

Mountain View VOICE

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MOVIES | 19



MICHELLE LE

Students in Arlene Miyata's orchestra class at Crittenden Middle School practice on Jan. 16. School district officials have promised to boost funding for arts programs such as music.

School district boosting funds for arts

EXPANDED ELECTIVE OFFERINGS REQUIRE MORE INSTRUMENTS AND NEW TEACHERS

By Kevin Forestieri

For decades, arts and music programs in Mountain View public school has been kept alive through support from nonprofits, school foundations and public agencies, giving children a chance to dabble in everything from

painting and ceramics to playing the flute and singing in a choir, from the moment they hit kindergarten through eighth grade.

But buying and maintaining cellos and trumpets can be expensive, and with major plans in the works to ramp up art and music electives at

Crittenden and Graham middle schools, district officials say it's time to pitch in more money to make sure individual schools aren't forced to use discretionary funds on a thriving arts program.

At a Jan. 4 school board

► See **ARTS**, page 11

City council won't insist on new neighborhood school

LASD TO DECIDE WHETHER TO PUT BULLIS CHARTER AT SAN ANTONIO SITE

By Kevin Forestieri

Despite concerns about traffic and a desire to bring a local neighborhood school to families living in the San Antonio area, a majority of Mountain View City Council members agreed Tuesday night to

let the Los Altos School District decide whether to relocate Bullis Charter School to Mountain View.

The council was split on a 5-2 vote, with members Margaret Abe-Koga and Pat Showalter opposed. The council majority said district officials should decide what kind of school would

occupy a future campus in the San Antonio area, despite the major financial support from Mountain View to ensure that the densely populated neighborhood gets a local school and acres of park space.

► See **BULLIS**, page 9

Council allows pot deliveries to start Friday

CITY EXPECTED TO DRAFT RULES FOR RETAIL MARIJUANA SHOPS LATER THIS YEAR

By Mark Noack

As of Friday, marijuana deliveries will be legal in Mountain View, but it will still be several months before retail pot shops could be allowed to open up in the city.

In a 7-0 vote, the Mountain View City Council agreed to allow pot deliveries in the city while local rules for cannabis retail stores are considered over the coming months.

It was the latest discussion on local implementation of Proposition 64, the 2016 measure passed by voters to legalize recreational marijuana in California. Under the state law, recreational marijuana was made legal at the start of 2018, but cities were encouraged to draft their own policies to regulate the local pot industry.

Mountain View is one of the few cities in Santa Clara County that has shown interest in rolling out local marijuana retail businesses, but it's something that city officials have approached with caution. In December, City Council members said that they needed more time to fully study

the impacts. So they decided to implement a 45-day moratorium on recreational pot sales to give them more time to draft local regulations.

As the moratorium was revisited on Tuesday, Jan. 16, local lawmakers were asked to determine what kinds of marijuana businesses should be considered. Several public speakers urged the council not to hold up local recreational marijuana industry by analyzing every possible impact.

Sean Kali-rai, a lobbyist for the cannabis industry, pointed to San Carlos. The Peninsula city had devoted considerable resources to studying marijuana cultivation and manufacturing facilities. But when San Carlos leaders finally approved their comprehensive laws, there were no businesses besides retail pot shops that were actually interested in opening up.

"This is just not the place where you want to grow farms or cultivation. You go to the Central Valley, or Stanislaus County or Humboldt to do that," Kali-rai

► See **POT DELIVERIES**, page 10



VERONICA WEBER

Retail cannabis shops won't be allowed to open yet, but the City Council approved delivery services based outside of Mountain View to bring their products to residents, starting on Friday.

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

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

If you had to immigrate to another country, where would you go?



“Costa Rica. Crime is low over there, rainforests — there’s a lot of natural life.”

Efrain Alicea, San Jose



“I’d go to England. My mother is from England and I still have family there. Of course, Norway would come in a close second.”

Fiona Harding, Mountain View



“I got back from Japan recently, and it was really interesting because it was just so different. So I think that would be interesting to try.”

Mukesh Agrawal, Mountain View



“Ireland. Decent weather, if you like rain.”

Eugene Kelley, Mountain View



“Probably Canada. Just because I’ve been there and I like the people, I like the country — especially the Alberta area, it’s really beautiful.”

Hector Rodriguez, Mountain View

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CRIME BRIEFS

GYM LOCKER THEFT ARREST

A 36-year-old San Jose man was arrested on Monday on suspicion of repeatedly stealing car keys, wallets and other items out of gym lockers in Mountain View and other nearby cities.

The suspect first came to the attention of Mountain View Police last month after a theft was reported at the 24 Hour Fitness at the San Antonio Shopping Center. Officials say the man opened a unsecured locker and stole various personal items, including car keys and credit cards. He then quickly went out to the parking lot and stole the owner's vehicle, using it drive around and rack up purchases on the credit cards.

It wasn't the first time the man had reportedly pulled this trick. Police soon learned that Palo Alto and San Jose had reported similar burglaries by the same individual. Within days, a similar locker burglary was reported at the City Sports Gym on Grant Road.

Mountain View police officials say they were able to eventually find the suspect after coordinating with the Regional Auto Theft Task Force. The suspect was arrested in San Jose on Monday, Jan. 15, and charged with multiple counts of burglary, ID theft and vehicle theft, among other crimes.

The suspect is currently being held in jail with bail set at \$1 million.

—Mark Noack

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AUTO BURGLARY

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500 block W. Middlefield Rd., 1/9
500 block Lynwood Av., 1/9
1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 1/9
1300 block Pear Av., 1/9
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 1/9
1900 block Fordham Way, 1/10
100 block Castro St., 1/10
2400 block Grant Rd., 1/10
100 block E. El Camino Real, 1/12
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 1/14

BATTERY

2600 block California St., 1/9
500 block San Antonio Rd., 1/12

CRIMINAL THREATS

600 block San Antonio Rd., 1/12
1500 block W. El Camino Real, 1/14

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

500 block S. Rengstorff Av., 1/9
700 block W. El Camino Real, 1/13

GRAND THEFT

2300 block W. El Camino Real, 1/9

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

2000 block Marich Way, 1/11

STOLEN VEHICLE

500 block S. Rengstorff Av., 1/10
1300 block Brookdale Av., 1/11

VANDALISM

2100 block W. El Camino Real, 1/10
Escuela Av. & Latham St., 1/12

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LGBTQ LISTENING SESSION

Mountain View community members who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer are invited to attend the first Mountain View LGBTQ Community Listening Forum on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The forum will bring together community members, elected officials, law enforcement, Mountain View employers and others to identify and discuss issues faced by the LGBTQ community as well as possible solutions, projects and initiatives aimed at improving the lives of community members. The director of LGBTQ Affairs for Santa Clara County, Maribel Martinez, will present at the forum, as well as Supervisor Joe Simitian and others.

The forum will be held at the Mountain View Senior Center, located at 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View.

—Anna Krause

MountainView
ONLINE

LET'S DISCUSS:
Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at
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MICHELLE LE

The Sports Page Bar and Grill's site is now owned by Google, triggering a reassessment of the property's value. Owner Rob Graham is wary of what that will mean for his bar's future.

What to do when your landlord is Google?

DEVELOPMENT PLANS, HUGE TAX BILL RAISES SPORTS PAGE OWNER'S WORRIES ABOUT FUTURE

By Mark Noack

Amid Google's sweeping plans to redevelop much of North Bayshore, some of the neighborhood's current inhabitants say they are being left in the dark as to how they'll fit into that future vision.

This uncertainty has become an existential question hanging over the Sports Page Bar and Grill, the corner tavern that has long been the after-hours gathering spot of the local tech crowd. After a series of land swaps, last year Google became the Sports Page's landlord. The company reportedly intends to raze the Sports Page

site and redevelop it.

Technically, the bar is entitled to stay at its location through 2023, when its current lease expires. But Sports Page owner Rob Graham says Google representatives recently asked if he would end the lease early, around 2020. The company never made a formal offer for him to consider, but the interaction led Graham to ponder his weak position to negotiate with the tech company that now controls most of the neighborhood.

Since buying the property for \$12 million last year, Google has not increased the rent for the Sports Page. However, the

bar could be liable to cover the increased property taxes resulting from the sale, which would be about \$130,000 per year, Graham said. That will be an elephant in the room for any future negotiations, he said.

He says he wants better information on the company's intentions so he and his staff can plan accordingly. Company representatives have repeatedly given him assurances they would take care of him, possibly setting him up at a new location nearby.

"I don't want to fight Godzilla — I just want someone to talk

► See **SPORTS PAGE**, page 10

City's partnership with Uber, Lyft stalls

REFUSAL TO SHARE DATA PUTS PLAN TO SUBSIDIZE DOWNTOWN RIDES IN LIMBO

By Mark Noack

Last year, Mountain View officials entered a deal to underwrite the costs of downtown Uber and Lyft rides in exchange for data to help guide the city's future transportation planning. But after nearly a year of discussions, city officials say they are no closer to reaching an agreement because both companies refuse to share their trip data.

Even when made anonymous, general statistics on rider trips is being tightly guarded by both companies, and representatives have shown little willingness to negotiate, according to city staff. This refusal has undermined a central goal of the program and leaves its future prospects in limbo.

Uber and Lyft representatives relayed an entirely different message last February when they came before the Mountain View

City Council. At the time, city leaders were discussing putting forward \$50,000 for what they thought would be a relatively simple pilot program that would be rolled out to the public within a few months. Under the proposal, Mountain View agreed to pay half the cost of any Lyft or Uber rides in the downtown area as a way to help alleviate problems finding parking.

► See **UBER, LYFT**, page 8

LASD school deal kick-starts major office development

COUNCIL ALLOWS SIX PROJECTS TO MOVE AHEAD IN EAST WHISMAN, SAN ANTONIO

By Kevin Forestieri

As part of a hard-fought effort to bring a new school to the San Antonio area, Mountain View City Council members reluctantly agreed to allow six dense projects — five of them office developments — to move forward despite being larger than the existing zoning allows.

Council members agreed at Jan. 16 meeting to allow the Los Altos School District to sell the "right" to build higher-density projects in order to offset the cost of buying land for a new school — a complex process known as the transfer of development rights (TDRs). In other words, property owners and developers who buy TDRs from the school district are permitted to build taller and more dense buildings than what would normally be allowed.

Most of those projects will end up being office buildings in and around the East Whisman area, along with a proposal by developer Merlone Geier to build an eight-story, 250,000-square-foot office building on the southeast corner of California Street and San Antonio Road, located next to the second phase of the San Antonio shopping center redevelopment. Most of the density — 150,000 square feet of it — would come from the TDR purchase from the school district.

Each project will go through the city's so-called gatekeeper process, which is typically reserved for projects that exceed the height and density limits of an area. In order to sway city officials, developers usually pony up money for community benefits including transportation upgrades and affordable housing. In this case, the only benefit likely is paying Los Altos School District money to be used to buy land for a new campus. Although council members agreed to let the gatekeeper requests move forward at the Tuesday meeting, each one still needs to go through the design process and receive the council's final approval.

Last month, the district announced its intent to purchase 8.6 acres of land at the site of the former Safeway and Old Mill office building, located on the northeast corner of San Antonio Road and California Street. With land valued at approximately \$15 million per

acre, district officials say TDRs are essential to bringing down the net cost of land acquisition.

School district staff say they expect to sell 610,000 square feet of development rights in total, of which 538,000 square feet have been spoken for under agreements inked between the district and developers. At \$130 per square foot, the district expects to make a total of \$79.3 million from the transactions. One of the developers — Vanni Properties Inc. — agreed to buy TDRs but asked to delay its gatekeeper request for up to five years.

The last 72,000 square feet was supposed to go to Google for additional development in the North Bayshore area, but the tech giant backed out of the deal last month. Community Development Director Randy Tsuda said the school district now has a signed letter of intent from Miramar Capital to purchase the remaining TDRs for residential development on 400 Logue Avenue.

A vast majority of the development rights being sold will be converted into office development, which is no surprise given the high cost of building housing and the strong market for office space in the area, said Tim Tosta, a land use lawyer working with the Los Altos School District. He said the district's strategy was essentially cold-calling property owners in the city who might be able to build out developments with additional square footage, and that there was no lack of interest in the leftover 72,000 square feet when Google dropped out.

Mayor Lenny Siegel, who has long advocated for a better balance between jobs and housing in the city, said he was willing to let the gatekeeper projects move forward in order to support a school in the San Antonio area. Given the significant redevelopment going on in the region, he said it may represent the "last chance" the city has to turn that school into a reality.

"It's been one of my major goals to see a school get built there," he said. "I've been willing to accept more offices elsewhere in town because getting a school there is very important."

But the Merlone Geier

► See **LASD**, page 11

El Camino Hospital joins the fight against opioid crisis

TRACKING AND TIGHT CONTROLS ON PAIN MEDS WILL EASE ADDICTION, HOSPITAL OFFICIALS SAY

By Kevin Forestieri

As the death toll for opioid-related deaths climbs throughout the United States, El Camino Hospital officials say they're doubling down on ways to control the problem on a local level by keeping a close watch on prescription painkillers and offering more services for patients suffering from chronic pain.

Opioid addiction and overdoses have turned into a leading cause of accidental deaths in the United States, surpassing car accidents in 2008, with a staggering 91 Americans dying every day from overdose, said Dr. William Faber, El Camino's chief medical officer. Speaking at a hospital board meeting last week, Faber said that while the over-prescribing of opiates is seen as the biggest cause for the epidemic, street drugs like heroin are cheaper than they used to be, and can be more lethal when laced with the synthetic narcotic Fentanyl.

While Santa Clara County's opioid-related death rates have been fairly low compared to

the rest of the country and the state, it's still a local problem worth addressing, he said. State data tracking the opioid epidemic shows that 66 people died of opioid overdose in Santa Clara County in 2016, slightly higher than neighboring San Mateo and Alameda counties when adjusted for population. That same year, the number of opioid prescriptions in the county surpassed 700,000, more than one for every three residents.

Although local death rates change dramatically each year, the 94041 area code region that encompasses Old Mountain View had the highest death rate in the county in 2015, with just over 19 opioid deaths per 100,000 residents.

El Camino Hospital's plans center around strong accountability and tracking of narcotic drugs. Faber said the hospital has an in-house system that keeps track of every dose of painkillers that doctors and nurses administer to patients, giving El Camino an effective way of catching any staffer who may be misappropriating

opioid drugs. This is particularly important for substances like Fentanyl, he said, which can be processed into dangerous street drugs.

The hospital also hired a so-called pain pharmacist over the summer, whose role is to help doctors address pain through non-narcotic drugs and methods like physical therapy that are more safe and just as effective. For example, the pharmacist might recommend a drug like Toradol in lieu of opioids for a patient with a kidney stone, Faber said.

Although the pain pharmacist plays an important advisory role in the way the hospital handles chronic and acute pain during patient visits, as well as over prescriptions for discharged patients, it's ultimately up to each physician to decide what drugs to prescribe.

Hospitals aren't the primary culprit for the opioid problem, which admittedly limits the role they play in reducing the problem, Faber said. Most of the painkillers being prescribed are from outpatient care providers for people suffering from chronic pain, whereas patients in the hospital often rely on strong narcotics — appropriately — for recovery from surgery and other major procedures. It's once patients leave the hospital and continue to seek out the drugs that an addiction problem arises.

"When people go out into the outpatient realm, we've got some doctors who are loosely prescribing inordinate amount of drugs for people with back pain or a headache when it's inappropriate," he said. "Despite the fact that it's mainly an outpatient problem, there are a number of things we do here at the hospital to do our part."

One of the ways narcotics can make it out of the hospital and onto the streets is through the emergency department, prompting El Camino to adopt strict policies for giving out drugs to patients who might be feigning an illness in order to get their hands on drugs like Vicodin. Faber said the

emergency department does not prescribe strong narcotics just because patients ask for them, and the default is to give people no more than 15 tablets of Norco, a relatively mild opioid.

In order to cut out the middle man and reduce the chances of a forged prescription, hospital

with drug abuse. One of the two outpatient programs, the Dual-Diagnosis Program, is an intensive program for patients suffering from severe addiction to drugs including opiates and stimulants as well as "co-occurring" mental health disorders, according to Dr. Evan Garner,

'We've got some doctors who are loosely prescribing inordinate amount of drugs for people with back pain or a headache when it's inappropriate.'

WILLIAM FABER, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

officials are planning to open El Camino's own outpatient pharmacy off of the main lobby in May which would allow patients to get their prescriptions filled on the spot before leaving. It won't be a money-making venture and would likely break even, Faber said, but it does mean fewer people will be in the "chain of custody" for each prescription that leaves the hospital.

"Mischievous happens when people leave the building with a prescription or it's electronically sent off premises," he said. "Sometimes people play games with that or alter the prescription. When I was prescribing narcotics if I said '10 Vicodin,' on numerous occasions someone would try to put another zero on it and turn it into 100."

Board member Peter Fung, a neurologist, said the hospital needs to change the mentality of the physicians at El Camino and encourage them not to spring for opioids whenever a patient is feeling pain. In many cases, over-the-counter drugs like Tylenol are often just as effective as the opioid Percocet. At the same time, he said, the hospital needs to improve its addiction and behavioral health services for the patients who are already addicted to narcotics and need help.

The hospital currently provides addiction services including weeks-long outpatient program for adults struggling

director of the hospital's addiction services programs.

Garner said the Dual-Diagnosis Program runs five days a week for six hours a day, and is considered one step down from 24-hour in-patient care or an acute psychiatric setting.

Rebecca Fazilat, chief of staff at El Camino's Mountain View campus, told board members that addressing the opioid crisis means suspension of judgment against people who are suffering from addiction, many of whom are struggling from real pain and didn't choose to get addicted to painkillers.

"They are seeking the only help they know that they can get," she said. "It behooves us not to judge them and kick them out the door."

At the same time, Fazilat urged against vilifying all of the outpatient physicians who prescribe painkillers. There are few pain specialists and other pain management resources available in the area, and primary care doctors are often inundated with so many other obligations that it becomes tempting to just hand out a prescription.

"As much as we like to judge folks for dishing out a prescription, if they know their patient is in pain and it's an easy thing to do, that's often why it happens," she said. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Water System Flushing

In November the City of Mountain View will 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.

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REALTY

UBER, LYFT

► Continued from page 5

Speaking to the council at the time, Lyft and Uber officials both said their ride-sharing data could be easily adapted to help municipal planning.

“We’re opening up our aggregated data and providing it to cities to help them decide matters like where to put stop signs, or where to put new streets,” said Michael Berl, a spokesman for Uber’s business development team.

“At Lyft, we’re committed to working hand-in-hand with our city partners,” said Paul Davis, Lyft’s transportation partnership manager. “We have an opportunity here to reshape our communities and start reclaiming parking for more productive uses.”

The council unanimously approved the deal, leaving it up to city staff to iron out the particulars. But once the talks went behind closed doors, the deal reportedly hit an impasse. In separate meetings with each company, city officials asked to inspect general data, such as the number of daily ride-share users, and the start and end points of each trip. Both Uber and Lyft representatives

resisted that request.

“Both these companies feel that sharing this data would put them at a competitive disadvantage,” said Alex Andrade, Mountain View’s economic development director. “If it wasn’t for this data issue, we would have had this contract done by last fall, at the latest.”

When asked to comment by the *Voice*, an Uber representative on Wednesday pointed to a partnership to study curb space with San Francisco as an example of how it worked with public agencies. The representative did not respond to questions. A Lyft representative declined to speak on the record or make any comments that could be attributed to the company.

City officials and consultants have tried to reach a compromise with the companies. Data on each trip’s starting and ending location didn’t necessarily have to pinpoint specific map locations. That data could be left imprecise. Still, neither company was willing to negotiate, Andrade said.

Mountain View isn’t the first city to hit this roadblock in dealing with ride-sharing companies. Large metropolitan cities such as San Francisco, Chicago and Boston have also

complained that ride-sharing companies have been generally unhelpful in opening up their wealth of data. Uber and Lyft talk a good talk about aiding transit agencies, but the data they’re willing to provide is not all that useful, said Joseph Castiglione, deputy director for technology and data for the San Francisco County Transportation Authority.

Hiding data on traffic impacts

The common explanation reportedly offered by Lyft and Uber is that this data is a trade secret that would compromise user privacy if it were shared with public agencies. Castiglione is skeptical.

“These arguments don’t hold water,” he said. “There’s plenty of examples of public agencies being stewards of detailed travel data without compromising the privacy of individuals.”

This has led to some clever workarounds. For example, San Francisco transit officials partnered last year with researchers at Northwestern University to scrape data from Lyft and Uber’s applications by artificially requesting hundreds of trips from fake accounts. Their work revealed that the two companies

were generating more than 170,000 vehicle trips each day in San Francisco, about 20 percent of the city’s total traffic. It was just one study among a growing body of research to raise doubts about the claims by ride-sharing companies that their services reduce traffic congestion.

In October, University of California at Davis researchers published what is considered the most comprehensive study of ride-sharing services to date, and it didn’t paint a rosy picture. Their report concluded that the service will likely only exacerbate traffic problems, especially in densely populated cities. More than half of people using Uber and Lyft would have previously chosen to walk, bike, use public transit or avoid the trip altogether, they reported. The report’s authors also flagged an emerging “data gap” problem, noting that reams of crucial information on transportation patterns is now being tightly controlled by these private companies.

In California, Uber and Lyft do provide annual reports that include detailed data to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the agency tasked with regulating the industry. But these reports have been

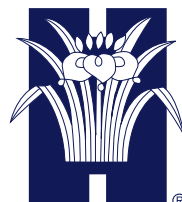
considered proprietary, and public regulators have declined requests by San Francisco and Los Angeles officials to release them. The CPUC is currently in a review process to consider making this data more widely available.

Despite the speed bumps, Mountain View officials remain optimistic they can eventually broker a compromise with Lyft and Uber that meets the city’s needs. One recently proposed idea would have the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce act as a steward for this data. Chamber CEO Tony Siress said that his staff could sign non-disclosure agreements with Lyft and Uber so the specifics of the data could still be kept confidential.

“It really has been a time-consuming effort, but we still want to get to the starting point of kicking this off,” Andrade said. “We still believe it’s a good use of our time.”

“I haven’t given up on this,” said Mayor Lenny Siegel. “Whenever you do something innovative like this, you have to come up with a template, but then other cities will be able to do it much more quickly.”

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BULLIS

► Continued from page 1

The school district announced plans last month to acquire 8.6 acres of land at the corner of San Antonio Road and California Street, the site of a former Safeway and the Old Mill office complex, in order to build a school in the high-growth region of the district north of El Camino Real. To make it financially feasible in an expensive real estate market, the City Council agreed to allow the district to “sell” the unused density allowed on the property — a process known as the transfer of development rights (TDRs) — to developers throughout the city.

The City Council also agreed to commit up to \$23 million in the city’s park funds to help the district purchase the land. Field space at the school would be available for community use outside of school hours. The city has similar arrangements at several sites in the Mountain View Whisman School District.

But it remains unknown what kind of school would end up on the property. The school board has remained uncommitted on whether the Old Mill site will be the home to a new neighborhood school that serves families in the area, or if Bullis Charter School — currently split between two district campuses and housed in portables — should get a permanent school campus in Mountain View.

School board member Bryan Johnson told the council that a neighborhood school is “one of the options,” but that there are a multitude of factors that need to go into the decision, including traffic mitigation, classroom design, operational costs and the district’s responsibility under state law to provide Bullis Charter School with adequate school facilities.

“Whatever decision we make, we are always going to put students first,” he said.

With the city bending over backward to help the school district, Councilwoman Showalter argued it was both reasonable and incumbent upon council members to demand that the school specifically serve the residents of Mountain View living near the campus. Since October last year, rumors have swirled that the school district is planning to put Bullis on the new site, even though it’s a magnet school with a regional draw.

Neighborhood schools and parks play an important role in bringing communities together, Showalter said, and placing a school in the area that doesn’t serve the local residents would cause a “tremendous” amount of traffic into and out of the area

during pick-up and drop-off hours.

“I just feel that we have no business entering into an agreement with another government agency unless we stipulate the benefits we are going to get, and one of them is a neighborhood school,” she said.

Throughout the meeting, council members made clear that allowing TDRs is a tough pill to swallow. Early project proposals by developers seeking to buy the density rights show that paving the way for a San Antonio school means several tall, dense office developments would need to go up elsewhere in the city, particularly in the East Whisman area. Abe-Koga said Mountain View residents throughout the city are going to be stuck dealing with the consequences of transferring development rights, and have largely favored a neighborhood school in the area.

Several residents spoke strongly in favor of a neighborhood school, calling it a necessary benefit for the city’s constituents in order to offset the massive office developments that will be allowed thanks to the TDRs. Former Mountain View council member Ronit Bryant said the decision effectively replaces a dense residential project on the Old Mill property with office development elsewhere, which she called a “major loss” for the city that would worsen the city’s jobs-housing imbalance. It may not be the City Council’s job to get involved in the educational and school boundary policies of another agency, she said, but Mountain View residents shouldn’t have to pay the price for a charter school that serves residents outside of the city.

“When the district’s plans seem to depend on an unprecedented amount of help from the city of Mountain View, it is reasonable for the council to ensure that the result is beneficial to Mountain View as a whole,” Bryant said.

Lea Hallert, a district parent who lives near Springer Elementary, said she supported a neighborhood school in the San Antonio area, and emphasized that traffic caused by the charter school would be a major problem. Hundreds of students in the area would be forced to travel into Los Altos for school, while 900 students attending Bullis Charter School would have to travel to the already-congested San Antonio area.

“There are 600 students from (north of El Camino) who have to drive almost 3 miles south to Almond, Santa Rita and Covington, and those students deserve the opportunity to have what my kids already get, which is the opportunity to walk or bike to

school,” Hallert said.

The district hasn’t done a detailed analysis of how Bullis Charter School would affect traffic in the region, according to Tim Tosta, a land use attorney hired by the district. He said there are many “innovative” ways to reduce traffic and make sure it doesn’t cause a huge snarl, and that it doesn’t do the district any good to exacerbate existing traffic problems in the area.

Stephen Friberg, the president of the Greater San Antonio Neighborhood Association, said he spoke to many residents in the area prior to the meeting, and claims that they are roughly split between wanting a neighborhood school or Bullis Charter School. Getting a school with shared park space in the area is a top priority, he said, and it shouldn’t depend on whether it’s a charter school or a neighborhood school.

Although council members supported the idea of a neighborhood school, several expressed concerns that making it a requirement for the TDRs and park funds felt like overreach. Councilman John McAlister said the council is ill-suited to make a decision on how best to educate children, and that school district officials should be allowed to decide what to do with the land. Council members may have their misgivings about TDRs creating developments in a “hodgepodge” manner all over the city, but it’s a necessary trade-off to get a school in the San Antonio area.

“If building a school and building a park is important to you, you need to move forward with the process that we have.”

Councilman Ken Rosenberg agreed that it’s not appropriate for the city to interfere with the decision of another public agency, and said he was concerned that adding conditions to the city’s contribution would probably “kill the project,” leaving the area with no



COURTESY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT

Water gushed from a damaged hydrant last Friday at the corner of Church and Castro streets.

Thar she blows

Residents in downtown Mountain View got an unexpected show last Friday morning, after an accident with a hydrant sent a geyser of water skyward.

The hydrant, located next to a construction site at the corner of Castro and Church streets, erupted around 9 a.m. Jan. 12, according to a witness, who said the water reached close to 40 feet in height.

The Mountain View Fire Department responded to the incident, and contained the water flow within 15 minutes, according to Mountain View Fire Department spokeswoman Laura Gentry. No injuries or damage to nearby property was reported, Gentry said.

—Kevin Forestieri

school and no park.

Councilman Chris Clark, whose proposal ultimately won over the council majority, said he wanted a guarantee that the district have a transparent and public process in deciding who the new school will serve, and clearly spell out how elected leaders in Mountain View will have a seat at the table during that process. The motion stops short of granting the city veto

power on the school board’s final decision.

“At some point before these funds are transferred and before we sign on the dotted line, I think we either need to know what the use of that site is going to be, or we need to know a very clear process ... for how that is going to be decided,” Clark said. ▣

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SPORTS PAGE

► Continued from page 5

with me and tell me what I can expect for the future,” he said. “The last thing I would want is to fight Google.”

Google officials did not immediately respond to the Voice’s requests for comment.

Graham described his recent interactions with Google at length in a new podcast by The Intersection, a hyperlocal journalism project by David Boyer focused on North Bayshore. Graham later confirmed the details in an interview with the Voice.

Through its meteoric rise and dramatic expansion, Google has a history of creating problems for many of its small-business neighbors in Mountain View’s North Bayshore. Nearby cafe and restaurant owners have long complained that the company undermined their business by giving its workforce free meals in private cafeterias. The company’s insatiable demand for new office space has resulted

in older industrial shops and tradesmen being pushed out of the area. The rapid development planned for the area has also raised a host of concerns for residents at the nearby Santiago Villa mobile home park.

The Sports Page has fared better amid the tech company’s expansion. Graham says about half his daily customers work at Google, and the company regularly rents out the bar to host employee events and parties.

If the writing is on the wall and he will be forced to relocate, Graham said he hopes he’ll be provided a new space. He would like options for a comparable space across the road from his current location.

“I’m a total realist. If they’re going to spend \$1 billion on their Googleplex then the last thing they want is a 1920s building at the entrance to it,” Graham said. “I just want someone to talk with me so I know what I’ll have in the future.” ▽

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

‘The last thing I would want is to fight Google.’

ROB GRAHAM,
SPORTS PAGE OWNER

POT DELIVERIES

► Continued from page 1

said. “It would be a waste of energy on staff’s part to study that.”

For the most part, the City Council agreed. In Mountain View, the main interest is clearly on setting up retail sales of marijuana. The process should be much quicker if the city focused solely on drafting regulations for retail pot shops, said Councilman John McAlister.

Councilwomen Lisa Matichak and Margaret Abe-Koga disagreed, saying it didn’t make sense to adopt regulations in a piecemeal fashion. Before deliveries or pot shops come to Mountain View, the city should first figure out how to tax the industry, Abe-Koga said.

“One of the arguments for allowing retail pot shots is that we can collect more revenues ... but we’re going to let this through without figuring out that piece,” she said. “If we’re going to do this, we should do it right from the beginning.”

This question was particularly vexing for marijuana delivery services. This would mean licensed pot shops from outside of Mountain View would be allowed to sell cannabis products in the city. Technically, deliveries

are taxed at the point of origin, not the destination, explained City Attorney Jannie Quinn. Such business would also technically be required to get a city business license, which could be one way to levy local fees in the industry, according to city staff.

Twenty-nine U.S. states have legalized recreational or medicinal marijuana although it remains an illegal narcotic under federal law. The drug’s uncertain legal status was made murkier last weeks when the Trump Administration signaled it could begin stepping up marijuana enforcement. On Thursday, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced he was rescinding a series of legal memos drafted by his Obama-appointed predecessor that shifted federal law enforcement away from state-sanctioned marijuana. It’s still unclear whether this will result in any federal crackdowns.

The city will figure out marijuana fees and local rules for pot shops over the course of this year. As part of its approval, the council extended the moratorium on retail pot sales through the end of the year. In the coming months, city staffers say they will hold public meetings and conduct an online survey to gauge public opinion. The City Council



VERONICA WEBER

Cannabis grows at The Guild in San Jose, a medical marijuana collective. Mountain View’s City Council authorized businesses to deliver marijuana products to customers in the city.

is expected to convene a final meeting on licensing pot shops later this year.

Through the discussion, city leaders acknowledged that voters gave a clear mandate two years ago in support of recreational marijuana.

“We need to respond to the will of the voters,” said Mayor Lenny Siegel. “There’s people who’d like to operate within the law, and I want to provide them that opportunity.” ▽

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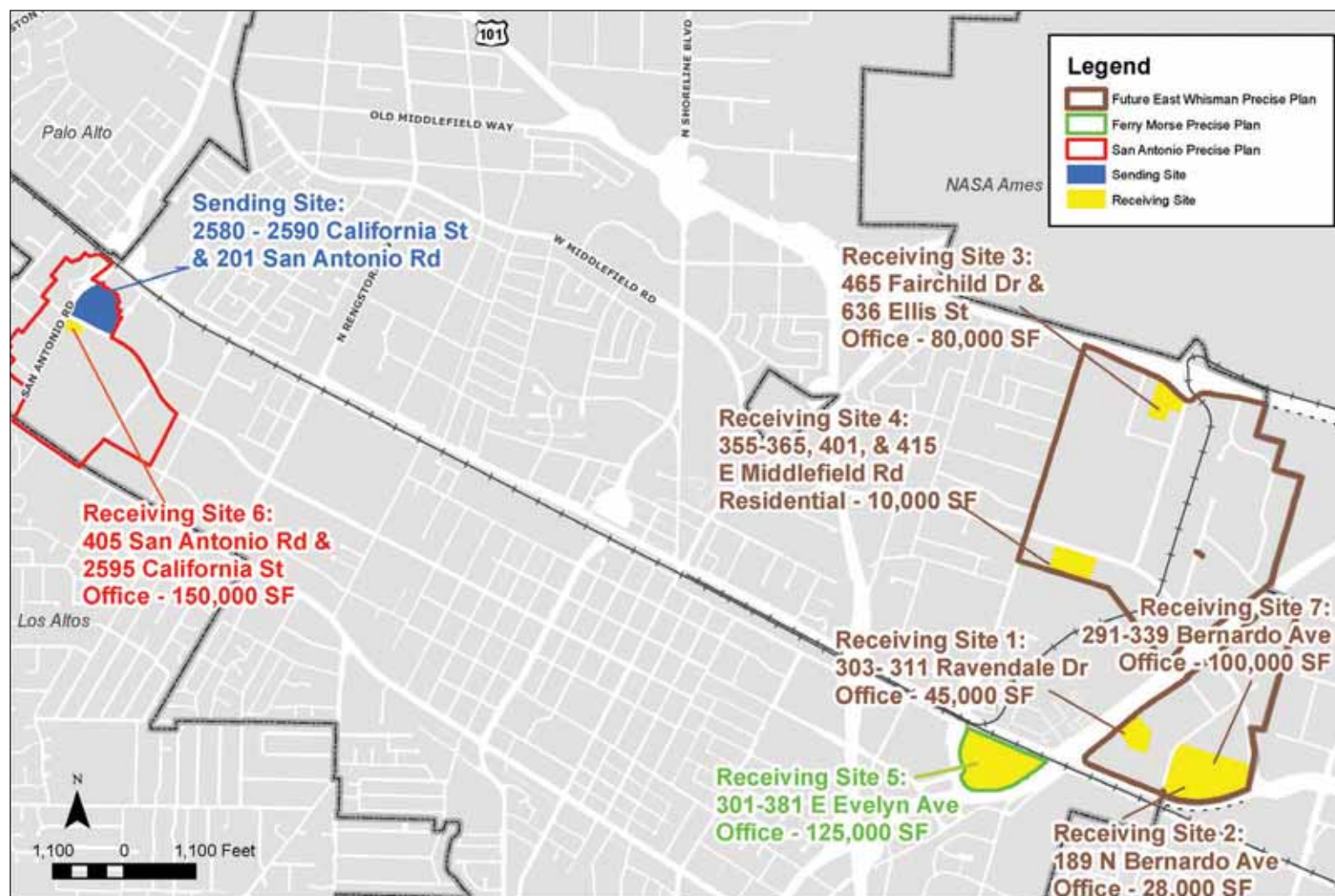
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The new school campus, marked as the “sending” site, is the source of development rights to be used in other areas of the city.

LASD

► Continued from page 5

gatekeeper proposal, in particular, left some council members uneasy. The developer’s request included not only an eight-story office building right on the corner with no additional parking, but also asked for the project to be exempt from requirements to have ground-floor commercial uses. Council members allowed the gatekeeper to move forward, but roundly rejected the idea of losing the commercial space.

Council member Margaret Abe-Koga said she was strongly opposed to adding more offices

in the San Antonio Shopping Center, which she said was intended to be retail-focused, and that she is disappointed with the existing development in the area. She suggested that the council put a pause on allowing the Merlone Geier gatekeeper request to move forward until the second phase of the San Antonio Shopping Center redevelopment is completed and fully occupied by tenants before accepting any new proposals.

“It’s really incumbent on these gatekeeper projects to make sense and fit in with our community. They have to work,” She said. “And this one, I just don’t

think right now I’m ready to say it works.”

Siegel cautioned against council members dropping support for one or more of the gatekeeper proposals moving forward, noting that selling development rights is a critical part of the school district’s plan to buy land. He said he wanted to avoid any action that would risk killing the deal.

“I’m unwilling to risk the entire project because of our concerns about what Merlone Geier has done at the San Antonio center.”

Councilman John McAlister joined the majority of the council in allowing the gatekeeper projects to move forward, but

cautioned that Merlone Geier’s gatekeeper project could “potentially be the demise” of the Milk Pail Market, which is located on the same corner and relies on shared parking that could be removed under the proposed office development.

The vote on the gatekeeper projects was part of a larger motion to permit the Los Altos School District to sell the TDRs, along with a commitment by the city to contribute \$23 million in park funds to help the school district purchase land for a school and adjacent field space in the San Antonio area. The motion passed 6-1, with council

Gatekeeper projects approved

303-311 Ravendale Drive

- Developer: Sand Hill Properties
- Proposal: Replace one-story office building with new six-story 180,000-square-foot office building and a three-story parking garage

189 N. Bernardo Avenue

- Developer: Sand Hill Properties
- Proposal: Retain existing buildings and add a new four-story 90,000-square-foot office building

465 Fairchild Drive & 636 Ellis Street

- Developer: The Sobrato Organization
- Proposal: Demolish two two-story office buildings and replace with a new six-story 260,000-square-foot building

355-365, 401, and 415 E. Middlefield Road

- Developer: SummerHill Homes
- Proposal: Demolish two one-story buildings and replace with 250 flats and condominiums ranging from four- to seven-stories tall and a 0.4-acre park

301-381 E. Evelyn Avenue

- Developer: MV campus owner, LLC
- Proposal: Replace existing surface parking with a new, four-story 125,000-square-foot office building and above-grade five-story parking structure

2595 California Street and 405 San Antonio Road

- Developer: Merlone Geier
- Proposal: Replace existing one-story buildings with eight-story, 250,000-square-foot office building

member Pat Showalter opposed. Earlier in the meeting, Showalter said she was unwilling to support the use of TDRs unless the district was required to build a neighborhood school on the San Antonio site. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

ARTS

► Continued from page 1

meeting, Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph told trustees that it’s a district-wide priority to expand electives — hiring new teachers if necessary — and shell out more cash to keep instruments in good repair at both middle schools. Although he didn’t cite an exact dollar amount, the average cost of each new teacher is close to \$100,000.

The district’s art and music programs are kept afloat through a mix of funding from the Mountain View Education Foundation, the city of Mountain View and the nonprofit Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA), which provides weekly art and

music lessons at all of the elementary schools. District residents also pitch in — money collected from the Measure B parcel tax brings in a total of \$691,452 each year, which pays for six music teachers and two art teachers.

The outside funding has been critical to sustain fine arts programs in the district since 1978, said education services coordinator Tara Vikjord. That was when Proposition 13 passed and reduced the funding available for arts, music, language programs, counselors, nurses and libraries — pretty much anything other than core academic programs. Through a city-financed initiative in 1982, CSMA stepped in to fill the gap, hiring art teachers and creating an art curriculum

for the district’s elementary schools. A similar program was added in 1993 for music, and both are offered as weekly lessons that don’t rely on PTA funding to stay afloat.

CSMA managed programs and donations of instruments to schools until 2012 when the district took over, Vikjord said. The district provides over 400 instruments to fifth-grade students including violas, clarinets, cellos, flutes and French horns each year.

“Music instrument distribution night is just a phenomenal experience to see,” Vikjord said.

At the same Jan. 4 meeting, board members threw their support behind a new middle school schedule that would give a majority of students two elective

periods, which means more opportunities to sign up for art and music classes. Rudolph said district staff want to use the opportunity to bring a broad range of extracurricular activities to Crittenden and Graham — whether it be band, theater, art or music — and that student demand will guide who the district hires and how much it will ultimately cost.

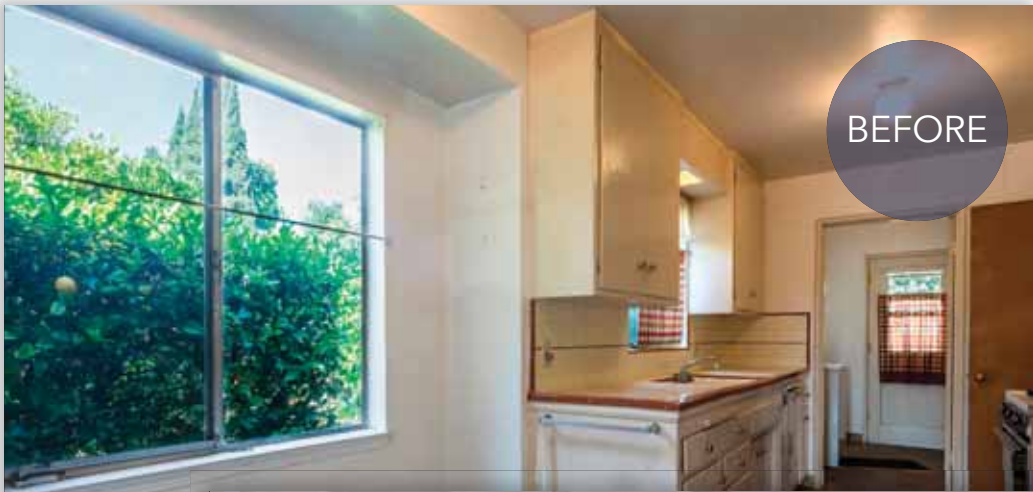
“We’re going to be committed to support it,” Rudolph told trustees at the meeting.

The district meets the state’s visual and performing arts standards, which were adopted in 2001 and are in the process of being revised in early 2019. An outside review of the district’s programs in 2015 gave the district

top marks for providing a “broad curriculum” of art, music and performing arts, though it noted that students with disabilities and English learners are forced to give up those opportunities in order to take mandatory remedial courses.

The expected increase in funding is also aimed at making sure school administrators at Crittenden and Graham don’t feel forced to blow discretionary money on repairing and maintaining instruments when those funds could have gone towards academic programs, Rudolph told the *Voice*.

“We don’t want schools to sit there and take away money from instructional costs to buy a violin or a saxophone for \$1,000,” he said. ▣



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Felder scores with 'Great Tchaikovsky'

THEATREWORKS AND HERSHEY FELDER HAVE ANOTHER MUSIC-BIO HIT

By Karla Kane

Fact: TheatreWorks Silicon Valley audiences adore Hershey Felder. The Canadian piano virtuoso, actor and playwright has carved out a niche for himself as a master of one-man musical biographies, and the two shows he's previously brought to TheatreWorks, including last year's "Hershey Felder, Beethoven," broke box-office records for the theater company. His latest, "Our Great Tchaikovsky," has bested "Beethoven's" pre-opening ticket-sales record, TheatreWorks recently announced. It may well finish its run as the new all-time favorite, if the standing ovation Felder received at the press opening is any indication.

Most casual listeners will no doubt recognize much of the music in this show but might not know much about the man behind it. I include myself in that category: As opposed to Beethoven, by whose life

story I've long been intrigued, I knew little more than the nationality, most famous works and, roughly, time period of this most esteemed of Russian composers going into the performance.

The format of "Our Great Tchaikovsky" will be mostly familiar to fans of Felder's other shows, as he combines his incredible piano skills with his knack for storytelling, bringing to life the composer of "The Nutcracker," "Swan Lake" and other masterpieces through first-person anecdotes (complete with Slavic accent). But with "Tchaikovsky," Felder also breaks character from time to time to speak to the audience about the process of creating the show as well as about the fraught socio-political climate in both Tchaikovsky's and modern Russia, and how that climate ties in to Felder's attempt to provide a respectful, fair and true story of Tchaikovsky's life.

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was



COURTESY HERSHEY FELDER PRESENTS

Piano virtuoso **Hershey Felder** brings to life the music and story of composer Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky in "Our Great Tchaikovsky," presented by TheatreWorks Silicon Valley.

born in 1840 and died under mysterious circumstances just before the turn of the century. Educated to become a civil servant, he, like so many artists since time immemorial, defied his family's plans for him in order to pursue his musical dreams. Though his work was eventually favored by the czar, affording him some creature comforts, and his popularity in the United States led to him performing at the inaugural concert at New York City's Carnegie Hall, he nonetheless lived a difficult life, often scraping by on commissions. His work is romantic, passionate and beautiful, fusing Western technique and knowledge with a native Russian touch — the tunes that launched a thousand would-be black swans and sugar-plum fairies — and in Felder's deft hands both he and his music are thoroughly appealing.

Felder does not attempt to answer the question of how Tchaikovsky, seemingly in good health until the end, really died. Was it broken-hearted suicide, murder or is the "official" story of cholera spread through tainted drinking water the true explanation? The mystery lives on, as does his music.

Today, Russia is proud to

claim him but reluctant, Felder explains, to accept an important aspect of his life: his apparent homosexuality. This "proclivity," as Felder's Tchaikovsky refers to it, haunted and shamed him, dooming him to a life of guilt, secrecy and loneliness, and the fear of being outed and punished. Even sadder, Felder points out, is that the Russian government of today is scarcely any more tolerant of homosexuality, passing laws against it in recent years and turning a blind eye to vigilante acts of brutality, and unwilling to accept it in the biography of their cherished Tchaikovsky. This information adds a poignancy and relevance to the show that makes the experience of spending an evening with the artist all the more meaningful.

All these productions really need to succeed are Felder, a piano and the music, but TheatreWorks audiences are granted an extra treat in the form of Felder's own scenic design and Christopher Ash's lighting and projection design, turning the stage into a gorgeous dacha (Russian country house), among other locales. The audience literally gasped in awe when the delicate woodland trees were illuminated near the top of the show and were further

delighted by projections of birds, deer, snowfall and more over the course of the show. All these bells and whistles are superfluous but highly enjoyable, a visual accompaniment to the glorious sounds on stage.

The show, directed by long-time Felder collaborator Trevor Hay, which runs for more than 90 minutes without intermission, sometimes gets bogged down under the weight of Russian names and the cramming-in of biographical facts, but Felder fans will thoroughly relish another evening with the maestro.

Russian powers that be, it seems, are happy to celebrate Tchaikovsky as a national symbol — as the possessive "our" in the title suggests — but all too willing to deny his humanity. Felder brings that humanity to the forefront. ▣

Email Karla Kane at kkane@paweekly.com.

■ INFORMATION

What: "Our Great Tchaikovsky"
Where: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View
When: Through Feb. 11.
Cost: \$40-\$100, depending on seat choice.
Info: Go to theatreworks.org.

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One-on-one with Barry Eisler

'JOHN RAIN' AUTHOR TALKS PUBLISHING, POLITICS, NEW THRILLER

By Michael Berry

According to Barry Eisler, what's bad for America is good for thriller writers like himself.

The Mountain View resident and best-selling author writes about characters on the edge — assassins, covert operations specialists and sex crimes investigators. He has set his novels and short stories in locations across the globe and prides himself on getting the details right. He is skilled in spotting emerging trends in politics and extrapolating them into rough-and-tumble tales of skullduggery and conspiracy.

Now he's published a new thriller, "The Night Trade," that addresses a particularly harrowing subject — the sexual exploitation of children around the world.

On Tuesday, Jan. 23, Eisler will read and sign copies of his new book (released this month) at Kepler's Books in Menlo Park.

A New Jersey native and a graduate of Cornell Law School, Eisler, 54, spent three years in a covert position with the CIA's Directorate of Operations. He says he left the Agency because the bureaucracy conflicted with his entrepreneurial interests. He later practiced law and worked as an executive for a Silicon Valley startup. He spent a number of years in Japan, soaking up the ambiance and earning a black belt from the Kodokan Judo Institute.

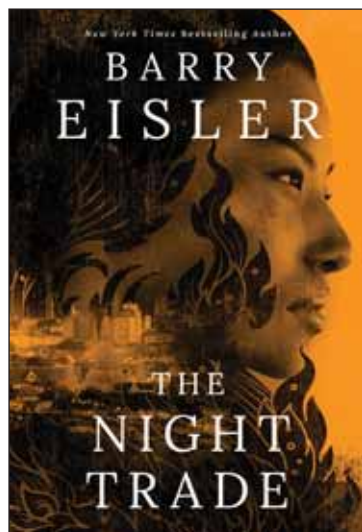
In 2003, Eisler made his debut as a novelist with "Rain Fall," which introduced his signature character John Rain, a half American, half Japanese assassin who kills with undetectable methods in the now famous espionage thriller series. (Actor Keanu Reeves played the assassin on screen in "Rain.")

Eisler made headlines in 2011, when he turned down a six-figure deal from his publisher, St. Martin's, choosing instead to publish through Amazon's APub program and its Thomas & Mercer mystery and thriller publishing imprint.

It's a decision he in no way regrets. According to Eisler, representatives from Amazon told him, "We get what you're doing. You're looking for better time to market, more control over business decisions, more flexibility overall, and a much higher per-unit royalty rate."

"The Detachment" was a solid hit as an e-book, and Eisler's literary career was changed forever. Eisler has since reclaimed the rights to republishing his backlist of books with new titles and cover art.

Although he is often referred



to as a self-publishing advocate, Eisler demurs, saying that authors should simply pick the strategy that works best for them.

"Publishing, for me, is a business, not an ideology."

Eisler's spouse is literary agent Laura Rennert, and he credits her with shifting his career into overdrive.

"I'm not saying this just because she's my wife, but she is, by far, the best agent I've ever had. I've never been happier with a representative on a number of levels, thank God."

With his two most recent books, Eisler has focused on a new character. Introduced in "Livia Lone," the Seattle sex crimes detective finds in "The Night Trade" that she can't escape the horrors of her past, when her parents sold her and her younger sister into slavery in her native Thailand. She has taken revenge on some of the men who raped her, but some are still at large, more than a decade and a half later.

In "The Night Trade," Livia receives an offer from Homeland Security that allows her to journey back to Asia. There she connects with another member of the John Rain fictional universe — Dox, a former Marine sniper and a confidante of Rain. Dox also has deadly unfinished business with at least one of the individuals sought by Livia.

Asked whether he finds it difficult to write from a female perspective, Eisler said, "I just start with what I know about people. Then I try to ask, how would I see the world if I were this character, with this set of circumstances? That works for me."

He said, "I think it's better to put on your Human Hat first before worrying about 'Oh, God. I'm a man and (the character is) a woman.'"

One aspect of the Livia Lone books that was particularly challenging was its subject matter,

child slavery and sexual abuse.

"It's the kind of thing where you know it exists in the world, but it's comforting to not have to know the details or how widespread it is," he said. "This particular topic was just brutal to read about and to interview cops about."

Eisler recognizes that human trafficking happens in the Bay Area.

"We comfort ourselves by thinking, 'horror exists in the world, but not here.' That's not good, because horror is a human thing, not a cultural thing. It exists everywhere, and if you think it doesn't happen here, how are you going to address it?"

Despite its darker scenes, "The Night Trade" isn't completely bleak.

"One of the things that makes the book work so well is that it's not so much about the horror as about the enduring — and ultimately triumphant — power of love," Eisler said. "Livia is a survivor, and she's motivated by love."

Although he often extrapolates from current events and technologies, Eisler takes pride in the factual accuracy of his fiction. He even reserves space on his website to listing mistakes brought to his attention by readers.

"At the outset, I wanted to make my books as real as I could, and I wanted that to be part of my brand," he said. "From the first book, all the settings are places I've lived or at least traveled to and explored firsthand."

"The plots I use typically have



Author **Barry Eisler** is a Mountain View resident and former CIA operative.

something to do with real things that are going on in the world, sometimes things that are not as widely appreciated as they should be."

He points to his recent stand-alone thriller, "The God's Eye View" and its depiction of "metastasizing surveillance."

"What a lot of people don't understand is just how widespread and intrusive the technology has become," he said. "It's mind-boggling what's out there and what the government is deploying."

Asked whether he has taken any inspiration yet from the Trump administration, Eisler said,

"As a citizen and thriller writer

I ask, 'How did we get to this point, where an orange-haired reality-TV buffoon and obvious con man could be elected president?' Something's going on within the political system of this country for that to happen." ▣

Email Michael Berry at mikeberry@mindspring.com.

■ INFORMATION

What: Barry Eisler reads and signs "The Night Trade."

Where: Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.

When: Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15-\$50.

Info: www.keplers.com.



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DISTILLING *memories*

Founder of local startup Rocket Vodka
inspired by his Norwegian father

BY ALEXANDRIA CAVALLERO | PHOTOS BY VERONICA WEBER





Above: Henrique De Brito E Cunha, the bar manager at the Four Seasons Silicon Valley, prepares a “launchpad” cocktail made with Rocket Vodka. **Left:** Dariusz Paczuski, the founder of Rocket Vodka, says his apple-based spirits were inspired by his father’s homemade apple brandy.

FOODFEATURE

Like so many great Silicon Valley origin stories, Dariusz Paczuski’s started in his Menlo Park garage. But in this case, there was a lot of alcohol involved.

Paczuski launched Rocket Vodka last March after what he described as a nine-month “involuntary sabbatical” from his job. During that period, he spent more time with his family, invested in himself — and started a vodka company.

His process is well-vetted, drawn from trial and error and inspired by years of watching his father make his own liquor while growing up in Norway.

“My father made spirits from apples but he’d age it for brandy in oak barrels,” Paczuski said. “We had apple trees — Norwegian ground apples — (and he) would take the downed apples, juice them and ferment them.”

Though his father never got the chance to try his vodka, Paczuski launched the company on the fourth anniversary of the day he died.

“I had this vodka idea for almost 10 years and never had any time to work on it,” he said over cocktails made with his vodka, served at the Four Seasons East Palo Alto bar in double-walled Rocket Vodka branded steel mule mugs. (Copper mugs conduct heat, he said.)

Paczuski began making



vodka with a friend, a Russian engineer at Google, by buying three types of apples — Fuji, Granny Smith and Red Delicious — from the Menlo Park farmers’ market. They brought them back to

his garage to steep in white painters’ buckets with warm water and yeast for three weeks. Then they waited.

In the first bucket, there was

► See **ROCKET VODKA**, page 18


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ROCKET VODKA

► Continued from page 17

what remained of the Granny Smiths, coated in a carpet of green mold. Skeptical but determined, they filtered the mixture and distilled it.

“That one, basically, I think we made penicillin,” Paczuski said. “In fact, I got a rash on my thigh (from it).”

The second bucket, filled with Red Delicious apples was also unsuccessful. The fibrous apple variety, though sweet, did not have enough sugar. The resulting liquor was too watery.

‘I flash back to being in the basement in Norway where my dad had hidden the moonshine.’

DARIUSZ PACZUSKI,
ROCKET VODKA FOUNDER

The third and final bucket, however, was more encouraging.

From there, Paczuski realized that there was promise in his plan. He realized quickly that he wouldn’t be able to continue making vodka in his garage and began looking for a distillery. He narrowed it down to award-winning master distiller Gordon Helm at Dry Diggings Distillery in El Dorado Hills. It’s close to Apple Hill, from where Rocket Vodka sources apples and Lake Tahoe, from which the company sources water to make the vodka.

The vodka itself is distilled in small batches. Each bottle contains 68 apples. Rocket Vodka is made from both apple juice and concentrate — a blend of Granny Smith, Golden Delicious and Fuji apples — so there is enough natural sugar



The “cosmonaut” cocktail served at the Four Seasons Silicon Valley is made with Rocket Vodka, Cointreau, lime juice and cranberry juice.

to activate the yeast.

Beyond striking the precise balance between natural sugars and apple-to-apple ratios, the trick, Paczuski said, is to “use high-quality ingredients and be true to the process.” This creates a spirit that’s not only pleasing in cocktails or on the rocks, but also void of any non-natural sugars, he said.

“Younger versions of me, older, female and male, still

drink, we just care about what we put into our bodies,” Paczuski said. “We also don’t binge drink anymore — or at least not as often,” he laughed.

Rocket Vodka is now sold in more than 80 bars, clubs, restaurants, resorts, hotels, and retail venues throughout California. Paczuski is also in talks with distributors in Nevada and is even putting out feelers in Norway, all while he juggles the demands of a family and a full-time job in the tech industry.

The taste of Rocket Vodka reminds him of his childhood in Norway, he said, like the scene in the film “Ratatouille” when the food critic is transported to his own childhood through the taste of familiar food.

“I flash back to being in the basement in Norway where my dad had hidden the moonshine,” he said.

Sometimes, his father would let him taste a drop on the tip of his pinky finger.

“That taste of that appley spirit,” he said, closing his eyes, “our vodka takes me back to that.” ▣

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MOVIE OPENINGS



COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES

Daniel Day-Lewis and Vicky Krieps star in "Phantom Thread."

Fashion and passion

DANIEL DAY-LEWIS DIVES DEEP INTO DEPRESSED DESIGNER IN 'PHANTOM THREAD'

★★★1/2 (Guild)

What are the ties that bind — and how and why? In the world of haute couture, these are matters of creativity and skill, of inspiration, design and blind stitches.

One might say the same of

relationships, to a point: the creativity and skill of seduction, the inspiration that leads to deeper feelings, the attempt to design a functional relationship and the phantom thread that keeps two people together. Writer-director Paul Thomas

Anderson's "Phantom Thread" luxuriates in the world of fashion even as it plumbs the ever-darker depths of a mysteriously obsessive relationship.

Anderson teams up again with Daniel Day-Lewis, who won one of his record-breaking three "Best Actor" Oscars for the director's "There Will Be Blood" (according to Day-Lewis, "Phantom Thread" also marks his retirement from acting). Outstanding as ever, the English

actor here embodies fashion designer Reynolds Woodcock, who caters to the rich, the famous, the connected and the royal by designing for them the most exquisite dresses to be had in 1950s London. It is a world of perfectly put-together people — in appearance, at least.

Reportedly inspired by real-life designer Charles James, Woodcock has earned the appellation of "confirmed bachelor," and despite the intimations of homosexuality that attend the term, he takes up, uses and discards a steady stream of female muses. His latest, however, proves extraordinary. Waitress Alma Elson (Berlin-based actor Vicky Krieps) catches Woodcock's attention, and she accepts an invitation to his haunted house ("It's comforting to think that the dead are watching over the living," Woodcock tells her, by way of further explaining why he sewed a lock of his mother's hair into his jacket lining).

There, in a musty, cluttered attic workspace, Woodcock makes his signature move. With unnerving fastidiousness, he takes Alma's measurements as foreplay to the ultimate flattery — designing a dress to be tailor-made for her. Shortly, Alma moves into London's House of Woodcock, threatening the prim primacy Woodcock's sister Cyril (a positively brilliant Lesley Manville) holds over his world. As Cyril sees it, only she

understands her brother and can keep the mercurial master functioning despite behavior that can run to the childish and cruel and, more worryingly, depressive bouts that last for days.

This triangular dynamic and the classicism of Anderson's aesthetic approach (not to mention Woodcock's observation "A house that doesn't change is a dead house") call to mind Hitchcock's initial American psychodrama "Rebecca." Indeed "Phantom Thread" goes to perverse places, from a study of a toxic alpha male's mistreatment of the two mistresses in his life to a depiction of a bizarrely functional, codependent, toxic relationship. Anderson makes no concession to the mass appeal of a rooting interest: His is a cinema of the esoteric, with splendid trappings (Johnny Greenwood's by turns swanky and shadowy score, just-so cinematography that at times evokes vintage Technicolor) belying an off-putting story and characters.

With "Phantom Thread," Anderson and Day-Lewis work out some timely issues of the runaway male ego, the dubious excuse of great art for grotesque personality, and the shock and awe experienced by the select few who can see through genius and, for better or for worse, cut to the quick.

Rated R for language. Two hours, 10 minutes.

— Peter Canavese



MOVIE REVIEWS

THE POST ★★★1/2

With Steven Spielberg, Meryl Streep, and Tom Hanks taking their licks at the man in the Oval Office, it's a fair bet that few will care that "The Post" comes up short. Hanks plays Ben Bradlee, the famed executive editor of "The Washington Post" (immortalized by Jason Robards in the 1976 classic "All the President's Men"). In 1971, the Nixon White House didn't care for the newspaper's coverage, prompting a capricious denial of access to Tricia Nixon's wedding. Then, The New York Times begins publishing the bombshell Pentagon Papers stolen and leaked by Daniel Ellsberg (Matthew Rhys) to reveal the truth about America's Vietnam War policy. Bradlee smells opportunity when an injunction by the Nixon Administration shuts down the Times from reporting. The movie, which chronicles how Post publisher Katherine Graham (Streep) and Bradlee join an unprecedented battle between journalists and the government to expose a cover-up that spanned four U.S. presidents, struggles to find the drama in this real-life account. While certain scenes generate fleeting sparks (tense talks between Graham and personal friend Robert McNamara, well played by Bruce Greenwood), the filmmakers' solution tends to be the characters speechifying, posing and repeatedly declaiming the stakes ("We could all go to prison").

Rated PG-13 for language and brief war violence. One hour, 55 minutes. — P.C.

MOLLY'S GAME ★★★

Let's be clear: "Molly's Game" — the directorial debut of Oscar and Emmy-winning screenwriter Aaron Sorkin — isn't profound. In fact, it's pretty darn silly, never more so than when it's trying to make a point. And yet, this adventure in dubious capitalist ambition has an ace in the hole, its star Jessica Chastain. Chastain stars as Molly Bloom, whose memoir "Molly's Game: From Hollywood's Elite to Wall Street's Billionaire Boys Club, My High-Stakes Adventure in the World of Underground Poker" recounts her roller-coaster youth as a highly ranked competitive skier, the abrupt end of that life, her reinvention as the host of a high-stakes Hollywood poker game, and the fallout from an FBI bust. Sorkin slaloms expertly through the exposition, then juggles present-day scenes with fill-in-the-gaps flashbacks as Bloom explains her quasi-ethical entrepreneurial enterprise to Charlie Jaffey (Idris Elba), the lawyer she hopes will represent her in federal court.

Rated PG-13 for language and some crude comments. Two hours, 20 minutes. — P.C.

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NOW SHOWING

12 Strong (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Call Me by Your Name (R) ★★★

Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

Coco (PG) ★★★1/2 Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

The Commuter (PG-13) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Darkest Hour (PG-13) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Den of Thieves (R) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

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

The Greatest Showman (PG)

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

I, Tonya (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Insidious: The Last Key (PG-13)

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

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle (PG-13)

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

Lady Bird (R) ★★★1/2

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

Molly's Game (R) ★★★ Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Paddington 2 (PG) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Phantom Thread (R) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Guild Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

Pitch Perfect 3 (PG-13) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

The Post (PG-13) ★★★1/2 Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Proud Mary (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

The Shape of Water (R) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

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

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

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (R)

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

Tommy Wiseau's The Room (R)

Century 16: Friday Century 20: Friday

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

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MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

'THE LARAMIE PROJECT' AT PALO ALTO PLAYERS

The Palo Alto Players present "The Laramie Project," the story of a young teen who was brutally murdered in 1998. Jan. 19-Feb. 4, 8 p.m. \$22-\$46. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

THEATER

TheatreWorks Presents 'Our Great Tchaikovsky' In "Our Great Tchaikovsky," written and performed by Hershey Felder, composer Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky springs to life in a tale that explores both current Russian politics and historical context. Jan. 10-Feb. 11. Show times vary. \$45-\$105, with discounts for educators, seniors, under 35. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org/

MUSIC

Forejour - Tribute to Foreigner & Journey Forejour, a Foreigner and Journey tribute band, will perform at Club Fox in Redwood City. 21 and over. Jan. 27. 8 p.m. \$15 in advance or \$19 at the door. Search ticketfly.com for more info.

L.A. Dance Project Former Paris Opera Ballet Artistic Director Benjamin Millepied, who choreographed the movie "Black Swan," founded the L.A. Dance Project, an artist collective, in 2012 with composers Nico Muhly and Nicholas Britell, art consultant Matthieu Humery and producer Charles Fabius. The Project aims to make new work for a small group of dancers in collaboration with visual artists, musicians and composers to perform in both traditional and unconventional spaces. Jan. 27, 7:30-10 p.m. \$15-\$80; discount for students. Stanford Memorial Auditorium, Stanford. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Live Music: Moss 11 Moss 11, an alternative rock cover band from San Francisco, will play at the Freewheel Brewing Company. Jan. 27, 7-9 p.m. Free. Freewheel Brewing Company, 3736 Florence St., Redwood City. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

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

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

COMEDY

Comedians at Red Rock Bay Area comedian Kevin Wong will host his monthly comedy showcase at Red Rock Coffee. Third Saturday of each month through November, 8:30-10:30 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. kevinwongcomedy.com/shows/

CONCERTS

CCRMA Winter Concert I The Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics presents two concerts of new and classic electroacoustic multichannel music deploying their full immersive speaker system at the Bing Main Stage. Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. Free. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

Jeremy Denk & Stefan Jackiw at Bing Concert Hall Jeremy Denk, piano player and winner of a MacArthur "Genius" award, will perform all of the sonatas of the American modernist composer Charles Ives at Bing Concert Hall with violinist Stefan Jackiw and members of the Stanford Chamber Chorale. Jan. 28, 2:30-5 p.m. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Julian Fleisher in Concert: 1975 Singer-songwriter Julian Fleisher will perform at the Bing Concert Hall on the Stanford University Campus. Jan. 27, 8-9 p.m. \$40. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Robert Huw Morgan Organ Recital Robert Huw Morgan will be performing Organ Mass by Nicolas de Grigny (1672-1703) at Memorial Church. Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

St. Louis Symphony at Bing Concert Hall The St. Louis Symphony, the second oldest orchestra in the nation, will perform selections from Thomas Adès' Dances from the opera Powder Her Face, Benjamin Britten's Violin Concerto with Grammy-winning violinist Augustin Hadelich and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 1. Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Uriel Herman Quartet The Bing Studio cabaret will host the U.S. debut tour of Uriel Herman, a pianist and composer who operates on the seam between jazz, rock and grunge with influences of Israeli sound. Jan. 20, 8-9:30 p.m. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Voices of Music: An Evening in Paris This concert will feature music by Couperin, Marais and Telemann with Carla Moore, Hanneke van Proosdij, Elisabeth Reed, William Skeen, Derek Tam and David Tayler. Jan. 19, 8 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverly St., Palo Alto. voicesofmusic.org/Concerts.html

TALKS & LECTURES

Marty Cagan: Product is Hard Marty Cagan, the founder of Silicon Valley Product group, will speak at Intuit. Jan. 25. 6 p.m.-9 p.m. \$20 online, \$25 at the door. Intuit, Building 9, 2600 Casey Ave., Mountain View. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Talk: Do We Do Too Little About Child Abuse or Too Much? Each year child protective services removes thousands of children from their parents and places them in foster care. In this talk, three speakers will observe the current way in which child abuse is handled by caseworkers and judges, and discuss if the system can be improved. Jan. 25, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. Stanford Law School, Room 290. Stanford University, 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford. ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu/events

Welcome to America! This 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. cityofpaloalto.org/

FAMILY

Woodland School Open House Parents will hear about curriculum, mission and school culture of the Woodland School, followed by a Q&A session. Applying students from kindergarten through eighth grade will have the opportunity to participate in a group design challenge with other applicants of similar age. Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Woodland School, 360 La Cuesta Drive, Portola Valley. woodland-school.org/openhouse

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. Nov. 1-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' This exhibit 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. Oct. 18-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. Sept. 15-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: '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. Sept. 15-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. Oct. 18-March 18, 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. Oct. 18-March 4, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays; Thursdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center & Herbert Hoover Memorial Exhibit Pavilion, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Exhibit: 'This Is Hunger' This 45-minute exhibit tells stories of Americans who face hunger on a daily basis using portraits, storytelling techniques and hands-on activities. Jan. 27, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Free. Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills. thisishunger.org/

Happenstance A solo exhibition of fine art photographer Nathalie Strand's composite series, blends figurative pictures with textures and details. Jan. 10-Feb. 11. Free. The Main Gallery, 1018 Main St., Redwood City. themaingallery.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. Sept. 14-Feb. 12, Wednesday-Monday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; open until 8 p.m. on Thursdays; closed on Tuesdays. Free. Anderson Collection at Stanford University, 314 Lomita Drive, Stanford. anderson.stanford.edu

Rengstorff House - Docent Open House Event This docent open house event will feature a historic home tour, opportunity to talk with current volunteers and refreshments. RSVPs requested at shoreline.volunteer@mountainview.gov or (650) 903-6073 by Jan. 15. Jan. 21, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Rengstorff House, 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

GALLERIES

'African-American Automobility: The Dangerous Freedom of the Open Road' Stanford University's Department of Art & Art History presents, "African-American Automobility: The Dangerous Freedom of the Open Road," an exhibition of solo works by Jonathan Calm. Jan. 23-March 18; reception Jan. 25, 5-7 p.m. Free. Stanford University, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

DANCE

Argentine Tango Alberto's Nightclub presents Argentine Tango on Sundays. Ongoing, 7 p.m. 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. No partner necessary. Bachata is a form of music and sensual dance that originated in the Dominican Republic. Wednesdays, ongoing, 7:30 p.m. Alberto's Salsa Studio, 736 W. Dana St., Mountain View. albertos.com/calendar

New York Style Salsa On2 with Victoria (Mambo Mondays) New York Style Salsa On2 with Victoria Mambo provides salsa dance lessons for all skill levels. No partner necessary. 21 years and older. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Level 1 at 8 p.m.; level 2 at 9 p.m.; social dancing starts at 10 p.m. Mondays, ongoing, \$10. Alberto's Salsa Studio, 736 W. Dana St., Mountain View. albertos.com/calendar

FILM

Film Series: Classics of Soviet Cinema, 1927-1938 The event will feature a film screening of The Fall of the Romanov Dynasty, and hold a Q&A with the audience after the screening. Feb. 1, 6 p.m. Free. Stanford University, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

Framing in Time: Photographs from the Cantor Arts Center Reimagined

Each of the short, student-made films in this exhibition will appropriate and reimagine a photograph from the Cantor's collection. Jan. 24, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. arts.stanford.edu/event

Julius Rosenwald: A Philanthropy Legacy in Film The Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation will screen the new documentary film, "Rosenwald: the Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities." Free. Stanford University Graduate School of Business, Cemex Auditorium, 655 Knight Way, Stanford. paccenter.stanford.edu/events/

FOOD & DRINK

Homebrewing 101 Derek Wolfgram and Mike Conant from the Silicon Valley Sudzers homebrew club and Andrew Carroll from the HeadQuarters homebrew club will present an interactive introduction to home-brewing beer. The talk will cover ingredients, techniques, equipment, beer styles and recipe formulation. Jan. 27, 2-3:30 p.m. Downtown Library, 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City. redwoodcity.org/

LESSONS & CLASSES

Knit & Crochet Club Knitters and crocheters and those interested in learning either, will gather in the Teen Zone to work on their projects. Open to people of all skill levels. Ages 8 and older. Supplies provided for beginners. Dec. 29, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainview.gov/library

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Health Insurance Coverage for All San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and Legal Aid Society will offer an informative presentation in both English and Spanish on health coverage programs for all immigrants in California. Jan. 28, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1425 Bay Road, Redwood City. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Workshop: Deep Breathing Learn the fundamentals and benefits of yoga breathing. From a seated position in chairs, practice breathing awareness and belly breathing. This workshop welcomes beginners. Jan. 23, 1-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Art Hiking Class The class combines fitness and creative activities and provides an introduction to sketching. The first lesson is free. Jan. 14, 9:30-11 p.m. Free. Shoreline Lake Boathouse, 3160 North Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

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. losaltosca.gov

SENIORS

DIY Projects with Orchard Supply Hardware The workshop will demonstrate several easy do-it-yourself projects at the event. Jan. 25, 1-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Search nextdoor.com for more info.



NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District is pleased to announce posting of Requests for Proposals for YR 2018 (YR21) E-Rate Eligible Projects: CAT2 Equipment. The bids are due before 3:00 p.m. on February 6, 2018 at the Main Office, 1299 Bryant Ave., Mountain View, CA 94040. Interested vendors are referred to the MVLA district website (www.mvla.net) for details, instructions, bid forms and submittal due dates.

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115 Announcements

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145 Non-Profits

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

RUCY'S CLEANING SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN636955
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Rucy's Cleaning Services, located at 625 Lakehaven Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94089, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
LUCIA PAREDES
625 Lakehaven Dr.
Sunnyvale, CA 94089
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/19/2017.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 19, 2017.
(MVV Jan. 12, 19, 26; Feb. 2, 2018)

C&J CLEANING SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN637564
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
C&J Cleaning Services, located at 1006 Colusa Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: Married Couple.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
JORGE BALLINAS
1006 Colusa Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94085
MARIA DEL CARMEN CAJERO
1006 Colusa Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94085
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/08/2018.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on January 8, 2018.
(MVV Jan. 12, 19, 26; Feb. 2, 2018)

997 All Other Legals

CASE NUMBER: (Numero del Caso): 17CV310541
SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): DONG MING PAN, an individual; DOES 1-100, inclusive. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): BMO HARRIS BANK N.A., a national association.
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): ROBERT V. MC KENDRICK / BAR NO. 169138, LAW OFFICES OF HEMAR, ROUSSO & HEALD, LLP, 15910 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 1201, Encino, CA 91436 (818)

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso. The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): SANTA CLARA SUPERIOR COURT, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113, Unlimited Civil.

501-3800 (818) 501-2985
Date: (Fecha) MAY 18, 2017
Clerk (Secretario)
By: A. RAMIREZ, Deputy (Adjunto)
CN944329 PAN Jan 5, 12, 19, 26, 2018
NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
WARREN JAY EGGLEY
Case No.: 17PR182434
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of WARREN JAY EGGLEY.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: HORACIO BARBA in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA. The Petition for Probate requests that: HORACIO BARBA be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. 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 personal 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 March 1, 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 estate 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. Attorney for Petitioner: Jeffrey K. Nielsen 84 West Santa Clara Street, Suite 540 San Jose, CA 95113 (408) 294-9700 (MVV Jan. 5, 12, 19, 2018)

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