Center opened, and we have just over time filled up the space.”

In a Dec. 13 announcement, CSMA announced that it's seeking to change that, with plans and early funding in the works to expand the facility with a

new wing dedicated to studios for private lessons, classrooms and flexible teaching space. The 3,350-square-foot expansion would allow the school to support up to 25 percent more students, Grove said.

CSMA has owned the land to the west of the Finn Center — including the former site of an auto repair shop — for over a decade, using it for extra parking during the most crowded hours of the day. The nonprofit was able to snap up the property thanks to Ruth and Roy Rogers, local long-time supporters of CSMA who helped purchase the property in 2006, according to Sharon Kenney, CSMA's communications director.

The auto shop was still doing business under its previous long-term lease, with CSMA as its landlord, until last year, when the shop owner retired, Grove said.

The wing would have tech-savvy resources, allowing students to dive into digital art and media classes, photography and video editing as well as digital composition for music classes and higher-level music theory, Kenney said.

The new wing was designed by Martin Hochroth of Artik Art & Architecture, and will look similar to the rest of CSMA's headquarters.

CSMA is launching a public fundraising campaign this month to help finance the expansion, which is expected to cost around \$4 million. The cost will be partially paid for through seed funding from big donors, including the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Stephen Finn, who helped finance the existing campus now named after him.

Kenney said the expansion will be called the “Rogers Wing” in memory of Ruth Rogers, who died in September. Rogers launched an in-school music program at Bubb Elementary in 1981, which CSMA took over in 2002 and used as a model for its Music4All program in local public elementary schools.

Most of CSMA's growth in recent years has been through music and art programs at public school campuses rather than

► See **CSMA**, page 11

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Santa Clara County launches bail-alternative awareness effort

Santa Clara County officials launched a campaign today to inform jail detainees of free alternatives to bail as part of a challenge to safely reduce jail usage.

The multilingual "No Cost Release" campaign's message will be spread by video, public access TV, the internet, posters and brochures inside jails and throughout the community.

County officials said the effort is part of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge, a nationwide initiative to reduce over-incarceration.

County Chief Public Defender Molly O'Neal said, "In my mind, it's long overdue. I think it ought to happen all over the state and all over the country."

Free services have been available through the public defender's office since 1965. Pretrial services have been available since 1969, according to Javier Aguirre, the county's director of re-entry services. He said detainees should be screened for pre-trial services.

"This is the first opportunity for the county to do a comprehensive information campaign

in English, Spanish and Vietnamese to inform individuals who have been arrested, inform their families and the public about free pre-trial release alternatives to paying for bail," Aguirre said.

The campaign's goal is to tell detainees and people awaiting trial of their free pre-trial release options, rights to free criminal defense attorneys and access to free re-entry services.

The MacArthur Foundation awarded Santa Clara County a \$50,000 grant to design and test reforms aimed at safely reducing jail usage as well as racial and ethnic inequality in the county justice system. The county is one of 20 jurisdictions to receive a grant.

Until now, only information about commercial bail bonds and private criminal attorneys was available inside county jails.

In the past few years, alternatives to bail have become increasingly popular as county officials and others see how hard it is for low-income and homeless detainees to pay bail and get out of jail before trial.

O'Neal said that jail time

jeopardizes a detainee's employment, which can lead to homelessness; it affects a detainee's family, and hinders the detainee's ability to work with an attorney for his or her defense.

O'Neal said in a statement that being incarcerated "imposes an artificial incentive to plead guilty in order to get out, regardless of guilt or innocence."

Research shows that detainees are more likely to be convicted, less likely to have their charges reduced and more likely to be sentenced to jail or prison, with longer sentences — even when the seriousness of the charges and their criminal histories are equal — than defendants who have been released.

Detaining someone is also costly for the county. It costs \$159 per day to confine someone to jail compared with \$15 per day for pre-trial supervision.

The county's independent Audit Management Division estimated that between July 1 and Dec. 31, 2011, the county could have saved \$31.3 million in detention costs if detainees who were eligible were released on their own recognizance.

— Bay City News Service

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TREES

► Continued from page 5

a large number of trees on the property; that's why people are concerned."

All trees of a certain height and diameter are classified as heritage trees under the city's ordinance, but Sequoia redwoods of any size are explicitly protected. Under those rules, a property owner must first file an application before taking down any affected trees. Each tree must be considered independently on its own merits, Hurlburt said.

Most requests to remove heritage trees are granted by the city. Since July 2016, Mountain View received requests to remove about 430 trees throughout the city. The city granted permission to remove just under 280 trees, according to the Community Services Department.

But those numbers could be misleading because far more heritage trees are being chopped down. Hurlburt said his department does not track tree-removal permits that are packaged into development projects. That subset is likely a large number — to name just one example, more than 200 trees were chopped down to make way for Google's Charleston East office campus.

The city's Community Development Department reportedly keeps track of these tree removals, but department officials did not immediately respond to questions by the Voice.

City officials say they are still reviewing plans for development and heritage-tree removal at 575 Sierra Ave., which should take "several weeks."

If the tree removal is granted, opponents could appeal the decision. ■

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

The suspect is the same person who allegedly sexually battered and exposed himself to a woman in Mountain View on Dec. 9, according to police. The man was booked into Santa Clara County jail on two counts of indecent exposure.

Police believe there may be more victims who may have encountered the suspect, and are asking for anyone with more information to contact Detective Marco Garcia at 650-903-6356.

The Voice is not identifying the suspect in accordance with its policy on naming people who have been arrested but not charged by the district attorney's office. The policy is available online at embarcaderomedia-group.com/policy/arrest.

—Kevin Forestieri

MountainView ONLINE

LET'S DISCUSS:

Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at MountainViewOnline.com

TAX OVERHAUL

► Continued from page 5

housing development,” she said. “We would have had to rethink all of our projects and find new sources of funding.”

If the tax credits were eliminated, it would have meant that about 900,000 fewer affordable homes would be built over the next decade, according to the Novogradac & Company accounting firm.

But even with tax credits remaining intact, the program is taking a hit: The value of these credits has plummeted for months as potential investors have anticipated a hefty reduction in the 35 percent corporate tax rate following the election of President Trump. That sudden loss of value nearly derailed a 67-unit affordable

housing project at 1701 El Camino Real.

The version of the bill passed by Congress this week calls for reducing this tax rate to 21 percent. The bill passed with no votes from Democrats.

Taken altogether, the tax bill benefits the nation’s wealthiest citizens and does little to help citizens struggling for shelter, said Diane Yentel, president of the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

“We should be increasing investments in solutions to the housing crisis impacting low-income people across the country,” she wrote. “This bill will exacerbate our country’s already yawning income inequality and will harm efforts to end homelessness and housing poverty.”

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

YWCA

► Continued from page 9

experiencing trauma from domestic violence; legal advice, and immigration and social services are provided through the nonprofit’s North County Family Justice Center.

The cascade of services often work in tandem. Crosby recalled one survivor who called the support hotline reporting that she was experiencing domestic violence, only to reveal she was also a victim of human trafficking. She received immediate support, crisis counseling and help filing for a T-Visa, allowing her to retain legal status in the country, she said.

Rather than wait for victims to come forward seeking help, YWCA works with local police departments to identify survivors of domestic violence. Crosby said law enforcement agencies throughout the county agreed to send in redacted police reports that involve a survivor of domestic violence, allowing YWCA

to contact the victim directly. A total of 1,444 survivors were helped in 2016-17 through this method.

Among the domestic violence survivors helped by YWCA, 89 percent are female, 80 percent are people of color and 84 percent make \$35,000 or less each year, according to the nonprofit’s 2016-17 annual report.

Crosby said all of YWCA’s offerings converge to serve the same three goals: ending racism and violence, providing “real solutions” to homelessness for victims of domestic violence, and ending what she calls the “education and prosperity gap” that women face in the workforce — particularly in high-paying tech jobs. The ambitious goals also come with huge increases in funding as well, with the nonprofit’s annual revenue doubling to \$10.2 million over the last two years.

“We are absolutely on a mission to create real and lasting change,” Crosby said.

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

CSMA

► Continued from page 9

Finn Center program because of the dearth of available space. Keyboarding classes have been hosted in the back of one of the Finn Center rooms, and the hugely popular percussion program — and its broad range of instruments and drums — can barely fit in the current building, Grove said.

The expansion plans call for demolishing a storage shed to the west of CSMA’s campus, which will be converted into much-needed parking — an ongoing challenge for the school. The new parking lot will link with San Antonio

Circle instead of forcing people onto San Antonio Road to find parking.

The fundraising effort will include a benefit concert at the end of February, where internationally acclaimed pianist Mari Kodama will perform in CSMA’s Tateuchi Hall.

“We are super thrilled to be able to offer her in such a small venue,” Grove said.

Anyone interested in donating to the expansion can go the arts4all.org and click on the donate button. Contributions to the “capital campaign” will go toward funding the new west wing of the school.

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



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PHOTOS BY MICHELLE LE

The Horton family receives letters from grateful motorists and other passersby for their displays of holiday lights in the season of lights — a tradition of many years.

Bright lights

FROM RUDOLPH TO YODA,
COLORFUL CHARACTERS SHINE
ON MOUNTAIN VIEW AVENUE

By Anna Krause

When Melissa Horton began buying Christmas lights on clearance after the holidays way back when, she never expected them to become part of a beloved and enormous family collection.

Now, over 10 years and 25,000 Christmas lights later, the Horton lawn spends the month of December covered in brightly lit forms of all shapes and sizes, from Rudolph and candy canes to Darth Vader and Yoda.

Each of these arrangements has a story behind it. When the Horton girls, Makayla, 6, Maya, 10, and Mica, 13, were younger, their father, Mike Horton, created Sesame Street characters with the lights. When the girls took an interest in ballet, he set up a “forest of light,” complete with bulbs that twinkle in time to Christmas music.

One year, the Hortons’ daughters requested a gingerbread house, so the family painted and decorated their playhouse. When some kids in the neighborhood requested Star Wars characters, Mike, a Star Wars fan himself, made Darth Vader and Yoda out of lights.

This year, to satisfy Makayla’s requests for a dog, the family added a Christmas-light pup to the collection.

Around 5 p.m. each evening at 1027 Mountain View Ave., the lights go on, and the dryer and printer go off. The



Hortons say they’ve blown their fair share of fuses when they forget about the lights, but that the inconvenience and high electricity bills are well worth

it when they receive letters and thanks letting them know just how much joy the lights have brought into the lives of those who see them. ■

Local home and garden tips, events

Looking for new skills to spiff up your home and garden? Does the thought of pulling a fragrant loaf of bread fresh from your oven excite you? Here’s a small roundup of classes scheduled for this and next month on the Midpeninsula.

Naturally ornamental

It’s never too late to add ornaments to your tree. Visit Hidden Villa Farm on Saturday, Dec. 23, from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., and again at 1:30 p.m. to make ornaments from natural materials. The program is covered by your entrance fee. Hidden Villa Farm is located at 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. For more information, go to hiddenvilla.org.

No need to knead

If you’d like to learn something easy to bake, visit Hidden Villa Farm on Saturday, Jan. 13, from 10 a.m. to noon and learn to bake Irish soda bread, a simple, no-knead loaf that’s ready to eat in an hour. You can add cheese, herbs, spices, fruit or nuts to this basic recipe, and learn about whole-grain and gluten-free variations. Cost is \$20 per person. To register, go to hiddenvilla.org. Hidden Villa Farm is located at 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills.

The art of espalier

Have you ever wanted to learn how to get a plant to grow up a wall in an espalier? Lyngso Garden Materials will offer a clinic on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. to noon on “The Art of Espalier.” Instructor Arnie Cortez will address how to grow the two-dimensional form of an espalier, either for fruit, hedges or for decorative purposes. He will demonstrate the key elements of aesthetic and bonsai-style pruning. Lyngso Garden Materials is located at 345 Shoreway Road, San Carlos. To register, go to lyngsogarden.com.

— Palo Alto Weekly



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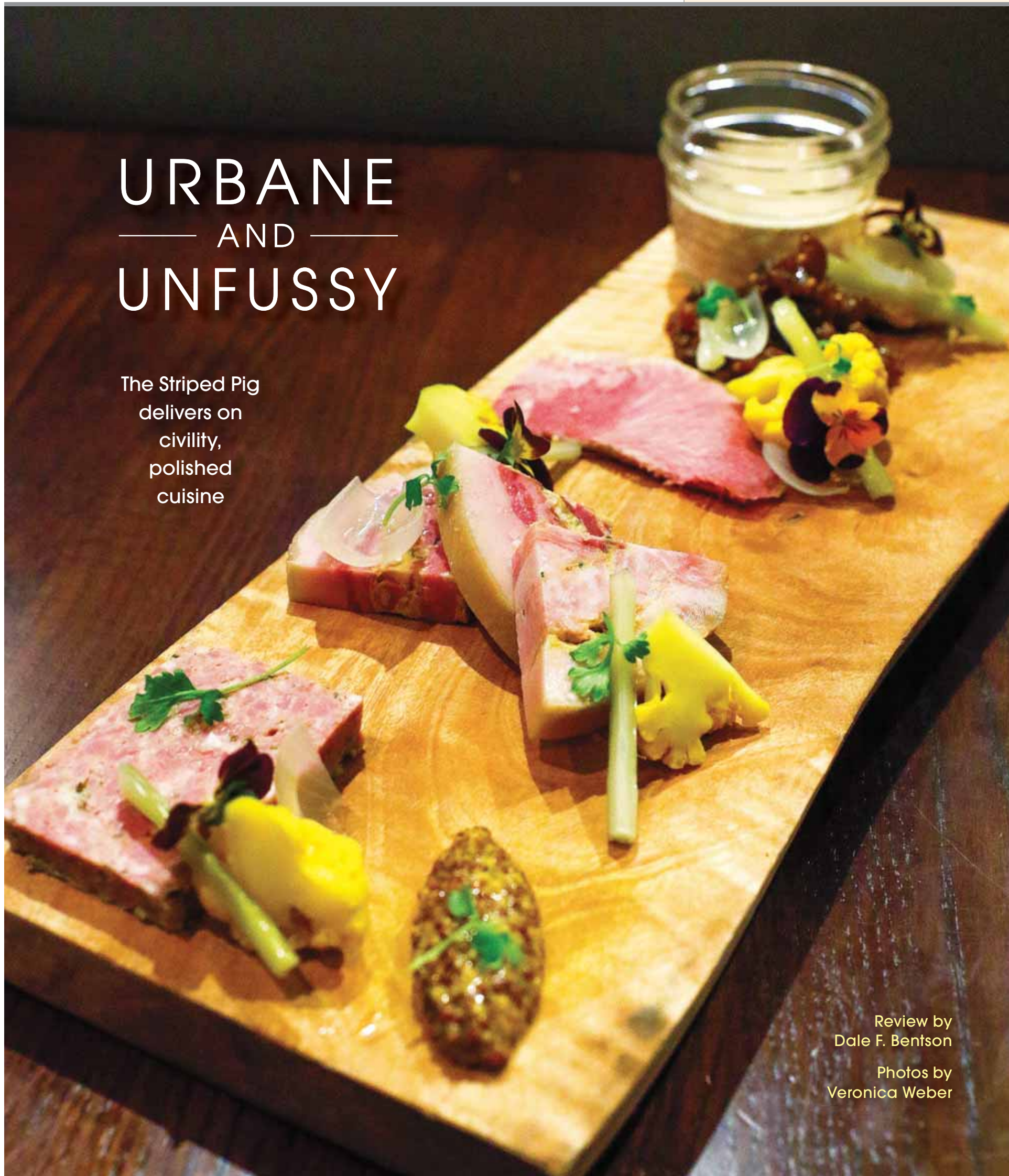
■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

■ MOVIE REVIEWS

■ BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT

URBANE — AND — UNFUSSY

The Striped Pig
delivers on
civility,
polished
cuisine



Review by
Dale F. Bentson

Photos by
Veronica Weber

RESTAURANT REVIEW

It rained, it poured, traffic was snarled and we were 30 minutes late for our reservation at The Striped Pig in Redwood City. We frantically called en route and the calming voice on the phone told us not to worry. When we finally made it, we were immediately greeted with a warm smile and assurance that all was well.

Upon seating though, my dining companion said she forgot her reading glasses in the car. Instantly, a female staffer appeared with a selection of readers draped over her arm.

"Happens all the time," she said.

It was an astonishing attention to detail I hadn't thought possible in a small downtown restaurant on a rainy weeknight. Usually, it's the Michelin-star restaurants that show that level of civility. I had a good feeling about this place.

Opened in October 2015, The Striped Pig is an extended family affair. Andrew Mitchell and Al Pacheco are the chefs; Mitchell's father, a contractor, built the restaurant, and his mother manages the books.

The kitchen boasts impressive credentials. Mitchell earned a degree at the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco. His resume includes PlumpJack at Squaw Valley in Lake Tahoe, John Bentley's in Redwood City, and the now-shuttered 231 Ellsworth in San Mateo, Station 1 in Woodside, and Kaygetsu in Menlo Park.

Pacheco trained at Le Cordon Bleu in San Francisco. He has worked in Michelin-starred restaurants, including The Village Pub in Woodside and Madera in Menlo Park.

The Striped Pig's interior is compact and contemporary. The bar seats are upholstered, allowing guests comfort while they scan the cocktail list or peruse the food menu. Tables surrounding the bar give the space a snug but not cramped feel. Conversation never competed with noise level. Groupings of colorful modernist acrylics on the walls add to the upscale vibe.

The small plates menu was compact, but dishes were well-conceived and perfectly executed. The apple-based dry rub barbecue wings (\$8), pieces of crisp chicken wings served in a mesh basket with a piquant dipping sauce, were spiced just right. The sauce left a lingering kiss on the lips.

The bone marrow (\$13) with brown-butter milk crumble and chives was silky and rich; it was served with toast points for spreading the marrow and adding crunch.

The artistically plated shrimp (\$16) was flanked with fried



Far left: A charcuterie plate made in house at The Striped Pig features head cheese, country pâté, beef tongue and foie mousse. **Above:** Chris Wertman, bartender at The Striped Pig, prepares cocktails. The restaurant is known for its small plates and cocktails.

polenta and red watercress, plus a roasted piquillo pepper aioli. The piquillo, a medium-sized red pepper with a sweet and slightly tart taste, made for a delicious savory sauce.

There were several smaller small plates that made good appetizers: deviled eggs with chorizo crumble (\$7); crisp fries with lemon aioli (\$6); and marinated olives with Manchego cheese, fennel and herbs (\$7).

Speaking of herbs and vegetables, most of the seasonal produce comes from Mitchell's own garden, about a mile away from the restaurant. The bar also uses his herbs in the craft cocktails.

The special one night was duck confit (\$22) with chanterelles and shishito peppers drizzled with lavender honey. The duck was crisp, juicy and meaty.

Small cavatelli pasta shells

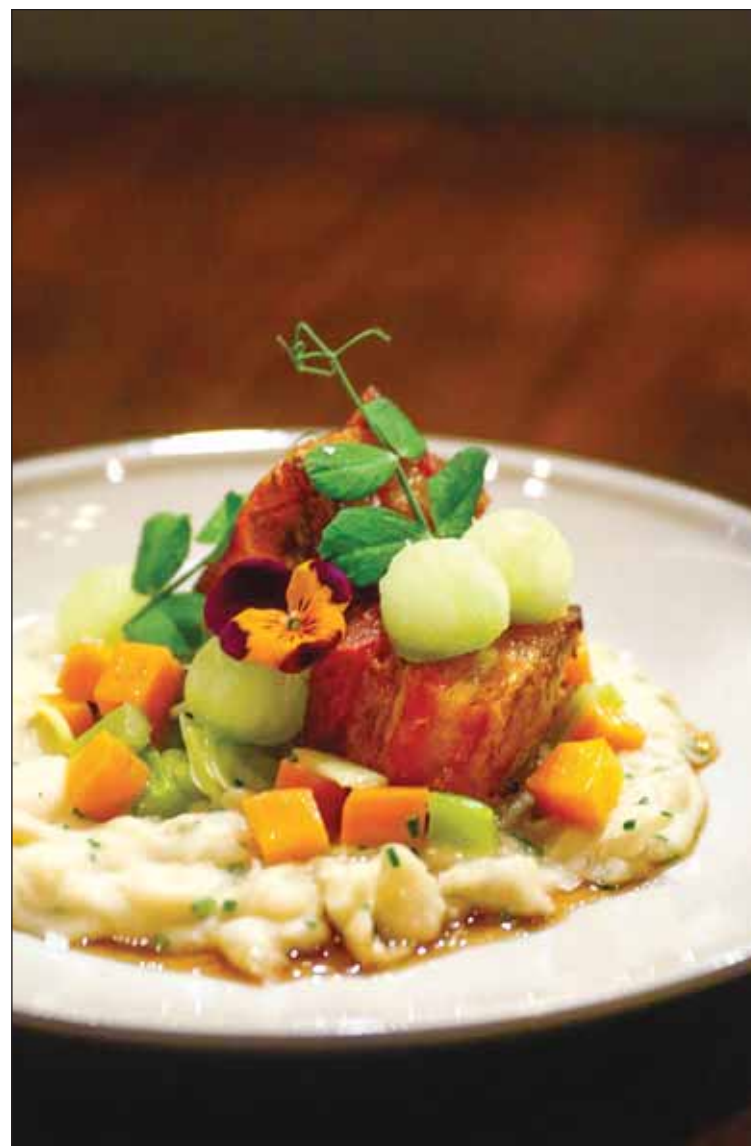
(\$19) bathed in squid ink came layered with wild mushrooms, pumpkin seeds, herbs and edible flowers. The pasta was accompanied by two delicious sauces, a butternut-squash cream and a Parmesan cream.

The flat iron steak with cauliflower sauce (\$24) shared the plate with delicate squash that was roasted then puréed. The mouth-watering chunks of steak were seared rare.

Finally, the grilled swordfish (\$24) was thick-cut but cooked through. It was moist, fork-tender and served with bacon-fat potatoes, broccolini and dollops of whipped lemon-butter.

The best was yet to come: desserts. There were only two on the menu (three if we included the cheese plate).

► Continued on next page



Left: Colorful modernist acrylics on the walls add to the upscale vibe. **Right:** Pork belly with white bean cassoulet, mirepoix and compressed apples, served with huckleberry pork jus.



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5-9 p.m., Friday-Saturday
5-10 p.m.

Bar: Tuesday-Saturday
5 p.m. to closing.

Credit Cards

Reservations

Children

Takeout

Outdoor dining

Alcohol *full bar*

Parking *street and city lots*

Happy hour *Tuesday-Thursday, 5-6 p.m.*

Corkage \$20

Noise level *moderate*

Bathroom cleanliness *excellent*



Deviled eggs with Spanish chorizo and whole grain mustard.

► Continued from previous page

My dining companion, a self-proclaimed pot de crème expert, declared Striped Pig's take, with caramel sauce and whipped cream (\$8), about the best she's ever had.

The decadent hard root beer float (\$8), which is 5 percent alcohol, had hints of vanilla, licorice and birch. It was served in a heaping mug with ice cream, whipped cream and chocolate shavings. It took me back to hot summer days in the Midwest, where similar soda fountain treats, called "black cows," were served — but made sans alcohol and with cheap chocolate syrup squirted from a pump dispenser. The Striped Pig's float was updated and unequivocally better, but still nostalgic.

The Striped Pig offers over a dozen craft and specialty cocktails (\$12 to \$16), plus draft beers and wines by the glass.

The front-of-the-house staff was excellent, headed by General Manager Natalie Ercolini-Lastaria. Servers were gracious, helpful and attentive, and interacted well with guests. Mitchell praised his team, both front and back of the house.

"After all," he said, "that's who makes it happen."

I had no argument. ▣

Freelance writer

Dale Bentson can be emailed at dfbentson@gmail.com.



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Water System Flushing

The City of Mountain View is preparing to begin its annual water system flushing program. System flushing is a process the City uses to maintain water quality by clearing water mains of sand and sediment that may have accumulated during the last year. The City's flushing program accounts for less than 1% of the overall water system use.

In the next several weeks, City staff will be flushing water mains from Cuesta Drive to the northern City limit. The City will post notices in affected neighborhoods several days in advance of the flushing. If you would like more information about the City's water system flushing or have questions or concerns while City personnel are in your neighborhood please contact the Public Services Division at (650) 903-6329.

■ MOVIE OPENINGS



SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Armie Hammer, left, and Timothée Chalamet star in "Call Me By Your Name," a coming-of-age romance.

The love that dares speak its 'Name'

ROMANCE TAKES ROOT IN LOVELY NORTHERN ITALY

★★★★ (Palo Alto Square)

The orchard surrounding an American family's sun-dappled Northern Italian 17-century villa bears peaches, cherries, apricots and pomegranates. And that's just the non-forbidden fruit in the sensual coming-of-age romance "Call Me By Your Name." The plot could be called a gay "Summer of '42" in its wistful pairing of a twenty-something and a teenager, but director Luca Guadagnino and screenwriter James Ivory apply a soulful sophistication to the complexities of first love, even more troubling as "the love that dare not speak its name."

Over six summer weeks in 1983, two young men meet, flirt, make passes, bond and develop a love for one another. Coltish 17-year-old Elio (a remarkable Timothée Chalamet) shares the villa with his professor father (Michael Stuhlbarg) and translator mother Annella (Amira Casar), but must give up his room every summer to Mr. Perlman's resident intern. This year it's 24-year-old American grad student Oliver (Armie Hammer), and as Elio moves to

the adjoining room, he explains the intimate arrangement, in which the two share a bathroom ("It's my only way out").

From the very start, Elio's male gaze and precocious intellect take in everything about Oliver, from his strapping frame to his carefree attitude to his habit of ending a conversation with an insouciant "Later." By film's end, it's clear that everyone here also takes loving notice of Elio: his noninterventionist parents, his friend and wishful girlfriend Marzia (Esther Garrel), and Oliver, who tempers his sexual interest with at least some measure of caution, both for the sake of discretion and Elio's feelings.

As with most romances, "Call Me by Your Name" runs on conflicted emotions and social obstacles, here found in the subtext readable on faces and in anxious body language (as well as in two Sufjan Stevens songs penned for the film: "Mysteries of Love" and "Visions of Gideon"). Interest turns quickly to mutual annoyance then again to pained longing. When everything but

the two men falls away, what remains is a deep connection, the nature of which the film doesn't need to spell out. Some will see it as pure love, some as purely sexual desire, some as unadvisable, some as improper. But an eleventh-hour monologue by a key character, carefully, tenderly acknowledges its specialness to Elio and refuses to judge it as anything but a milestone to be cherished.

Working from André Aciman's 2007 novel, Ivory has crafted one of the finest screenplays of the year, and using it, Guadagnino has coaxed from his cast a film unmatched this year for life-like rhythms and attention to human behavior. Since it's also a travelogue filigreed with fragments of antique European art, literature and philosophy, it's also a gorgeous, reflective film that unfolds at a deceptively lazy pace: in point of fact, there's not a moment in it that isn't necessary.

Rated R for sexual content, nudity and some language. Two hours, 12 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

also has told story after story about it always being darkest (or Dark Side-est) before the dawn. Technically, J.J. Abrams' "Episode VIII: The Force Awakens" was about all of the above as well, but it's writer-director Rian Johnson who, with "Episode VIII: The Last Jedi," better fulfills the promise of Lucas' first subtitle: "A New Hope." Johnson embraces the familiar obligations of a "Star Wars" movie while making a strong effort to trick audiences into sitting on the edges of their seats. Though no one would have wished it, he gets help in this regard from the untimely death of Carrie Fisher (who returns as Leia Organa, princess and general). On a first

viewing, it's hard not to watch "The Last Jedi" without constantly wondering how much more we'll get of Fisher. It's no spoiler to say that the filmmakers weren't lying when they promised Fisher has a substantial role; in fact, the beloved Fisher gets to be the film's font of centered wisdom, humor and heart. *Rated PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi action and violence. Two hours, 32 minutes.* — P.C.

THE DISASTER ARTIST

★★★

If it's true that nothing succeeds like success, it stands to reason that something

■ NOW SHOWING

Call Me by Your Name (R) ★★★★★ Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

Coco (PG) ★★★★★1/2

Century 16: Fri. - Sun. **Century 20:** Fri. - Sun.

Darkest Hour (PG-13)

Century 20: Fri. - Sun. **Guild Theatre:** Fri. - Sun.

The Disaster Artist (R) ★★★

Century 16: Fri. - Sun. **Century 20:** Fri. - Sun.

Downsizing (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun. **Century 20:** Fri. - Sun.

Father Figures (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun. **Century 20:** Fri. - Sun.

Ferdinand (PG) Century 16: Fri. - Sun. **Century 20:** Fri. - Sun.

The Greatest Showman (PG)

Century 16: Fri. - Sun. **Century 20:** Fri. - Sun.

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (PG-13)

Century 16: Fri. - Sun. **Century 20:** Fri. - Sun.

Justice League (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Lady Bird (R) ★★★★★1/2

Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun. **Century 20:** Fri. - Sun.

Pitch Perfect 3 (PG-13)

Century 16: Fri. - Sun. **Century 20:** Fri. - Sun.

The Shape of Water (R)

Century 20: Fri. - Sun. **Palo Alto Square:** Fri. - Sun.

The Shop Around the Corner (1940) (Not Rated)

Stanford Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

The Star (PG) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Star Wars: The Last Jedi (PG-13) ★★★★★1/2

Century 16: Fri. - Sun. **Century 20:** Fri. - Sun.

Thor: Ragnarok (PG-13) ★★★

Century 16: Fri. - Sun. **Century 20:** Fri. - Sun.

Three Billboard Outside Ebbing, Missouri (R)

Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

The Wizard of Oz (1939) (G) Stanford Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

Wonder (PG) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Aquarius:

430 Emerson St., Palo Alto
(For recorded listings: 327-3241)
tinyurl.com/Aquariuspa

Century Cinema 16:

1500 N. Shoreline Blvd.,
Mountain View
tinyurl.com/Century16

Century 20 Downtown:

825 Middlefield Rd, Redwood City
tinyurl.com/Century20

CineArts at Palo Alto Square:
3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
(For information: 493-0128)
tinyurl.com/Pasquare

Guild: 949 El Camino Real,
Menlo Park (For recorded listings:
566-8367) tinyurl.com/Guildmp

Stanford Theatre:

221 University Ave., Palo Alto
(For recorded listings: 324-3700)
Stanfordtheatre.org

★ Skip it

★★ Some redeeming qualities

★★★ A good bet

★★★★ Outstanding

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



succeeds like failure. The movies have produced some truly terrible specimens, but perhaps none so successful as "The Room," Tommy Wiseau's 2003 independent film that swiftly became notorious as one of the worst films ever made and, thereby, a cult "midnight movie" sensation. With "The Disaster Artist," Palo Alto-raised actor-director James Franco tells the uproarious behind-the-scenes story of "The Room," with elaborate recreations of "The Room" and its enigmatic maker. "The Disaster Artist" takes the perspective of aspiring young actor Greg Sestero (Dave Franco, James' brother) on the weirdness that is Wiseau (James Franco). Working from Sestero's memoir (with Tom Bissell) "The Disaster Artist: My Life Inside 'The Room,' the Greatest Bad Movie Ever Made," screenwriters Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber ("(500) Days of Summer") lean into the bromance of Greg and Tommy, beginning with a "meet cute" in a San Francisco acting class. Drawn to Wiseau's fearless ambition and exotic cluelessness, Sestero hitches his star to Wiseau's, and the two move to L.A. together as roomies pursuing the same dream. *Rated R for*

language throughout and some sexuality/nudity. One hour, 43 minutes. — P.C.

LADY BIRD ★★★★★1/2

Trapped in a small car on a college road trip, a 17-year-old girl and her mother come to the end of a 21-hour audiobook of "The Grapes of Wrath." Asked to sit with what she's heard, the girl laments, "I wish I could live through something." Of course, she will. And her mother will be there, watching and fretting, as she does. This is the beginning of Greta Gerwig's "Lady Bird," a semi-autobiographical coming-of-age tale set in 2002 Sacramento. Christine McPherson (Saoirse Ronan) — or "Lady Bird" as she has chosen to rechristen herself — finds her hometown stultifying and provincial. She doesn't have the easiest time navigating the halls of sibling schools Immaculate Heart of Mary (all girls) and St. Francis Xavier (all boys). The Catholic schools exacerbate her class-consciousness ("I'm from the wrong side of the tracks"), and senior year feels like one trial after another. *Rated R for language, sexual content, brief graphic nudity and teen partying. One hour, 34 minutes.* — P.C.



■ MOVIE REVIEWS

STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI

★★★★1/2

Setting aside for the moment the spaceships and lightsabers and critters, "Star Wars" has always been about a few core ideas: the clash of evil empire and mobilized do-gooders; the existence of a power greater than ourselves; the wars within and without ourselves; and love and family. George Lucas' multi-billion-dollar franchise

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■ HIGHLIGHT

10TH ANNUAL SOUTH BAY HOLIDAY GOSPEL CONCERT

The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, a multiracial, multicultural group, will sing traditional holiday favorites under the direction of Terrance Kelly. Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more information.



TheatreWorks Presents 'Around the World in 80 Days' Set in the 1870s, "Around the World in 80 Days" follows fictional and fearless adventurer Phileas Fogg and his faithful valet as they circle the globe in an unheard-of 80 days. Through Dec. 31, times vary. \$35-\$100. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

THEATER

'The 1940s Radio Hour' "The 1940s Radio Hour" is a musical full of classic tunes, swinging dance numbers, five-part harmony and holiday cheer. Songs include "Ain't She Sweet," "Blue Moon," "You Go to My Head" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." \$30-\$38. Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. losaltosstage.org/

Sensory-sensitive performance: 'Around the World in 80 Days' TheatreWorks presents a sensory-sensitive performance of "Around the World in 80 Days." Accommodations for this performance include a reduction in lighting and sound effects that may be jarring or startling; modification of the house lights during the performance; patrons can talk or leave their seats during the performance; access to resource materials to prepare; extra staff on hand at the theater; a judgment-free, no-shush zone. More info at 650-463-1960 and boxoffice@theatreworks.org. Dec 27, 7:30 p.m. \$35. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Search facebook.com/events for more information.

TheatreWorks: 'The Santaland Diaries' "The Santaland Diaries," written by David Sedaris, is a comedic one-man show about holiday hype. Dec. 5-23, times vary. \$20-\$45; discounts for students and subscribers. Lohman Theatre, 12345 S. El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. theatreworks.org

Yaelisa Caminos Flamencos Flamenco artists from Spain and around California present traditional and improvisatory flamenco, led by dancer/choreographer Yaelisa and musical director and guitarist Jason McGuire. Dec. 22, 8:30 p.m. \$27-\$42. Angelicas, 863 Main St., Redwood City. angelicasllc.com

CONCERTS

10th Annual South Bay Holiday Gospel Concert The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, a multiracial, multicultural group, will sing

traditional holiday favorites under the direction of Terrance Kelly. Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more information.

AJ Crowdaddy Holiday Party Blues guitarist Angelo J. Rossi, aka "AJ Crowdaddy," performs. He is most well-known for his work with Marin-based pop group, Pablo Cruise. 21 and over. Dec. 27, 7 p.m. \$7. Club Fox, 2209 Broadway, Redwood City. clubfoxrwc.com

The China Cats - Tribute to the Grateful Dead The China Cats, a Grateful Dead tribute band, will perform their interpretations of the Dead's music. Dec. 29, 9 p.m. \$15. Club Fox, 2209 Broadway, Redwood City. clubfoxrwc.com

Zeppelin Live at Club Fox Zeppelin Live, a Led Zeppelin tribute band, performs the full range of Led Zeppelin music, including the most complex and challenging songs. Dec. 23, 9 p.m. \$18-\$20. Club Fox, 2209 Broadway, Redwood City. Search facebook.com/events for more information.

MUSIC

Christmas Eve Festival Communion Christian interdenominational Christmas Eve service with the Rev. Professor Jane Shaw, dean for religious life, preaching and University Organist Dr. Robert Huw Morgan leading the music. Doors open at 7 p.m. and will close when the church reaches capacity. Dec. 24, 8 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

New Year's Eve Organ Concert Organist James Welch marks 25 years as organist of St. Mark's Church in a recital of works by Bach, French and English composers and several California composers. Dec. 31, 8-9 p.m. Free. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto. welchorganist.com

Open Mic Open Mic takes place every Monday on the second floor of Red Rock Coffee in downtown Mountain View. It

features free live music, comedy, poetry and a supportive atmosphere for experienced and new performers. Mondays, ongoing, 6:30 p.m., sign-ups; starts at 7 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. redrockcoffee.org/calendar

Open Mic Music & Poetry Wednesdays Open Mic Music & Poetry Wednesdays welcomes musicians and poets (21 and up) sharing material appropriate for all ages. Sign ups start at 6:30 p.m. The first performer starts at 7 p.m. Participants are encouraged to drop in or reserve tables in advance. Wednesdays through Dec. 28, 7-9 p.m. Free. Los Altos Tasting Room, 366 Main St., Los Altos. byington.com/los-altos-tasting-room/

P.S. Acoustic Duo P.S., the acoustic duo of local musicians Peter Filice and Steve Siacoto, will play a range of classic rock, folk and R&B music. Dec. 22, 8-10 p.m. Free. Freewheel Brewing Company, 3736 Florence St., Redwood City. freewheelbrewing.com

FESTIVALS & FAIRS

Bethlehem A.D. Rise City Church presents the largest living nativity in California, a re-enactment of Bethlehem on the night of the first Christmas, including volunteer actors as townspeople, Roman soldiers, sages and scholars. Live animals, refreshments, music. Dec. 21-23, 6-9:30 p.m. Free. Bethlehem A.D., 1305 Middlefield Road, Redwood City. bethlehemad.com

TALKS & LECTURES

Welcome to America! Welcome to America! is a family-friendly monthly program that introduces American culture and history to New Americans. Each session will focus on a selected topic and will include a short presentation, followed by an activity for the whole family. Registration for each session is available online. Fourth Thursday of the month,

7-8:30 p.m. Free. Mitchell Park Library, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Search cityofpaloalto.org for more information.

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

Art Exhibit: 'About Face: Intimacy and Abstraction in Photographic Portraits' This exhibition considers the voyeuristic intimacy of the close-up portrait in 13 photographs by celebrated photographers Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, Barbara Morgan and Edward Weston. Each photograph captures a likeness and the mood set by the subject's personality. Through March 4, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays; open Thursdays until 8 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Art Exhibit: 'Earthy Hollows: Cave and Kiln Transformations' "Earthy Hollows: Cave and Kiln Transformations" examines the dynamic ways in which caves, be they mountain grottoes, kilns or tunnel-like chambers made of earth and clay, interface mundane and mystical realms. Through March 18; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays; Thursdays, open until 8 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Art Exhibit: 'In Dialogue: African Arts' "In Dialogue" represents the vibrant and dynamic arts of the continent and its diasporas. Drawing primarily from the Cantor's own collection, it considers the arts of Africa to be rooted in a deep and rich history that is locally, as much as globally, connected. Through May 5, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays; open till 8 p.m. Thursdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Art Exhibit: 'Rodin: The Shock of the Modern Body' This exhibition celebrates Auguste Rodin's relentless pursuit to convey complex emotions, diverse psychological states, and pure sensuality through the nude. Ongoing, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays; Thursdays open until 8 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Art Exhibit: 'The Buddha's Word' This exhibition showcases Buddhist manuscripts and prints held at the Cantor and in Stanford libraries, ranging in dates from around the 11th century to the early 20th century. They come from various parts of the traditional Buddhist world, from Sri Lanka to Japan. Through March 18, 2018, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays; open Thursdays until 8 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Art Exhibit: 'The Crown under the Hammer: Russia, Romanovs, Revolution' Marking the centenary of the Russian Revolution of 1917, this exhibition examines the political, social and cultural upheavals that transformed Russia in the final decades of the Romanov dynasty and the first years of Soviet Communism. Through March 4, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays; Thursdays open until 8 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center & Herbert Hoover Memorial Exhibit Pavilion, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

'I Want the Wide American Earth: An Asian Pacific American Story' The exhibition tells the rich and complex stories of the first Asian laborers arriving along the Gulf and Eastern American seaboards throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. From there, it tells stories of Asian immigrants finding homes and participating in key moments of U.S. history. Through Jan. 7, Thursdays-Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org

Manuel Neri: Assertion of the Figure Manuel Neri explores the gesture, surface and materiality of the figure in plaster, marble, bronze and paper. This exhibition provides a glimpse into the artist's creative process and his quest to define the figure. Through Feb. 12, Wednesday-Monday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed on Tuesdays; Thursdays open until 8 p.m. Free. Anderson Collection at Stanford University, 314 Lomita Drive, Stanford. anderson.stanford.edu

Nina Katchadourian: Curiouser This mid-career survey of artist Nina Katchadourian — who is based in Brooklyn but was raised on the Stanford University campus — explores several major bodies of her work including video, photography, sculpture and sound art. Through Jan. 7, Wednesday-Monday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed on Tuesdays; Thursdays open until 8 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

DANCE

Argentine Tango Alberto's Nightclub presents Argentine Tango on Sundays. Ongoing, 7 p.m. Cover charge: \$10. Alberto's Salsa Studio, 736 W. Dana St., Mountain View. albertos.com/calendar

Bachata with Pantea Wednesday Hot Latin Nights with Pantea features bachata lessons for all skill levels. Bachata is a form of music and sensual dance that originated in the Dominican Republic. Class starts 8 p.m.; social dancing at 9 p.m. No partner necessary. Wednesdays, ongoing. Cover charge: \$10. Alberto's Salsa Studio, 736 W. Dana St., Mountain View. albertos.com/calendar

Sabados Latinoamericanos Alberto's NightClub presents Sabados Latinoamericanos (Latin American Saturdays) with reggae, hip hop, merengue, salsa, rock, pop music and more. Saturdays, ongoing. 8 p.m. Cover charge: \$10. Alberto's Salsa Studio, 736 W. Dana St., Mountain View. albertos.com/calendar

Salsa Fridays Salsa dance lessons for all skill levels. Beginner lessons at 8:30 p.m.; intermediate at 9:30 p.m. and social dance at 10:15 p.m. No partner necessary. Ages 21 and older. Ongoing. Cover charge: \$10. Alberto's Salsa Studio, 736 W. Dana St., Mountain View. albertos.com/calendar

New Year's Eve Waltz Lessons and Dance Party Waltz lessons and other ballroom dances will be featured at the Cubberley Ballroom New Year's Eve party. Dec. 31, 8 p.m. \$15. Cubberley Pavilion, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. cubberleyballroom.com

COMEDY

Chopshticks, Featuring Daniel Storrow and the Lantern Girls This annual holiday show features comedian Daniel Storrow and the Lantern Girls, a world-renowned group of performers and musicians of traditional and fusion Chinese music and dance. Includes a traditional Chinese dinner. Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m. \$50-\$70. Albert and Janet Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. paloaltojcc.org/chopshticks

SPORTS

Pickleball Pickleball is ideal for beginners or advanced players and is a racquet sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis. Two, three or four players use solid paddles made of wood or composite materials to hit a perforated polymer ball, similar to a wiffle ball, over a net. Wednesday, ongoing, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Senior Center members, \$3, non-members. Los Altos Senior Center - Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos.

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- MIND & BODY 400-499
- JOBS 500-599
- BUSINESS SERVICES 600-699
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HP Inc. is accepting resumes for the position of **PSS Life Cycle Marketing Professional** in Palo Alto, CA (Ref. #HP1ALRHDJ1). Represent the customer - identify, define and communicate customer insights, pain points and needs. Own and support applications across the product lifecycle, spanning strategic planning to tactical execution. Mail resume to HP Inc. 11403 Compaq Center Drive W, MS M31290, Houston, TX 77070. Resume must include Ref. #, full name, email address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in U.S. without sponsorship. EOE.

MobileIron/Lead QA Engr

Lead QA Engr (LQE-VK) Apply & enhance MobileIron methodologies & evangelize effective testing standards. MS+2orBS+5. Mail resume to MobileIron, Attn: Piper Galt, 401 E. Middlefield Rd, Mt. View, CA 94043. Must ref title & code.

Sight Sciences/Sr Quality Assurance Engr

Sr Quality Assurance Engr (SQAE-CA) Assure compliance of tech aspects by successfully integrating activities w/ other functional areas in company. MS+2orBS+5. Mail resume to Sight Sciences, Attn Catalina Webb, 3000 Sand Hill Rd, Bldg. 3, Ste. 105, Menlo Park CA 94025. Must ref title & code.

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Pure Storage, Inc. has following job opps. in Mountain View, CA: **Member of Technical Staff (Software Engineer)** [Req. #TTY84]. Dsgn & dvlp SW that allows co's storage prdct to be fully integrated into containerized clustered & orchestrated apps. **Solutions Manager - Microsoft** [Req. #SLN15]. Define & manage all aspects of Business Apps Solutns for Microsoft workloads. Mail resumes refernc'g Req. # to: G. Vega, 401 Castro St, 3rd Flr, Mountain View, CA 94041.

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Legal Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

M&D BROTHERS LLC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN636354

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
M&D Brothers LLC, located at 2040 California St. Apt. 4, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: A Limited Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
M&D BROTHERS LLC
2040 California St. Apt. 4
Mountain View, CA 94040
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/11/2017.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 29, 2017.
(MVV Dec. 15, 22, 29, 2017; Jan. 5, 2018)

NEW ZEALAND IN 2020
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN636475

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
New Zealand in 2020, located at 969 Asilomar Terrace #6, Sunnyvale, CA 94086-2438, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: A Corporation.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
SAN FRANCISCO SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTIONS, INCORPORATED
969 Asilomar Terrace #6
Sunnyvale, CA 94086-2438
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 1, 2017.
(MVV Dec. 15, 22, 29, 2017; Jan. 5, 2018)

ELASTIC HOUSING SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN636803

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Elastic Housing Services, located at 100 N Whisman Rd., Apt. 2113, 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):
JIANYUN XU
100 N Whisman Rd., Apt. 2113
Mountain View, CA 94043
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/01/2017.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 14, 2017.
(MVV Dec. 22, 29, 2017; Jan. 5, 12, 2018)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: IRIS ANN LUBITZ
Case No.: 17PR182396

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of IRIS ANN LUBITZ.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: JOSHUA DAVID LUBITZ in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA.

The Petition for Probate requests that: JOSHUA DAVID LUBITZ be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the per-

sonal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on February 15, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 12 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA, 95113. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

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

Petitioner:
Joshua David Lubitz
422 Carlos Avenue
Redwood City, CA 94061
(650) 464-8289
(MVV Dec. 15, 22, 29, 2017)

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