

Mountain View VOICE

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MAGALI GAUTHIER

Scott Rodvold takes a bottle of olive oil from his son while preparing dinner in the motor home they share. Depleted finances following a medical emergency made it impossible to stay in his Mountain View apartment, he said.

A neighborhood association on wheels

NEW ADVOCACY GROUP SEEKS TO UNITE MOUNTAIN VIEW'S VEHICLE DWELLERS

By Mark Noack

Lacking a solid safety net, nearly half of Americans are estimated to be one crisis away from the poorhouse. They could be pushed into poverty from an accident, a job

layoff, a rent increase or a medical emergency.

In the case of Scott Rodvold, 58, it was all of the above. It was just after Christmas 2016 when Rodvold collapsed at his Mountain View apartment and went into septic shock. He

spent 17 days in a coma, eventually recovering only after being fortunate enough to get a liver transplant.

The medical trauma depleted both his health and his bank

► See **VEHICLE DWELLERS**, page 12

Disagreements with district delay charter school lottery

MV WHISMAN, BULLIS MV EACH COMPLAIN OF BAD FAITH NEGOTIATIONS

By Kevin Forestieri

Officials from a new charter school and the Mountain View Whisman School District locked horns at a school board meeting last week, accusing one another of stonewalling over strict accountability measures the district is seeking to impose.

The ongoing dispute meant that Bullis Mountain View's March 7 enrollment lottery would have to wait another day. And after an icy back-and-forth over which side is delaying the process and failing to negotiate in good faith, board members agreed that the argument was going nowhere and cut off the conversation.

Mountain View Whisman's school board reluctantly agreed on Dec. 20 to approve a new charter school in the district. Bullis Mountain View, an offshoot of the high-performing

Bullis Charter School in Los Altos, aims to draw a significant number of low-income students who speak English as a second language. The school will accept 168 kids from kindergarten through second grade for the kick-off 2019-20 school year.

The school board's approval came with strings attached, including demands that the charter school make several changes to its admission preferences and academic assessments, and a concrete requirement that it enroll

a certain number of low-income kids. Charter school officials agreed to those stipulations — at least in concept — shortly before the Dec. 20 meeting, and both sides were expected to hammer out a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on how to meet those obligations.

► See **CHARTER SCHOOL**, page 11

'This is not a conversation in good faith.'

JOSE GUTIERREZ,
MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN

Mayor's misfire email suggests she wants to thwart housing plans

By Mark Noack

The note was brief and to the point: "How are we going to thwart him?"

Those words were sent out early Thursday morning, March 7, in an email by Mountain View Mayor Lisa Matichak, apparently by accident, in response to former council member Lenny Siegel's push to promote housing growth in the city's North Bayshore area. To housing advocates, the message is

evidence that Matichak's stated support for residential growth is superficial, and that she could be working to undermine plans for a future North Bayshore neighborhood.

Asked for comment, Matichak confirmed to the *Voice* that she had sent out the email, but she said it was a mistake and was



Lisa Matichak

being taken out of context.

Matichak's message was sent in response to a mass invitation Siegel sent on Wednesday evening to members of the pro-housing Balanced Mountain View group. Siegel's invitation was for a March 12 meeting to strategize about promoting a goal to create 9,850 new housing units in North Bayshore amid failed negotiations between Google and other landowners last month.

The one-line "thwart him"

response came from Matichak's email account at 6:47 a.m., and it was sent to Siegel as well as hundreds of other members of the Balanced Mountain View listserv. Matichak has been a member of the Balanced Mountain View listserv for years although she had almost never engaged in any of the group's discussions.

When he saw the message, Siegel initially thought Matichak's email was being spoofed by someone else. If

not, she had clearly made the mistake of replying to everyone on the email when she meant to forward it to someone else, he said.

"This certainly doesn't seem like the kind of thing that was intended for the email list or for me to see, but it's consistent with her behavior," Siegel said. "She was against housing in North Bayshore in 2014, and every step of way when we

► See **MAYOR**, page 14

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COURTESY OF SACKS AND CO.

Meow Meow and Thomas Lauderdale perform at Stanford on March 20.

MEOW MEOW MEETS MARTINI

As founder of the 25-year-old chamber-pop ensemble Pink Martini, pianist and arranger Thomas Lauderdale has performed with some charismatic personalities, including the band's own lead singers (China Forbes and Storm Large) and the late Phyllis Diller. But he's currently gaga for Meow Meow, a.k.a. Melissa Madden Gray, the multilingual Australian vocalist, actress and performer whom he'll accompany for a pair of cabaret-like shows on the Stanford University campus.

The local shows will offer a preview of the duo's long-in-the-works debut album, "Hotel Amour," which will be released two days later and boasts both originals and repertoire from various eras.

Lauderdale will be joined by a handful of his Pink Martini bandmates for this tour. So it's neither the duo (backed by orchestra) shows that he and Meow Meow have done in the past nor the "little big band" ones to which he's become accustomed with his usual group. Regardless of how many instrumentalists are on the bandstand, everyone fades out once the spotlight hits Meow Meow.

"I really take a super back seat to her! My job is to provide musical support to something that is way beyond my control," he said.

Meow Meow and Thomas Lauderdale will perform two shows, at 7 and 9 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, at the intimate Bing Studio at 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Tickets are \$50-\$75. Go to live.stanford.edu.

—Yoshi Kato

SCULPTURE EXPLORES THE MULTIVERSE

Artist Josiah McElheny's Island Universe, currently installed at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, is a metal, glass and light representation of theories of the multiverse, including some developed at Stanford. The sculpture takes the form of five midcentury modern chandeliers modeled after those of the Metropolitan Opera in New York. McElheny, who's based in New York, worked with Ohio State University professor of astronomy David Weinberg to scientifically calculate the measurements used in the project, which represent the history of time.

Cantor is holding a series of discussions centered around the piece. On April 25 at 6 p.m. art professor Nancy Troy will lead a discussion with philosophy professor Thomas Ryckman. On May 30 at 6 p.m., curator Aleesa Pitchamarn Alexander will talk with American Studies Program Coordinator Elizabeth Kessler. Island Universe will be on display in Cantor's Freidenrich Family Gallery, 328 Lomita Drive, through Aug. 18. Admission is free. For more information, go to museum.stanford.edu.

—Karla Kane

'CUBBERLEY STOCK' ART EVENT

Palo Alto's Public Art Program, in partnership with Oakland-based artist/chef Lexa Walsh, will host "Cubberley Stock," a community event supporting local art, on Sunday, March 24, at 6 p.m. at Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Attendees will be served a soup supper and presented project ideas by six local artists, "selected on their ability to animate the Cubberley Community Center campus in fun, engaging, temporary and easily-reversible ways," according to event organizers. The project that receives the most votes from participants at Cubberley Stock will be granted the proceeds from the event (\$15-\$25 sliding scale fee) plus matching funds of up to \$2,000 from the Palo Alto Public Art Program. For tickets or more information, go to eventbrite.com/e/cubberley-stock-tickets-55379417328.

—Karla Kane

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■ CRIME BRIEFS

FATAL COLLISION

A 67-year-old Mountain View man died Sunday after being hit by a vehicle while riding his bicycle in Los Altos the previous day, police said Monday.

Stephen Purcell died after the collision reported at 9:26 a.m. Saturday, March 9, on Grant Road at the intersection with Oak Avenue, according to police.

Emergency responders took Purcell to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead at about 6 p.m. on March 10, police said.

The driver involved in the collision stayed at the scene and cooperated with investigators. Alcohol and drugs are not suspected to be factors in the case, according to police.

Anyone with information about the collision is encouraged to call police Sgt. Liz Checke at 650-947-2659.

—*Bay City News Service*

GOOGLE THREATS ARREST

Police arrested a 33-year-old man whose gripes with Google allegedly spurred him to drive across the country with three baseball bats in his car.

The suspect, whose YouTube channel had been taken down,

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 6

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

100 block Bryant St., 3/5
400 block Castro St., 3/6
Inigo Way & Pear Av., 3/6
1200 block Pear Av., 3/6
300 block Hope St., 3/6
1500 block Plymouth St., 3/7
100 block Sondgroth Way, 3/7
200 block Hope St., 3/7
200 block View St., 3/7
2200 block Latham St., 3/7
200 block Bryant St., 3/8
1400 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 3/9
1800 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 3/11
1500 block Plymouth St., 3/11
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 3/11
200 block Hope St., 3/11
800 block California St., 3/11

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

1800 block W. El Camino Real, 3/5
1900 block Old Middlefield Way, 3/8
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 3/8

CRIMINAL THREATS

200 block S. Rengstorff Av., 3/5
2500 block Charleston Rd., 3/9

1600 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 3/10

GRAND THEFT

700 block Continental Cir., 3/7
800 block E. El Camino Real, 3/10
200 block Montebello Av., 3/11
600 block W. Evelyn Av., 3/11
700 block S. Oak St., 3/11

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

400 block Sylvan Av., 3/4
800 block Burgoyne St., 3/10

ROBBERY

500 block Castro St., 3/7

THREATENING AN OFFICER

1100 block Castro St., 3/6

TRESPASSING

Ellis St. & Highway 101

STOLEN VEHICLE

1100 block Katie Ct., 3/7
200 block S. Rengstorff Av., 3/9

VANDALISM

1600 block Villa St., 3/10
200 block S. Rengstorff Av., 3/10

■ COMMUNITY BRIEF

PROBLEMS WITH COUNTY'S TRAFFIC TICKETS

Santa Clara County Superior Court on Wednesday temporarily halted online payments for traffic infractions and misdemeanors because of a glitch in its fee system.

Some online traffic tickets may be overcharging recipients, while others could be undercharging them, according to the county. In both cases, the fees do not reflect the actual amount due to the court.

Anyone who received a courtesy notice or completed a

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 9

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MAGALI GAUTHIER

Bullis Charter School has tentatively accepted an offer by Mountain View Whisman to open its new school in portable buildings on Montecito Avenue that formerly housed Stevenson Elementary.

Bullis MV to accept old Stevenson site

CHARTER SCHOOL OFFICIALS CITE CONCERNS OVER DISTRICT'S LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

By Kevin Forestieri

Battles over facilities may be commonplace between school districts and charter schools across California, but the Mountain View Whisman School District appears to be on track towards a peaceful resolution.

Earlier this month, Bullis Mountain View (BMV) — a new charter school in the district opening its doors in the fall — sent a letter to the district expressing “appreciation” that Mountain View Whisman was able to find facilities that work for the charter school, and that

they expect to accept the offer in the coming months. The letter is the latest in a back-and-forth over school facilities under California’s Proposition 39 law, which has been the source of divisiveness and lawsuits in the neighboring Los Altos School District.

The proposal, which the school board approved in January, calls for putting BMV in portable buildings at 1400 Montecito Ave., a somewhat compact site next to the district office that also houses Stevenson and Theuerkauf elementary schools. The district has played musical chairs with facilities on

the campus during construction starting in 2017, putting Stevenson in what it calls the “portable village” on Montecito Avenue before moving the district office into the buildings last year. The new district office is expected to be completed this summer, leaving the portables free for the charter school.

Originally, district officials sought to use the portable buildings to expand its pre-school program, but later offered the space to BMV. The other ideas — putting Bullis in portable classrooms on

► See **BULLIS**, page 15

NASA Ames to play key role in future moon, Mars missions

By Bay City News Service

As the 50th anniversary of the first human moon landing in July approaches, NASA scientists and engineers at the Ames Research Center in Mountain View are perfecting technology to take the next generation of astronauts to the moon and Mars.

NASA’s ultimate goal in the next decade is to establish a permanent, sustained human presence on the moon. Astronauts are expected to touch down by 2028, and NASA could begin preparing the surface of the moon for human landing as early as 2020.

A successful presence on the moon will pave the way for the first human space flight to Mars, and NASA technology born in the Silicon Valley will play a crucial role in this feat.

“What happens here can influence where we can go, how fast we can go and how we can come back.” Robin Beck, an aerospace engineer in charge of materials at NASA, said at Ames on Monday, March 11. “The scariest part is getting back from Mars, for humans.”

One of Ames’ innovations is the phenolic impregnated carbon ablator, or PICA. The carbon-based heat shield material protects astronauts and space ships as they burn through planetary atmospheres.

The Ames Arc Jet Complex team, whose unofficial slogan is “Without Us, You’re Toast,” can

produce temperatures hotter than the surface of the sun. PICA has been tested to withstand temperatures as high as 2,300 degrees Fahrenheit — a simulated entry into Mars.

The 80-year-old facility’s signature wind tunnels have also been used to simulate space flight and gather data for every NASA space flight since the Apollo missions, which brought Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin to the moon.

Though the crux of their work is to protect astronauts and ensure their safe return from deep space, that work is “very, very fun,” Beck said, especially while creating innovative technology that will be used in a generation-defining mission.

As engineers fine-tune space flight and shuttle mechanics, biologists in the Ames BioSentinel Lab are determining how radiation will affect living organisms once humans are able to reach Mars. Once initial shuttles to the moon are launched, their yeast study will become NASA’s first biology experiment in deep space since the Apollo missions.

The lead-up to a moon visit, and eventually Mars, will begin with bolstering the International Space Station. The low-earth satellite has been continuously inhabited since 2000, and NASA has been working with private companies like Boeing and SpaceX to support its operations.

Both companies have been

► See **NASA AMES**, page 8

Man out of patience after four vehicle break-ins

AUTO BURGLARIES IN DOWNTOWN SPIKED IN 2018 AND EARLY 2019

By Kevin Forestieri

A business owner in downtown Mountain View is frustrated and ready to take action after his car was broken into in the same downtown parking lot four times, saying that the city’s refusal to ramp up crime enforcement is part of the problem.

Tim Campos, the CEO of a small tech company on Castro Street, said thieves have targeted his vehicle four times since

October 2017, each time in the same city-owned lot near Hope and Dana streets. The latest incident last week was the last straw — his Tesla was being repaired from the last break-in when someone broke into his rental car.

“I’m not just a disgruntled citizen,” Campos said. “I’m not the type of person who is just seeking attention for themselves. I am angry that our elected officials and law enforcement teams are not doing anything about this.”

Reported car break-ins in Mountain View are not only higher, they’re more concentrated. The Mountain View Police Department’s tally shows 622 auto burglaries occurred in Mountain View in 2018, up 12 percent from the prior year and the highest in at least a decade. Perhaps the most striking change between 2018 and prior years was the number of auto burglaries reported in the downtown area,

► See **BURGLARIES**, page 6



COURTESY OF TIM CAMPOS

Tim Campos said he’s been the victim of four vehicle break-ins at the same downtown Mountain View parking lot.

BURGLARIES

► Continued from page 5

specifically the two closest blocks to Castro Street. The number of burglaries more than doubled from 60 in 2017 to 147 in 2018, according to the crime-tracking website CrimeReports.

Some of the worst months in years were in December and January, when the department received 103 and 105 reports of auto burglaries, respectively. There was a noticeable dip in February back down to 83 cases, which is still high

compared to past months.

Campos said he knows he's not alone, and that he's aware of at least two smash-and-grab sprees that occurred in the same downtown lot. Although the problem isn't limited to Tesla owners, he said employees at the service center he goes to are getting between five and seven cars with broken windows each week.

"They have had enough of these that they have fully outsourced the repairs to subcontractors," he said.

When his car was broken into

the second time — in April 2018 — Campos said a police officer told him there was no point in filing a police report because there was nothing the department could do.

Police spokeswoman Katie Nelson told the *Voice* that the department would never tell someone not to file a police report, and that the department works around the clock to identify and arrest burglary suspects. Investigations may take a while to complete and feel frustrating, she said, but information on each incident is both important and taken seriously.

"You never know what report might help advance, or even

break, a case," she said.

Acknowledging that auto burglaries are a growing problem in the Bay Area, the police department launched a new campaign called Park Smart last week, aimed at informing residents how to prevent auto burglaries. Flyers advise residents that thieves tend to target vehicles parked at shopping centers, restaurants, parking garages and movie theaters, and that electronics, purses and shopping bags should be either out of sight or taken out of the vehicle.

Campos said he didn't have anything valuable in his vehicle during the four instances where

his vehicle was burglarized. He said he inquired city leaders about the possibility of surveillance cameras but never heard back, and that it feels like law enforcement and city officials alike are not taking the spike in crime seriously.

"As a business owner in downtown I can assure you I have every intention of re-evaluating the location of my business when my lease comes due in six months," he said. "It would be very helpful if the city showed an interest in actually getting help as opposed to ignoring the problem." ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

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The **Almanac**

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

allegedly sought to argue with Google's employees about it, threatening violence if things didn't go his way, according to a statement by the Mountain View Police Department.

The reported plan was foiled after law enforcement agencies in both Maine and Iowa notified local police the man was headed to Mountain View to resolve his dispute, police said.

He was pulled over on Highway 101 at Moffett Boulevard Sunday afternoon and was arrested on suspicion of making criminal threats.

Mountain View police received a tip Friday about the suspect, identified as Kyle Long, two days before he arrived in California. State troopers in Iowa told police that Long was reportedly upset about his YouTube channel being shut down, and that he was headed to Mountain View

to "meet with Google."

State troopers had been in contact with the suspect that day because he was involved in a non-injury collision and reportedly vandalized a gas station restroom, police said. No charges were filed against him in these incidents, police said.

Police from the suspect's hometown of Waterville, Maine, told the Mountain View Police Department on Sunday that Long made it to California and had stated he would "resort to physical violence" if the meeting with Google did not go well.

Mountain View police monitored all major highways into Mountain View in hopes of catching him before he could reach the Googleplex, and warned law enforcement in neighboring jurisdictions that he might be heading to YouTube's campus in San Bruno.

Long was stopped and arrested shortly before 1 p.m. Sunday, police said. Three baseball bats were found inside his car, along with a phone with directions on how to get to Mountain View. He is being held in Santa Clara County jail with a bail set at \$25,000, police said.

This isn't the first time officers have arrested people with grievances over YouTube moderation. Last year, a Southern California woman drove to YouTube's headquarters in San Bruno and opened fire, injuring three people before shooting and killing herself. Police said she had been "upset" about actions YouTube took that affected her vegan-related videos.

In July 2014, a 27-year-old Southern California man was arrested after he demanded that YouTube take down a video that he felt stole his lyrics. He was told to leave by Google security staff and allegedly hit an officer, police said.

—Kevin Forestieri

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Uri Ladabaum, MD

Gastroenterology

Courtney Rowe-Teeter, MS, LCGC

Cancer Genetics

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School board: Google needs to do more

TRUSTEES UNDERWHELMED BY OFFER FOR NORTH BAYSHORE SCHOOL SITE

By Kevin Forestieri

Mountain View Whisman school board members were underwhelmed last week by Google's latest offer for a future school in North Bayshore, a small property in the densest part of town that's likely to be beset on all sides by 15-story buildings.

Board members also took a strong stance on financing construction at the March 7 meeting, making clear they were not interested in a bond measure to handle enrollment growth caused by the new development. If Google wants to build more offices and homes for its employees, they argued, then the company should fully foot the bill for the students it generates, they said.

With an eye towards housing growth, the city of Mountain View recently revised its zoning to allow up to 9,850 housing units in the tech park north of Highway 101. The area's largest land owner, Google, released its master plan in December for turning that zoning map into a reality, adding between 7,200 and 8,000 homes in total.

What remains unclear is where a school — or multiple schools — would fit within Google's master plan. The initial proposal by the Mountain View-based tech giant was to provide land for a campus at the northwestern tip of the city on artificial landfill, miles away from the residential center. The idea was soundly rejected by board members as one of the worst possible locations the company could have chosen.

Google then proposed a new

site: 2.5 acres in the center of the bustling mixed-use core of the plan. The property on Plymouth Street between Huff Avenue and Joaquin Road fixes multiple problems flagged by trustees last month, putting the proposed school within walking and biking distance and significantly reducing the earthquake risks. But lingering concerns still remain, and trustees said they are still not content with the offer.

Chief among those concerns is that the zoning map allows for 15 stories of development on all four sides of the school site, which could create traffic and safety problems along with an "urban canyon" effect that would cast a nearly 24-hour shadow on the school's facilities. By comparison, a school located on the east side of Shoreline Boulevard would be surrounded by eight-story buildings, Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph told board members.

Board member Devon Conley said the board should fully expect Google to build out the so-called Joaquin neighborhood of North Bayshore to the maximum 15-story heights, and that building a less dense school site in the middle is hardly ideal.

"A school on a 2.5 acre site where the zoning code says you can go up to 15 stories could end up looking like the house from (the movie) 'Up,' especially because we are constrained in how high we can go," she said.

Board member Jose Gutierrez sought a hardball approach to negotiations with Google, telling Rudolph to push for two school sites, 10 acres in size, and close to

the nature preserves outlined in the Shorebird neighborhood of the master plan on the east side of Shoreline Boulevard.

"I don't think that's that big of an ask, to be honest," Gutierrez said.

Though the final number of homes built in North Bayshore is subject to change, district officials have previously estimated that North Bayshore housing would bring an estimated 797 new elementary school students, enough to fill two elementary schools. The school board had previously sought to house between 400 and 450 students at each existing school, but North Bayshore's limited land and dense design is throwing many of those norms out the window.

At 2.5 acres, Google's proposed site for a school would be the smallest footprint of any campus, requiring buildings higher than two stories. Some of the examples Google suggested the district could emulate include Horace Mann Elementary in San Jose, which has a 700-student capacity on 1.6 acres, and the Tenderloin Community School in San Francisco, which has 331 students on a 1.5-acre site.

After the school site is selected, someone is going to have to pay for the construction, and board members made clear they wanted Google to pay for all of it. Officials at both Google and the district have been negotiating a funding plan based on projected enrollment from its North Bayshore housing, but it's been a moving

► See **SCHOOL BOARD**, page 15

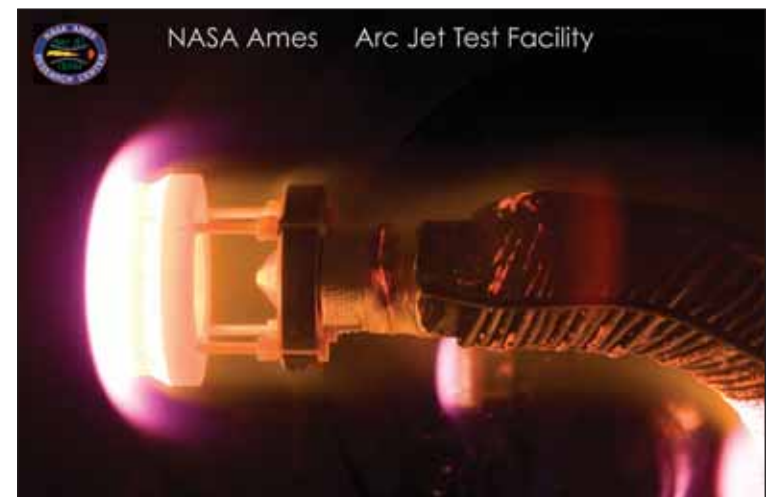
NASA AMES

► Continued from page 5

awarded multi-billion-dollar contracts to carry humans to the International Space Station, and now have shared access to Ames' special testing facilities, like the Ames Vertical Gun Range. The bright orange, roughly 3-meter structure is one of the most powerful guns in the world and can shoot miniature projectiles as fast as 15,000 mph to test the impact of space matter on shuttles and planets.

The private-public partnership is also a result of budgeting choices by the Trump administration, which has favored commercial involvement in space exploration and possible private shuttles over NASA's own Space Launch System rocket, or SLS.

NASA has expressed confidence in the changes, and



COURTESY OF NASA AMES

The Unique Model holder is used in "return to flight" testing at the NASA Ames Arc Jet Testing Facility, which simulates the heat and stresses of entering a planet's atmosphere.

will follow President Donald Trump's Space Policy Directive-1 in its "Moon to Mars" initiative. The plan will first establish human space flight in a lunar orbiting platform, then

ferry astronauts from the platform to the moon. The ultimate stages in the plan will enable long-term robotic exploration of the moon and prepare human missions to Mars.

Mountain View mulls hiring a lobbyist

By Mark Noack

Mountain View officials say it may be time to stroll down K Street to recruit a lobbyist to help advance the city's priorities on state and federal legislation.

The idea was first proposed by Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga at the council's Feb. 28 goal-setting session. Explaining her pitch to her colleagues, Abe-Koga said city staff and elected leaders don't have enough time to monitor the myriad laws and bureaucratic changes that could impact Mountain View. Previously, the city left this job to regional organizations such as the League of California Cities or the Cities Association of Santa Clara County.

This year seemed like a good time for the city to take a more active role with its own legislative advocate, Abe-Koga told the *Voice*. In the coming months there will be many funding opportunities for housing and transportation grants, as well as a hotbed of dicey legislation. She singled out the so-called Casa

Compact, a package of 10 policy proposals to promote housing growth, as something the city needs to watch because it could impact local control.

"I clearly see that our story here in Mountain View is unique and different from most of the other cities around us," Abe-Koga said. "I just think Mountain View has grown to a size, and with the complexity of the issues, that we could use some help."

Plenty of nearby cities have hired their own paid political advocates. For years, Palo Alto has hired lobbyists at the state and federal level to represent its interests. During the last fiscal year, Palo Alto spent \$80,000 for the firm Van Scoyoc Associates to advocate on various federal issues such as airplane noise, net neutrality and flood control. The same year, Palo Alto spent more than \$210,000 for state political lobbying on dozens of proposed laws. Among those priorities, the city worked to oppose mandatory housing approvals and higher density requirements.

It's hard to discern whether

that money made a difference for Palo Alto's agenda, but the practice follows a growing trend in California. In recent years, hundreds of local government agencies have been hiring lobbyists on the belief that it helps them compete for grant funding or block adverse legislation. Local government agencies make up the second-largest category of lobbyist employers, according to filings with the California secretary of state. From 2017 to 2018, government agencies spent more than \$108 million on lobbying activity — which is more than unions, educational groups, and the finance and insurance industries combined.

Abe-Koga said that a full-time lobbyist might not be the right solution for Mountain View if city staff can dedicate more time and resources internally to monitor legislative priorities.

"I just wanted to put up the proposal so we could start thinking about how we want to address the ever-growing attempt by other levels of government to influence and affect city operations," she said.

Curiously, while city officials are looking into hiring their own paid advocate, they are also suspicious about lobbying activity happening at City Hall. At the same goal-setting session last week, Mayor Lisa Matichak recommended that Mountain View create a registration and disclosure process to keep tabs on any paid politicking at city meetings.

Matichak said there was no particular event or policy decision that led her to suspect paid lobbyists could be working to influence local politics. Over the years, residents have approached her and asked whether paid lobbying could be occurring in Mountain View, especially regarding development.

"It's just good practice to let residents know when an organization has hired a lobbyist," Matichak told the *Voice*. "Other cities have policies regarding lobbying activity, so it seemed like a logical extension for us as we've moved to greater transparency."

The City Council will revisit lobbying and other proposals from the goal-setting session at its April 23 meeting. ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

COMMUNITY BRIEF

► Continued from page 4

payment between Dec. 15 and this month can contact the court at courtesy@scscourt.org to determine if they were overcharged and receive a refund.

If a recipient completed a payment that was undercharged, the court will accept the lower payment and the record will reflect a full payment.

Until the problem is fixed, payments can be submitted in person at the traffic court clerk's office at 1095 Homestead Road, Santa Clara.

Court spokesman Benjamin Rada said a wide range of fee inconsistencies have been reported and the court is trying to determine what caused the technical error. The issue is not affecting serious traffic cases, such as felonies.

"We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience that this may have caused," Rada said in a news release. "Please know we are actively working to remedy the situation."

—Bay City News Service




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Palo Alto

i2 Camp offers week-long immersion programs that engage middle school girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The fun and intimate hands-on activities of the courses strive to excite and inspire participants about STEM, creating enthusiasm that will hopefully spill over to their schoolwork and school choices in future years.

www.castilleja.org/i2camp

(650) 470-7833

iD Tech Camps Campbell

Stanford/Bay Area

The world's #1 summer STEM program held at Stanford, Palo Alto High School, and 150+ locations nationwide. With innovative courses in coding, game development, robotics, and design, our programs instill in-demand skills that embolden students to shape the future. iD Tech Camps (weeklong, 7-17), Alexa Café (weeklong, all-girls, 10-15), iD Tech Academies (2-week, 13-18).

iDTechCamps.com

(844) 788-1858

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Stanford

EXPLORE biomedical science at Stanford. Stanford EXPLORE offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neurobiology, immunology and many others.

explore.stanford.edu explore-series@stanford.edu

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Palo Alto

June 26 to July 23. If you're looking for a great summer learning plus fun option for your child and you want them to be ready for fall, please join us at Sand Hill. The morning Literacy Program (8:30 to noon) provides structured, systematic instruction for students with learning challenges entering grades 1-8 in the fall. The afternoon Enrichment Camp (Noon to 4) focuses on performing arts, social skills and fun. Choose morning, afternoon or full day.

www.sandhillschool.org/summer

(650) 688-3605

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Summer Writing Camps

Palo Alto

Pleasanton

Improve your student's writing skills this summer at Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton. Courses this year are Expository Writing, Creative Writing and Presentation Skills. Visit our website for more information.

www.headsup.org

Emerson: (650) 424-1267

Hacienda: (925) 485-5750

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www.artandsoulpa.com

(650) 269-0423

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Palo Alto

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www.castilleja.org/summercamp

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Mountain View

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www.mountainview.gov/register (650) 903-6331

City of Palo Alto Summer Camps

Palo Alto

A wide array of camps, from theater and tennis to ceramics and coding. Kids in kindergarten through high school can participate in camps during week-long sessions from June 3 to Aug 9.

www.cityofpaloalto.org/summercamps

(650) 463-4949

Community School of Music

Mountain View

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www.arts4all.org

(650) 917-6800 ext. 0

Oshman Family JCC Camps

Palo Alto

Camps at the OFJCC introduce your child to new experiences while creating friendships in a fun and safe environment. We work to build confidence, stretch imaginations and teach new skills.

www.paloaltojcc.org/Camps

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Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC)

Palo Alto

PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of engaging opportunities. We are excited to announce all of your returning favorites: Leaders in Training (L.I.T.), PACCC Special Interest Units (S.I.U.), F.A.M.E. (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment), J.V. Sports and Operation: Chef! Periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the variety of offerings at PACCC Summer Camps. Open to campers from all communities. Register online.

www.paccc.org

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Stanford

World-renowned jazz camps at Stanford. Week-long jazz immersion programs for middle school musicians (July 8-12), high school (July 14-19 and July 21-26), and adults (July 28-Aug. 2). All instruments and vocals. No jazz experience necessary!

www.stanfordjazz.org

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TheatreWorks

Silicon Valley

Palo Alto

Menlo Park

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www.theatreworks.org/education

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ATHLETICS

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Palo Alto

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www.danceconnectionpaloalto.com/dance-connection-event-calendar/summer-dance-camps

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www.KimGrantTennis.com

Text: 650-690-0678

Call: 650-752-8061

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www.ussportscamps.com

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(800) 645-3226

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Bay Area

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www.runforfuncamps.com/summer-camps-and-school-holiday-camps/camp-overview

(650) 823-5167

Stanford Athletics & Youth

Stanford

Stanford Youth Programs brings you Camp Cardinal! Week-long day camp programs on campus for kids (grades K - 10) from June 3 - August 9. Space is limited so register online now.

campcardinal.org

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Stanford

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www.stanfordbaseballcamp.com

(650) 725-2054

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Stanford

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www.stanfordwaterpolocamps.com (650) 725-9016

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www.wheelkids.com/palo-alto

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Silicon Valley

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www.ymcasv.org/summercamp

(408) 351-6473

CHARTER SCHOOL

► Continued from page 1

With important deadlines looming, district officials and Bullis Mountain View's leadership appear to have made no progress towards a signed MOU. Jennifer Anderson-Rosse, Bullis Mountain View's head of school, told board members at the March 7 meeting that she has serious outstanding concerns about the district's requests, and accused the district of failing to even discuss the terms of the agreement after late January.

"Although we had hoped that the district would work with us in good faith concerning its conditions of approval, the district has twice refused to discuss any of our concerns," she said.

Between the failure to come to the agreement — and a demand by the district to show up and present to the board on the night of the enrollment lottery — Anderson-Rosse said the March 7 lottery has been postponed to an undetermined date.

The draft MOU put together by Mountain View Whisman district leaders is a lengthy 20-page document outlining the expectations and rules of engagement that would drive the charter school's relationship with the district over the next three years, and many of the details are both uniform and uncontroversial. But a few sticking points have left Bullis Mountain View's founders uneasy. Among them is the demand that the charter school have student demographics that mirror the school district's population, specifically the number of kids who are economically disadvantaged. Doing so, Anderson-Rosse said, enforces a demographic quota that amounts to illegal discrimination.

"We cannot accept a district condition that is clearly against the law, so we won't," she said.

Other problems flagged by the charter school include requirements that sibling preference for admissions be removed or placed as a lower priority — which Anderson-Rosse said would unfairly split families — and that the charter school be required to use the district's reading and benchmark assessments three times a year. To date, the district hasn't shown Bullis Mountain View what those tests even look like or how the results would be used to assess performance, Anderson-Rosse said.

"This would impose moving targets in a dark room where we could not know if we met the district's demand until months

later. This is unheard of and unworkable," she said.

Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph did not dispute that the discussion over the terms of the MOU petered out in January, but argued the onus is on Bullis Mountain View to adhere to the district's conditions — saying the charter school has made "no progress" toward that goal. He said that Bullis Mountain View representatives are telling parents of prospective students not to worry about the requirements for economic status when signing up, and warned that the charter may be preparing to enroll kids in defiance of the district's conditions.

"What we are hearing and what we are seeing is that you plan on continuing with your enrollment priorities the way you wrote them out the first time — which the board did not approve — and then on top of that you aren't providing us with any information that suggests you are making progress towards any of those issues that need to be resolved," Rudolph said.

The delays not only hold the future enrollment of the charter school's 210 student applications in limbo, but it complicates planning for staffing and facilities at district schools. Between retirements and resignations, the district won't have to fire any teachers as a result of Bullis opening, but it's unclear precisely how many teachers will need to be at each campus for the upcoming school year.

School board member Jose Gutierrez criticized Bullis Mountain View representatives

at the March 7 meeting for blaming the lottery cancellation on the district's request to present at the meeting, and said that he was expecting a substantive presentation from the charter school rather than a verbal update.

"This is not a conversation in good faith," Gutierrez said. "And so we need to document everything in writing and share that with the superintendent and the board. If we ask you to share a presentation, make a presentation. Do not waste my time."

'We cannot accept a district condition that is clearly against the law, so we won't.'

JENNIFER ANDERSON-ROSSE,
BULLIS MOUNTAIN VIEW

Board member Devon Conley said she believed the lottery was put off because Bullis Mountain View wasn't able to recruit the number of low-income families it claimed it could — something charter school leaders deny — while board member Ellen Wheeler encouraged both parties to work expeditiously to sign an agreement, outside of public board meetings if necessary.

Adding further difficulty to the cold exchange was the board's self-imposed time limit. Bullis Mountain View representatives were scheduled to

present during the last item on a packed agenda, and trustees elected to extend the meeting only until 11 p.m. After blasting through what was supposed to be a lengthy discussion on a new school in North Bayshore and discussing the process under which the district would appoint someone to Bullis Mountain View's board of directors, charter school representatives had less than 30 minutes to unpack what had transpired behind the scenes since Dec. 20.

It's unclear what a compromise would look like between the district and the charter school. Rudolph told the *Voice* after the meeting that the district's conditions were approved by the school board and are non-negotiable. Low-income students must be the top priority for enrollment admissions and the demographics must match the district's student population. The charter school needs measurable test scores that "shall exceed district-wide assessment results for all pupil subgroups by not less than 5 percent," according to draft MOU language, with no grace period for teachers and students to get accustomed to the new school. Rudolph said he does not have the authority to unilaterally negotiate new terms.

None of those requirements should be onerous, and they largely reflect what the charter school said it would do in its proposal to the school board, Rudolph said. Demanding that Bullis meet these requirements is simply holding the school accountable for its promises.

"If you didn't intend on enrolling low-income students and you didn't intend on closing the achievement gap — which was what the whole argument has been centered around — then it shouldn't have been included in the charter," he said.


Anderson-Rosse said her goal is to get "clarity" on ambiguous language in the MOU, rather than compromise the terms, so that Bullis Mountain View can move forward with its lottery and tell parents whether their children can attend the school.

Rudolph said the charter school has failed to provide even the most basic of information in recent months, like enrollment applications and promotional materials shared with interested parents. Instead, the district office has made California Public Records Act requests to compel Bullis Mountain View to provide documents. Those requests have been fruitless thus far.

District officials offered to meet with Bullis Mountain View representatives on March 22 to talk about the MOU, though Rudolph said, as of Monday, the charter school had yet to accept the offer. The agreement must be signed by June 30 at the very latest.


It's unclear what would happen if Bullis Mountain View moves forward with the charter petition as written and ignores the conditions set forth by the school board. Rudolph said it's too early to consider the possibility, but that he would likely consult with legal counsel about the district's options. ▀

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com




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Plaza Conference Room, City Hall | 500 Castro Street, Mountain View

VEHICLE DWELLERS

► Continued from page 1

account. He was unable to continue his job as a construction material handler, and it became unsustainable to continue living at the apartment he shared with his young son, where the rent had recently increased to \$2,800 a month.

That was when Rodvold's family joined the ranks of those living on the side of the road. He decided his best recourse was to buy a motorhome, park it at the most discreet curb he could find, and to try to carry on a semblance of middle-class life. These days he parks his motorhome on Continental Circle, a quiet street next to the Highway 85 sound barrier.

It's right across the street from the Americana Apartments, his former home.

Despite its prohibitive costs, Rodvold said he wants to stay in the Mountain View area, where he has lived since 1984.

"Why should my son have to leave his school?" Rodvold said. "I would like nothing more than to have enough to have an apartment and medical coverage, but it's clear that's not happening."

Rodvold is one among dozens of unhoused residents who are now trying to change public



MAGALI GAUTHIER

Scott Rodvold puts a leash on his dog Winnie before taking her for a walk on Continental Circle on March 8.

perception and influence the debate on the city's homelessness problem. In an effort to unite the scattered residents living out of vehicles, Rodvold and others have founded a new advocacy group, the Mountain View Vehicle Residents. For too long, they say, city officials and homeowners have taken a paternalistic approach toward them, treating them as a problem rather than fellow residents pushed to desperate measures.

In particular, they seek to combat the narrative that vehicle dwellers are unemployed out-of-towners in a bad situation due to personal failings. This

line of thinking is rife on Mountain View's Nextdoor pages, where participation is restricted largely to residents with a mailing address. According to one informal Nextdoor poll, over two-thirds of respondents said they didn't want vehicle dwellers anywhere on their streets, even if they were paying to park in a driveway. Stories abound on the site's pages of motorhome inhabitants being blamed for drug use, crimes and illegal dumping.

Any time these insinuations are made, they usually are followed with an easy political fix: Raise the drawbridge and force

the poor to find somewhere else to go. Neighboring cities such as Palo Alto and Los Altos heavily restrict overnight street parking. Just last week, the city of Berkeley passed its own city-wide parking ban against RVs, following pressure from residents and businesses. For years now, Mountain View officials have been urged to take similar measures.

"People don't want to see poverty in Mountain View. They believe this is Silicon Valley and they don't want to realize what's going on here," said Francisco Vargas. "When they do see it, they try to dehumanize us to justify their anger."

One of the founding members of the Vehicle Residents group, Vargas, 23, believes people living out of their vehicles are being made into a scapegoat for the larger frustrations in the community. In a *Voice* profile published last year, Vargas described how his family lost their Mountain View apartment in 2016 and resorted to living in a trailer in the city's Jackson Park neighborhood while they saved up for a new place to live.

His family was broken up over the last weekend. His mother and sister moved to Riverside because they couldn't find a new apartment in their price range. Vargas, who attends Foothill College, and his father are still in Mountain View sleeping out of trailers while holding down local jobs.

Vargas has attended city meetings to discuss the homelessness issue, and he has become increasingly concerned that some city officials were searching for a pretext to kick out the homeless. He and other Vehicle Residents members began talking in December about how to change this perception.

Their small steering committee has met nearly 20 times, and they've focused their efforts on trying to connect with the hundreds of households living out of vehicles in Mountain View. Their group prints out regular bilingual newsletters that they distribute across the city, inviting people to attend their monthly group meetings, which regularly draw about 50 attendees.

The Vehicle Residents group's goal is to demonstrate that most of its members are actually working families who have lived in Mountain View for years. They assert that most people living out of their vehicles are doing so only because they were priced out of housing. The city of Mountain View has no employment statistics available for vehicle inhabitants, but more than four out of five homeless individuals were residing in Santa Clara County prior to losing their housing, according to a 2017 county homeless census. The same survey also found that nearly two-thirds of homeless residents remain on the street primarily because they can't afford rent for a new home.

The Vehicle Residents' advocacy has taken on new urgency as city officials are scheduled on March 19 to consider the issue of citywide homelessness and parking. The meeting was prompted last October when a majority of the City Council voted to consider some form of parking restrictions on inhabited vehicles.

It is not yet clear what options city staff will present for the City Council to consider. Assistant to the city manager Kimberly Thomas said officials would discuss a variety of measures, including "short-term strategies, new data and a discussion of parking enforcement and safe parking strategies." It would be a progress report on their ongoing projects to date, she said.

Yet the meeting has rattled homeless individuals and advocates who fear that its outcome will be stricter enforcement. For several years, the city has worked to launch a safe-parking program under the belief that it was necessary to create an alternative space before street parking was restricted.

"You can't just enforce without creating a solution for those in an impossible situation," said Pastor Brian Leong, a pastor at Lord's Grace Christian Church who helped launch the city's safe-parking program. "I'm hoping that if the city is going to enforce more, then they'll open more lots for us, or create some other option for people besides leave the city." ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com



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City joins fight against federal immigration clampdown

COUNCIL VOTES TO JOIN BALTIMORE'S SUIT AGAINST TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

By Kevin Forestieri

The city of Mountain View is supporting a lawsuit against the Trump administration claiming proposed changes to federal immigration rules are unlawful and would harm underprivileged immigrants.

In a 5-1 vote in closed session, the City Council agreed on Feb. 28 to add Mountain View to the list of agencies supporting the city of Baltimore in its suit against President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the U.S. State Department. Councilman John McAlister voted against the motion and Chris Clark was absent.

The lawsuit challenges two separate changes — one already set in motion and the other soliciting public comment — to the way the State Department determines “public charge,” the part of immigration law that determines whether someone entering the country will be reliant on public assistance. The law was drafted more than a century ago to prevent those suspected of

becoming “primarily dependent” on public assistance from lawful entry or from becoming a permanent resident.

Along with rule changes already being enforced in consular officers that bars entry of immigrants who benefit from federal, state and local programs, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is planning a major expansion of the definition of public charge to include a whole host of additional benefits. Baltimore’s lawsuit blasts the move as unlawful and lacking clear rationale, and argues this would deter immigrants from tapping public assistance they are eligible to use while pushing the costs from the federal level onto local agencies and health care providers.

Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh called the Trump administration’s efforts “an affront to the ideals and principles on which this nation was founded.”

“We are determined to resist this latest attempt to deprive our immigrant communities of basic services and are confident we will prevail,” she said in a

statement announcing the suit.

The council’s vote essentially adds the city of Mountain View to the list of agencies and organizations that support the amicus brief filed with the court. In announcing the decision out

‘The costs currently covered by these federal dollars will be passed on to public healthcare providers like the county.’

SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICIALS

of closed session, City Attorney Jannie Quinn said council members supported the move as a means “support vulnerable members of the community.”

For decades, DHS rules have had a pretty shallow definition of public benefits with regard

to immigration law and public charge, limited to direct cash benefits and long-term institutionalized care. But the changes contemplated by the Trump administration want to extend that list to include non-cash benefits including non-emergency Medicaid, subsidies for prescription drugs under Medicare Part D, food services and Section 8 housing vouchers.

Moving forward with these rule changes, according to the lawsuit, would amount to an “unlawful attempt to make it harder for underprivileged immigrants — from countries he has vilified — to come to the United States.”

Santa Clara County weighed in on the proposed rules in December, slamming the changes as an unlawful move that would “wreak havoc on public health and safety net systems” and undermine the well-being of all residents, not just the immigrants affected by the policy. The rationale for the changes is irrational and vague, and fails to grasp the harm it would cause, county officials said in the

35-page rebuke.

The county also claimed in the comments that DHS is planning to throw the Children’s Health Insurance Program, better known as CHIP, onto the list as well. CHIP provides low-cost health insurance to children of families who do not qualify for Medicaid.

County officials point out that Santa Clara County alone has more than 117,600 non-citizens from families in which at least one person receives a public benefit under the proposed guidelines, and that deterring residents from using these benefits imposes “significant costs on the county and other local governments that will continue to provide care and support to the communities they serve.”

State Department officials in September said that the use of public benefits by non-citizens draws valuable resources away from U.S. citizens, and said that the federal government could save between \$16 billion and \$19 billion over 10 years as

► See **IMMIGRATION**, page 15

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MAYOR

► Continued from page 1

developed the precise plan, she was against it.”

Matichak describes her position quite differently. During her failed 2014 City Council run, she did oppose North Bayshore housing, but she said her stance had evolved since then. In her successful 2016 run, she pledged to help implement residential growth, and she reasserted that promise earlier this year upon assuming the mayor's gavel. In her public comments, she has consistently remained a skeptic about unchecked residential growth, saying it must be balanced with other quality of life issues.

Speaking to the *Voice* last Thursday, Matichak asserted that she remains supportive of housing in North Bayshore. She later sent out subsequent emails to the Balanced Mountain View message board, saying she was committed to implementing the city's residential goals.

“We still have our housing plan, and I certainly will continue to make housing a reality in North Bayshore,” she said.

But what about this new email that she had sent, implying she intended to “thwart” the plan?

Matichak confirmed that the email was sent by her, but said she thought she was responding to a different message on a different topic.

Who was the “him” she was looking to thwart? It wasn't Siegel, she said, but she declined to specify who it was about. She also declined to identify her intended email recipient.

“I don't know that I'm going to share that,” Matichak said. “There's a lot going on, but this was not in response to anything that Lenny Siegel had said.”



Lenny Siegel

The email comes at a time when the political temperature in Mountain View appears to be heating up. The city's rival political camps have normally kept their disagreements couched in civility, but things seem to have changed since last year's election.

In that election, Siegel and former councilwoman Pat Showalter, who both aggressively pushed for housing growth, lost their bids for a second term and their defeat remains bitter for their supporters. Since his

loss, Siegel has been accused of shouting at first-term Councilwoman Ellen Kamei over her push to revisit rules for retail cannabis shops. At Tuesday's City Council meeting on cannabis shop rules, Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga called out Siegel for making a comment offensive to Asians because he asked why the Chinese community formed the core opposition to cannabis shops in Mountain View.

Siegel described the email from Matichak as a new low in the city's political infighting.

“There have been times where we've had disagreements, but I haven't seen this level of mendacity in the past,” he said. “It's going to be hard for me not to get personal. I'm not the kind of activist who turns the other cheek.”

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com



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IMMIGRATION

► Continued from page 13

immigrants either forgo or drop public assistance programs. The expanded definition also better captures Congress' intent in what it means to be self-sufficient and not reliant on government assistance, according to the State Department.

A comment penned by seven historians and professors disputes the claims by DHS, stating that the expanded definition of public charge is a sharp divergence from more than 100 years of "remarkably constant" public policy. They point out that the rule has been around since 1882 when Congress empowered immigration officers to refuse entry to "any convict, lunatic, idiot or any person unable to take care of himself or herself without becoming a public charge," establishing a narrow interpretation that remained consistent even as public benefits expanded in the 1960s and 1970s.

"The proposed policy is

punitive and carries high social costs for welfare and public health beyond the lines of citizenship," according to the group. "Chilling access would undermine the goals of the public charge provision. The proposed policy is at odds with historical experience and policy and will directly harm America's future."

In tallying what that "harm" could actually look like, DHS published a candid list of potential downsides, including worse health outcomes — particularly obesity and malnutrition — increased use of emergency rooms, increased prevalence of communicable diseases, higher levels of poverty and housing instability, and reduced productivity and educational attainment. Some of these costs are also expected to be passed onto individual hospitals that would provide services without getting paid by either insurer or patient.

Santa Clara County officials say this represents "only in passing" the difficulties that would come from the changes

under consideration, and fails to explain how altering public charge rules would be justified in the face of all the drawbacks. Even the savings don't amount to much, county officials argue, when the costs are simply going to be pushed down to the local level.

"The costs currently covered by these federal dollars will be passed on to public healthcare providers like the county, which will face higher rates of uncompensated care; a shift toward emergency treatment and away from preventive care, with an accompanying increase in costs; and lower federal reimbursements," county officials wrote.

Santa Clara County is advising residents concerned about the proposed rule changes to consult with an immigration attorney; a list of legal services is available at tinyurl.com/sccig. Of the roughly 1.9 million residents in the county, 38 percent are foreign-born, and 60 percent of county children have at least one foreign-born parent. ▣

BULLIS

► Continued from page 5

the blacktops at Bubb, Huff or Landels elementary schools — were seen as unreasonable, as was re-drawing boundaries to create classroom space for the charter school at an existing school.

Although the March 1 letter amounted to tentative acceptance of the district's offer, it wasn't without serious concerns. BMV's head of school, Jennifer Anderson-Rosse, pointed out several deficiencies in the district's offer that could cause problems. For example, the district agreed to provide enough classrooms for the projected 168 charter school students in the 2019-20 school year, but didn't allocate any space for a multi-purpose room or kitchen and cafeteria space.

"As charter schools are now

required to provide all their eligible students with meals each day, the lack of legally compliant food service space is extremely problematic," Anderson-Rosse wrote in the letter.

Proposition 39 is a complicated process that pays careful attention to whether school districts are providing "reasonably equivalent" facilities for students residing in the school district who choose to attend the charter school. This is typically done by measuring the amount of space available for classrooms and specialized uses at what it calls "comparison schools" in the same district.

That analysis took place, but Anderson-Rosse points out that none of the data was shared with BMV, making it impossible to determine whether the charter school is getting a fair deal.

"Prop. 39 requires a level of transparency by the school

districts in explaining how they calculated the space to be offered to a charter school," she wrote in the letter.

In the final facilities offer, which the district is required to make by the end of the month, Anderson-Rosse requested that the district make clear how parking will be handled at the site. No parking was specifically allocated to the charter school, meaning the existing parking lots would likely need to be shared. Parents at Stevenson have also asked the district to clarify how traffic and parking would be mitigated on a site with an ever-increasing number of students.

If the charter school grows to 320 students as planned over the next five years, the total number of students across Stevenson, Theuerkauf and BMV will exceed 1,000 — the largest number of children at any one location in the district. ▣

SCHOOL BOARD

► Continued from page 8

target. A past mitigation plan with the developer Sobrato landed on \$8,661 per housing unit built.

Regardless of where the number lands, board member Tamara Wilson said the district shouldn't get stuck with the bill.

"I don't see why, if these companies are going to come in and build communities to house employees to make them more profit, we would be stuck with the bill for providing school sites," Wilson said. "I think they should be funding this."

Throughout the negotiations,

board member Laura Blakely recoiled at the idea of seeking a bond measure in order to build North Bayshore schools, and said at the March 7 meeting that it would be unfair for district taxpayers to bear the burden of Google's development.

"I don't think it's fair for the school district to propose a bond that gets paid for by every single resident in the city of Mountain View in order to subsidize building for new development over there for kids who don't yet live in our city or go to our schools," Blakely said.

Another worry, brought up by Conley, was that Google may

end up using its concessions to the school district as leverage for negotiating more office space or decreased housing in North Bayshore. The North Bayshore Precise Plan calls on developers in the area to negotiate agreements with the Mountain View Whisman School District and the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District to mitigate their impact on local schools, but it's written into the plan completely independent of bonus office development.

"I'm not interested in the school becoming a pawn in negotiations for either more office space or decreased housing," she said. ▣

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A time of change

HOUSING CRISIS UNDERSCORES NEED TO PROTECT MOUNTAIN VIEW'S DIVERSITY

By *Brian Leong*

Change is hard. I think our most natural human tendency is to try to find a place of comfort and safety and try to stay in that place for as long as possible. But as much as we try to maintain that sense of security, sometimes external forces move us into a place of change.

Here in Mountain View we have found ourselves slowly and against our wills pushed into a time of change. It began when some of our friends started to move away because it was too expensive to live here. Then there was an increase in people asking for money at the intersections we pass to and from work. Then the RVs started rolling in and we realized, "Hey, I think people are living in there!" For many in our community, change

has been hard.

In 2015, Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian's office called me and asked me if I thought churches in Mountain

View would be willing to open their parking lots to people living in their vehicles. The economics of living in Silicon Valley had shifted, and the number of people living in their vehicles was increasing exponentially. My thought was, "Probably not!" but I promised to ask other pastor friends if they would be interested. I was surprised by the positive response — most pastors were excited to help out. And so the seeds of Lots of Love were born and, for the last several months, two church lots have hosted up to eight vehicles every night.

Over these months, there are some lessons we've learned from our guests.

■ Before getting a permanent

spot in a church parking lot, most of them were spending two to three hours every evening searching for a safe spot to park. After being in a Lots of Love spot, many were able to use that time to look for permanent housing or job opportunities.

■ None of our guests want to live in their cars. What they do want is to see their children finish the school year or to stay near family. If they could afford an apartment or home, they would be in one. But the hard truth is that a software engineer will always make more than a taqueria worker or a janitor, and therefore will always be able to pay more for rent. And with over 20,000 people flooding into the city every day to work, there simply isn't enough housing to accommodate everyone.

■ People living in their cars don't actually consider themselves homeless. I've heard many of them say, "I have a home. It just moves." And they're right

in some respects. They have a safe place to keep their belongings, to return to consistently every night. They have a home. They've done the hard thing and changed.

All of this to say that I've started thinking about how much I need to change. The housing shortage isn't going to improve anytime soon. The socioeconomic gap won't be closing. Maybe those of us in traditional houses and apartments need to change our minds about who is a member of our community and what a home is. Because if we want to keep eating good tacos and have our offices cleaned, have our cars washed or our gardens maintained, we need to protect the diversity in our city that we enjoy but don't appreciate. To do that, we all have to change.

Brian Leong is a pastor at Lord's Grace Christian Church in Mountain View and president of Move Mountain View.

■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

BIPARTISAN CLIMATE SOLUTION

In his letter, "Common-sense policy" (Letters to the editor, March 8), Matthew Mellea exemplifies the passion of many regarding climate change and the need for our nation to take action on this critical issue by means of the Green New Deal. Mellea states that as a young person he is terrified about the effect climate change will have on his future "and the world that my children will have to face in 2100 and beyond."

I agree, climate change is probably the most existential threat of our time and demands action on the part of our elected representatives. Recent media coverage about the Green New Deal has been instrumental in raising awareness about climate change — a critical factor in this fight.

Thankfully, there is a bipartisan climate solution in Congress right now: The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763). This legislation collects fees on carbon emissions and allocates the revenue to all Americans to spend any way they choose. It will reduce CO2 emissions by at least 40 percent in the

first 12 years and 90 percent by 2050. It is effective, good for people and good for the economy.

I encourage Mellea and others to check it out.

*Paula Danz
Citizens' Climate Lobby
volunteer
Los Altos*

BIKE SPACE ON CALTRAIN

I'm very excited about the future of Caltrain. The Bay Area is sorely lacking in updated public transportation, and with the continued influx of people and impending climate change it is desperately needed.

For these reasons I want to discuss Caltrain and its relationship to bikes on board. It is imperative that seven-car electric trains provide space for at least 84 bikes in order to future-proof for bike capacity and comply with the board mandated 8:1 ratio of seats to bike spaces. Even at current levels, bikes at Caltrain are often turned away due to lack of capacity. A reduction in bike capacity on trains will do nothing to address this and furthermore will push more riders to other forms of transportation. These other forms of transportation

are most likely the use of personal cars, which will not only be a detriment to current traffic levels but to the world as a whole as the effects of climate change continue to loom large.

*Shane Burkle
South San Francisco*

ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

As a young person who has grown up with the terrifying reality of catastrophic climate change, I write to bring news of great hope! We know what we have to do: November's IPCC report says we must cut 45 percent of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in order to avoid warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius. And the good news is that we know how to do it; renewable energy technology works, there are options for implementation of carbon-free strategies, and this revolution can restore justice and prosperity to all people.

States like California are doing their part by setting a goal of 100 percent carbon-free electricity. But to make truly sweeping changes, we need the federal government to take the good example of its states and act on climate change. The Green New

Deal will ensure a just transition away from fossil fuels, at the speed and scale required to meet our part of the Paris (Agreement) goals, and is supported by 80 percent of Americans.

I am thrilled that U.S. Reps. Anna Eshoo and Jackie Speier and Sen. Kamala Harris have co-sponsored the Green New Deal resolutions recently introduced to the House and Senate. Sen. Feinstein has the opportunity to extend her legacy of protecting California's environment and enabling America to be the technological leader of the world. Sen. Feinstein should join her California colleagues and announce her support for Senate Resolution 59: the Green New Deal.

*Heather Mirlatz
Menlo Park*

What's on your mind?

Tell us your thoughts on matters of interest to the community by sending your letters to letters@MV-Voice.com. Or snail-mail them to: Mountain View Voice, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042.

FOOD FEATURE



What's new in Midpeninsula dining

LOCAL OPENINGS, CLOSINGS AND ANTICIPATED ARRIVALS

By Elena Kadvany

It's already been a busy year on the local food-and-drink beat, with high turnover and the departure of some long-time businesses — but also the return of one and the promise of exciting new projects on the horizon. We've got the details on the eateries that have closed, opened and are headed to the Midpeninsula this year.

WHAT'S OPENED

Rose International Market, Mountain View

February marked the much-anticipated return of Rose International Market. The longtime Persian market reopened after closing temporarily in 2015 while an apartment complex

was built at the corner of Castro Street and El Camino Real. The renovated market is larger and updated but carries the same specialty grocery items, fresh produce and prepared foods that have made it a local favorite for decades. The kitchen, led by Rose Market's longtime Iranian chef, is again churning out kebabs, koubideh, khoresh (stews), tahdig (crispy-bottomed rice), wraps, salads and other dishes.

801 W. El Camino Real, Suite B, Mountain View; rosemarketcatering.com

Superhot Hot Pot & Korean BBQ, Mountain View

The menu at Superhot Hot Pot & Korean BBQ, as the name suggests, is extensive. Udon, ramen and biang biang noodles.

Beef tripe, popcorn chicken and spicy lamb. Quail egg, raw egg. Chinese donuts. Bean curd knots. Tom yum soup. Beef bulgogi. For \$29.95 per person, you can get all-you-can-eat hot pot, Korean BBQ and dim sum. The restaurant limits meals to 90 minutes and charges \$10 per person for every additional half hour. No leftovers allowed. 210 Hope St., Mountain View; 650-963-9819

Boba Guys, Palo Alto

There's been a line out the door at Boba Guys since the moment it quietly soft opened at Town & Country Village in January. It's the 15th location for the San Francisco-born Boba Guys, whose popular milk tea is made

► See **WHAT'S NEW**, page 18



VERONICA WEBER

Above: Rose International Market in Mountain View reopened after a long wait. Manager Ebi Norouzi (left) stands with employees as they prepare to open the store in February.

Top: Boba Guys is now open in Palo Alto, serving, from left, strawberry jasmine tea fresca (with and without boba) and strawberry matcha latte.

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Weekend

WHAT'S NEW

► Continued from page 17

in small batches using real tea leaves instead of powders, with Straus Family Creamery organic milk and a housemade, all-natural sweetener. The typical Boba Guys menu is available in Palo Alto, such as the best-selling strawberry matcha latte with matcha, milk and a housemade strawberry purée. Customers can build their own drinks to their preferences, from type of tea and milk (including oat milk) to sweetness level. Boba Guys also serves pastries and some food, including Hong Kong milk toast.

855 El Camino Real #120, Palo Alto; bobaiguys.com



COURTESY OF TARO SAN NOODLE BAR

Taro San Noodle Bar is serving up freshly made udon noodles at Stanford Shopping Center.

Taro San Noodle Bar, Palo Alto

Taro San Japanese Noodle Bar opened at Stanford Shopping Center in January, channeling the art of udon-making in the heart of Silicon Valley. The restaurant serves three types of fresh udon noodles custom made on a specialty machine from Japan. Beyond a traditional beef udon, the noodles are served in nontraditional ways: one with a ramen-like chicken paitan broth and another with a vegan broth made from shiitake stock, vegetable stock and miso. Tsukemen, traditionally served with ramen noodles and a dipping broth, comes instead with udon, duck breast and a rich fish dipping broth. Owner Jerome Ito, a former sushi chef who also runs Go Fish Poke Bar, plans to open more Taro San locations in the future.

717 Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto; tarosanudon.com

Roost House, Palo Alto

Frank Klein, co-founder and now former CEO of fast-casual chain Asian Box, is onto a new venture: a chicken restaurant in downtown Palo Alto. Klein opened Roost House earlier this year, which he described as a “neighborhood chicken restaurant that offers massive amounts of veggie alternatives, some on-trend dietary dishes and amazing beer, wine and ciders.” Dishes include fried chicken sandwiches, wings and pickled vegetables.

461 Emerson St., Palo Alto; roosthousepa.com

project in San Mateo. The outpost at Town & Country Village closed on March 2. The company plans to open the commissary kitchen in San Francisco this spring, then a 7,000-square-foot restaurant at Hillsdale Shopping Center in San Mateo this summer. The shift will allow Belcampo to focus on growing other parts of its business: e-commerce, food delivery and “large-format premier dining experiences,” the company said in a release. Belcampo opened in Palo Alto in 2014, part of a retail expansion push in Northern and Southern California.

WHAT'S CLOSED

Belcampo Meat Co., Palo Alto

Hyper-sustainable meat company Belcampo has closed its Palo Alto and San Francisco locations to make way for its first commissary kitchen and a major new

Cho's Mandarin Dim Sum, Los Altos

After nearly four decades in business, Cho's Mandarin Dim Sum closed for good in late January. The owners of the long-time, unassuming dim sum spot moved to Los Altos in 2015 after

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receiving a 60-day notice from their landlord in Palo Alto, which sparked outrage in the community and even a petition to save the hole-in-the-wall restaurant. "After 39 long years of serving the community his beloved food, Cho is finally moving on with his retirement," a Facebook post announcing the final closure reads. "There are no immediate plans for reopening in the near future."

After three years of serving beer, wine and low-proof cocktails in downtown Los Altos, Honcho Bar shuttered in February. Owner Rod Newman declined to comment on the reasons for the closure but cited the "cost of doing business in the Bay Area." A veteran of the food and drink industries, he opened Honcho in 2016 to create a "gathering space for people to work or get to know each other or share a meal or just have happy hour," he said at the time.

COMING SOON

Ludwig's German Table, Mountain View

The owners of Ludwig's German Table in San Jose are bringing their traditional German restaurant and biergarten concept to downtown Mountain View this summer, taking over the former Bierhaus space on Castro Street. The Mountain View location will be more casual than the San Jose restaurant, "focused on an authentic German beer garden," co-owner and Hamburg native Nicole Jacobi said. Along with drinks, there will be food that draws on Jacobi's roots and family recipes: imported pretzels, sausage salad, and German meats and cheeses.

383 Castro St., Mountain View; ludwigssj.com

Telefèric Barcelona, Palo Alto

The owners of Telefèric Barcelona, who run three well-known restaurants in Barcelona, Spain, and a fourth in Walnut Creek, are opening a new location at Town & Country Village this year. Telefèric is currently renovating the

former Calafia Cafe space, which includes a next-door market that will be stocked with Spanish wines, cheese, cured meats and other imported products. The restaurant serves Spanish tapas, pintxos and paella.

855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto; telefericbarcelona.com

Oren's Hummus Express, Palo Alto

More news for Town & Country Village patrons: Popular Israeli restaurant Oren's Hummus is opening a new "express" outpost there in April. This will be the first of several Oren's Hummus Express locations in the Bay Area that will focus on quick, grab-and-go service. The 855-square-foot space at the back of the shopping center (the former home of Fast Tony's Chicken) will be open seven days a week with a counter where customers can order hot items made for pickup as well as to-go orders. Look for Oren's creamy hummus, rice bowls, pita sandwiches and more.

855 El Camino Real Suite #162, Palo Alto; orenshummus.com

Mendocino Farms, Palo Alto

Southern California-based sandwich chain Mendocino Farms is set to open on April 25 at 11 a.m. in downtown Palo Alto, according to the company's website. The fast-casual restaurant, which took over the former LYFE Kitchen space, serves sandwiches and salads using locally sourced ingredients as well as vegan sandwiches, gluten-free options and seasonal dishes that rotate throughout the year. Mendocino Farms operates more than 17 locations in Southern California and four in Northern California, with more on the way in both regions.

167 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto; mendocinofarms.com/palo-alto

Mountain Mike's, Menlo Park

The space that was for decades home to Applewood Pizza in Menlo Park will soon serve pizza again. A franchisee for Mountain Mike's Pizza is opening an outpost there this summer,



COURTESY OF TELEFÈRIC

Telefèric Barcelona is bringing its famous Spanish tapas to Palo Alto, and will include a market selling imported wines, cheeses and other goods next door.

according to Samantha Wilson of Powerhouse Communications, which handles media for Mountain Mike's. This will be the third location for Janet Moscini and her son Brian, who own Mountain Mike's franchises in Campbell and San Carlos. Applewood closed in early 2019, much to the dismay of many longtime customers.

1001 El Camino Real, Menlo Park; mountainmikespizza.com

Petit Bakery Co., Los Altos

The owner of Petit Bakery Co., a gluten-free baking company that makes fusion pastries like mochi madeleines, is opening her first brick-and-mortar bakery this summer in downtown Los Altos at the former site of Cho's Mandarin Dim Sum. Everything Petit Bakery Co. serves will be gluten-free, from cakes and cupcakes to muffins. The bakery will also offer paleo, vegan and dairy-free desserts, plus coffee, tea, dairy-free lattes and boba.

209 1st St., Los Altos; petitbakery.co

Email Elena Kadvanly at ekadvanly@paweekly.com



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Oren's Hummus is turning its popular concept into an express outpost at Town & Country in Palo Alto.

Marketplace

The Mountain View Voice offers advertising for Home Services, Business Services and Employment.

If you wish to learn more about these advertising options, please call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@paweekly.com.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

MBA CLEAN SYSTEM
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN651364

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
MBA Clean System, located at 520 Walker Dr. #54, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MIGUEL ANTONIO ACOSTA
520 Walker Dr. #54
Mountain View, CA 94043
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/31/2018.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on February 13, 2019.
(MVF Feb. 22; Mar. 1, 8, 15, 2019)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. FBN651512

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

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):
TOTAL CLEANING
1050 Crestview Dr. #13
Mountain View, CA 94040

FILED IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY ON:
10/26/2018
UNDER FILE NO.: FBN647929
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
MILTON SARAVIA

1050 Crestview Dr. #13
Mountain View, CA 94040
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY: An Individual.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on February 19, 2019.
(MVF Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2019)

NAIL BAR
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN651915

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Nail Bar, located at 1910 W. El Camino Real C1, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
LIEN WILLIAMSON
37716 Glenmoor Drive
Fremont, CA 94536

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/27/2019.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on February 27, 2019.
(MVF Mar. 15, 22, 29; Apr. 5, 2019)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ROBERT EUGENE WINGARD, JR. Case No.: 19PR185207

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of ROBERT EUGENE WINGARD, JR.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: GEORGE BREEDEN WINGARD AND WESLEY LLOYD WINGARD in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA.

The Petition for Probate requests that: GEORGE BREEDEN WINGARD AND WESLEY LLOYD WINGARD 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 April 29, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 13 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:
John B. Sines
342 State Street, Suite 1
Los Altos, CA 94022
(650) 948-1096
(MVF Mar. 8, 15, 22, 2019)

Call 650-223-6578 for assistance with your legal advertising needs.

MOVIE OPENINGS



Dev Patel plays a mysterious man in "The Wedding Guest."

Bride's side

'THE WEDDING GUEST' PLODS THROUGH A GENRE EXERCISE

★1/2 (Guild)

Since making his feature filmmaking debut with 1995's "Butterfly Kiss," Michael Winterbottom ("The Trip," "A Mighty Heart") has averaged one film a year. One might think of him as the English Steven Soderbergh: a prolific filmmaker whose work on the big and small screens is characterized by a frugal fast pace. Unfortunately, Winterbottom's hit-and-miss output arrives at a miss with his latest, an inert thriller called "The Wedding Guest."

Written and directed by Winterbottom, "The Wedding Guest" begins with a long, wordless stretch as we watch a grimly determined man pack a bag, make his way through airport security and fly to Eastern Pakistan, where he purchases two handguns and readies them, along with a roll of duct tape, for some presumably horrific crime. The man, we soon learn, is a mercenary named Aasif (Dev Patel of "Slumdog Millionaire"), and his mission requires him to kidnap Samira (Radhika Apte), a young bride-to-be, on the eve of her arranged marriage.

In most thrillers, this setup would mean we're off to the races, but "The Wedding Guest" plods along with a minimum of character development and chemistry between its leads. The pair abscond to India to see through Aasif's job, which turns out not to be entirely objectionable to his hostage. After all, her marriage was

to be an arranged one, which lends the film a patina of pointedness. But Winterbottom isn't interested here in exploring the themes he superficially teases, about arranged marriages, our expectations of Muslim terrorism, or the self-serving dynamics within dubious relationships.

If "The Wedding Guest" is interested in anything, it's tinkering with some humble neo-noir plot dynamics, but I'll be damned if I can detect a pulse as Aasif and Samira walk past or drive through the evocative scenery of urban India, although we're meant to feel "will they or won't they?" suspense as the pair kills time in restaurants and hotel rooms. Eventually the duo meets with the mutual acquaintance (Jim Sarbh), who sets the plot in motion.

The plot and character, however, quickly fizzle, leaving us to appreciate the film's humble trappings — that scenery and a convincingly dour, tough performance by Patel, who's better known for his goofy, gawky comic roles. If Winterbottom's going to make a near-pointless film, he might as well have fun with it or make some effort to entertain his audience, but "The Wedding Guest" proves deliberately withholding, as if to punish us, along with its unlikeable characters, for expecting too much.

Rated R for language, some violence and brief nudity. One hour, 37 minutes.

— Peter Canavese



MOVIE REVIEWS

CAPTAIN MARVEL ★★★

The 21st film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe shows that the more things change, the more they stay the same. "Captain Marvel" introduces Marvel Studios' first headlining female hero, but her origin story doesn't diverge far from Marvel's successful "house style" of sci-fi MacGuffins. Watching this obscure hero give rise to another franchise-building, smash-hit movie will leave viewers marveling at Marvel once again. Brie Larson ("Room," "Short Term 12") stars as Vers, a superpowered amnesiac inhabitant of the planet Hala and member of an elite military unit one might as well call Seal Team Kree. The Kree people are at war with the shape-shifting Skrulls, and when Vers literally falls to Earth, her visions of once being an Air Force test pilot there intensify. Is she Vers, or is she Carol Danvers? Or could she somehow be both? The identity crisis storyline crafted by Indie stalwarts Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck and co-screenwriter Geneva Robertson-Dworet follows our hero as she discovers who she is and what she

can do. The not-so-secret recipe still satisfies, while providing a sturdy origin launchpad for a new hero. *Rated PG for adventure action and some mild rude humor. Two hours, 4 minutes.* — P.C.

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD ★★★

"How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World" is the epic conclusion to the DreamWorks Animation trilogy that launched nine years ago. This third and final installment stays true to form, satisfactorily wrapping up the story of characters in whom audiences have become invested. The films' human hero, Hiccup (Jay Baruchel), now reigns as chief of Berk, responsible for the safety of its human and dragon cohabitants. When a new threat emerges in dragon killer Grimmel the Grisly (F. Murray Abraham), Hiccup recalls tales his father (Gerard Butler) told him of a "hidden world." Hiccup determines that this hidden world represents the best chance of long-term survival for the Berkians, and so begins a quest that promises big changes for everyone, but especially Hiccup and his loyal dragon Toothless. Fans will no doubt weep at this heartfelt conclusion to the trilogy, although its coda promises at least the opportunity for a new trilogy to come. *Rated PG for adventure action and some mild rude humor. One hour, 44 minutes.* — P.C.

NOW SHOWING

A Madea Family Funeral (PG-13) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Alita: Battle Angel (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
Apollo 11 (Not Rated) Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
Badla (Not Rated) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Bohemian Rhapsody (PG-13) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
Captain Marvel (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
Captive State (PG-13) Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
Cold War (R) ★★★1/2 Guild Theatre: Fri. - Sun.
Everybody Knows (English subtitles) (R) Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
Fighting With My Family (PG-13) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
Five Feet Apart (PG-13) Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
Gloria Bell (R) Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.
Green Book (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
How To Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World (PG) ★★★ Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
Isn't it Romantic (PG-13) Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
The Kid (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part (PG) ★★★ Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
No Manches Frida 2 (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
Shadow of a Doubt (1943) (Not Rated) Stanford Theatre: Fri. - Sun.
Stan & Ollie (PG) ★★★ ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
Strangers on a Train (1951) (Not Rated) Stanford Theatre: Fri. - Sun.
They Shall Not Grow Old (R) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
The Wedding Guest (R) ★1/2 Guild Theatre: Fri. - Sun.
Wonder Park (PG) Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

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

Century Cinema 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View tinyurl.com/Century16

Century 20 Downtown: 825 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City tinyurl.com/Century20

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

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

ShowPlace Icon: 2575 California St. #601, Mountain View tinyurl.com/iconMountainView

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

★ Skip it ★★ Some redeeming qualities ★★★ A good bet ★★★★ Outstanding

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GoingsOn

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

HIGHLIGHT

'SOJOURN'

Pear Theatre presents "Sojourn," a futuristic play written by Evan Kokkila Schumacher and directed by Caroline Clark. Through April 7; times vary. \$32; discounts for seniors, students. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. thepear.org

THEATER

Foothill Music Theatre Presents 'Bullets Over Broadway, the Musical' Foothill Music Theatre presents the Tony Award-nominated musical written by Woody Allen about a young playwright whose first Broadway play is financed by a gangster. Thursdays-Sundays, through March 17; times vary. \$12-\$36. Lohman Theatre, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. foothill.edu

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Presents 'Marie and Rosetta' In its West Coast premiere, the musical play "Marie and Rosetta" shares the saga of musical legend Sister Rosetta Tharpe, who inspired Elvis, Ray Charles and others on her way to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Through March 31; times vary. \$40-\$100; discounts available. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

'The Witches' Los Altos Youth Theatre presents Roald Dahl's classic story, "The Witches." March 15-17 and March 22-24; times vary. \$20; discounts for students, seniors. Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. losaltosstage.org

'Around the Arab World in 80 Minutes!' The Aswat Women Ensemble performs "Around the Arab World in 80 Minutes!" March 16, 7-8:30 p.m. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. tickets.mvcpa.com

Palo Alto Players Gala: 'East Meets West' Palo Alto Players hosts its fourth annual gala fundraiser "East Meets West," which is inspired by the company's upcoming production

of "Flower Drum Song" and will include songs from the David Henry Hwang revival of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. March 17, 5 p.m. University Club of Palo Alto, 3277 Miranda Ave., Palo Alto. paplayers.org

'Shrek the Musical' In this Peninsula Youth Theatre production, Shrek the ogre heads out on an epic quest to save his swamp from Lord Faarquad and the fairytale creatures he's dumped there, finding a best friend and true love along the way. Thursdays-Sundays through March 17; times vary. \$24. Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 2500 Old Middlefield Road, Mountain View. pytnet.org

CONCERTS

Schola Cantorum Performs 'Carmina Burana' Schola Cantorum Silicon Valley will perform "Carmina Burana." March 16, 7:30 p.m. and March 17, 3:00 p.m. \$28; free for students 25 and under. First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto. scholacantorum.org

'Forbidden Music' New Century Chamber Orchestra welcomes Venezuelan-American pianist Vanessa Perez to perform music written by composers under the shadow of oppressive regimes. March 22, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. ncco.org

Langston Hughes Project Concert Professor Ron McCurdy of the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music presents a multimedia performance of Langston Hughes' "Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz." March 17, 2-3 p.m. Community School of Music

and Arts, Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. arts4all.org

MUSIC

'American Idol' — Classical Edition Twelve instrumentalists from the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra will compete for a grand prize. March 17, 3:30-4:15 p.m. Oshman Family JCC, 601 Van Ness Ave. Suite E-517, Palo Alto. paloaltojcc.org

FAMILY

Rancho Day Los Altos History Museum presents Rancho Day, with activities including tortilla-making, brick-making and demonstrations of sheep-shearing, saddle-making and wool carding. March 16, noon-3 p.m. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org

TALKS & LECTURES

Soman Chainani In Conversation With Sabaa Tahir Soman Chainani will discuss the fifth installment in his New York Times-bestselling "School for Good and Evil" series, "A Crystal of Time." March 17, 2-4 p.m. Books Inc. Palo Alto, 74 Town & Country Village, Palo Alto. booksinc.net

Jill Koziol and Liz Tenety Motherly lifestyle brand co-founders Jill Koziol and Liz Tenety share their collaborative essay collection, "This Is Motherhood: A Motherly Collection of Reflections + Practices." Books Inc. Palo Alto, 74 Town & Country Village, Palo Alto. booksinc.net

Lisa Moore Ramee with Sabaa Tahir Author Lisa Moore Ramee presents her debut

middle-grade novel entitled "A Good Kind of Trouble," about friendship, family and standing up for what's right. March 16, 3-4:30 p.m. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

'This is Now': Donna Zuckerberg Donna Zuckerberg discusses "Not All Dead White Men: Classics and Misogyny in the Digital Age." March 19, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

SCVAS Speaker Series: Reconsider the Coot Bruce Lyon, professor of evolutionary ecology at University of California at Santa Cruz, will discuss the unique reproductive behaviors of American Coots. March 20, 7-9:30 p.m. The Terraces, 373 Pine Lane, Los Altos. scvas.org/speakerseries

FOOD & DRINK

Downtown Los Altos St. Paddy's Beer Stroll Businesses in downtown Los Altos will offer craft beer samples in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. March 15, 6-9 p.m. Downtown Los Altos, 88 Main St., Los Altos. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

DANCE

Western Ballet's 'Shadows' "Shadows" features the famous classical suite of "Paquita," performed by the Youth Ensemble; and Vicente Nebrada's "Shadows" and "Doble Corchea." March 16, 6 p.m. \$25-\$50. Black Box Theater, 914 N. Rengstorff Ave., Unit A, Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

'Metamorphoses' Natasha Carlitz Dance Ensemble performs "Metamorphoses,"

comprised of works from six choreographers and six commissioned composers. \$25; discount for students. Cubberley Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. brownpapertickets.com

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Women's Full Moon Circle Women's Healing Conference hosts a circle for women and teen girls to connect and commune. Participants should email facilitator for details and updates. Held monthly through May 19. \$25. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvilla.org

World Water Monitoring Challenge The World Water Monitoring Challenge includes lessons about how watersheds work, how to protect creek habitat and biomonitoring to identify aquatic bugs. March 16, 9-11 a.m. Heritage Oaks Park, Miramonte and Portland avenues, Los Altos. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

HOME & GARDEN

Bread Baking Hidden Villa's bread-making activity for kids ages 7 and up includes collecting herbs from the education garden, sifting flour and kneading dough to make traditional Irish soda bread in honor of St. Patrick's Day. March 17, 10 a.m.-noon. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvilla.org

Spring Garden Party Hidden Villa's Spring Garden Party will include live music, arts and crafts and a scavenger hunt. March 23, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. hiddenvilla.org

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Selling your Mountain View home?

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of the DeLeon Realty team.

Unlike most real estate agents, Michael holds two law degrees, including an LLM in taxation from NYU School of Law, and has years of experience as a real estate and tax attorney, giving his clients a unique advantage. Further, Michael studied negotiation and conflict management in graduate school at Rutgers School of Law and Rutgers Graduate School of Business, as well as Harvard University. In addition, the expertise and marketing available through the team at DeLeon Realty are the very best in the business.

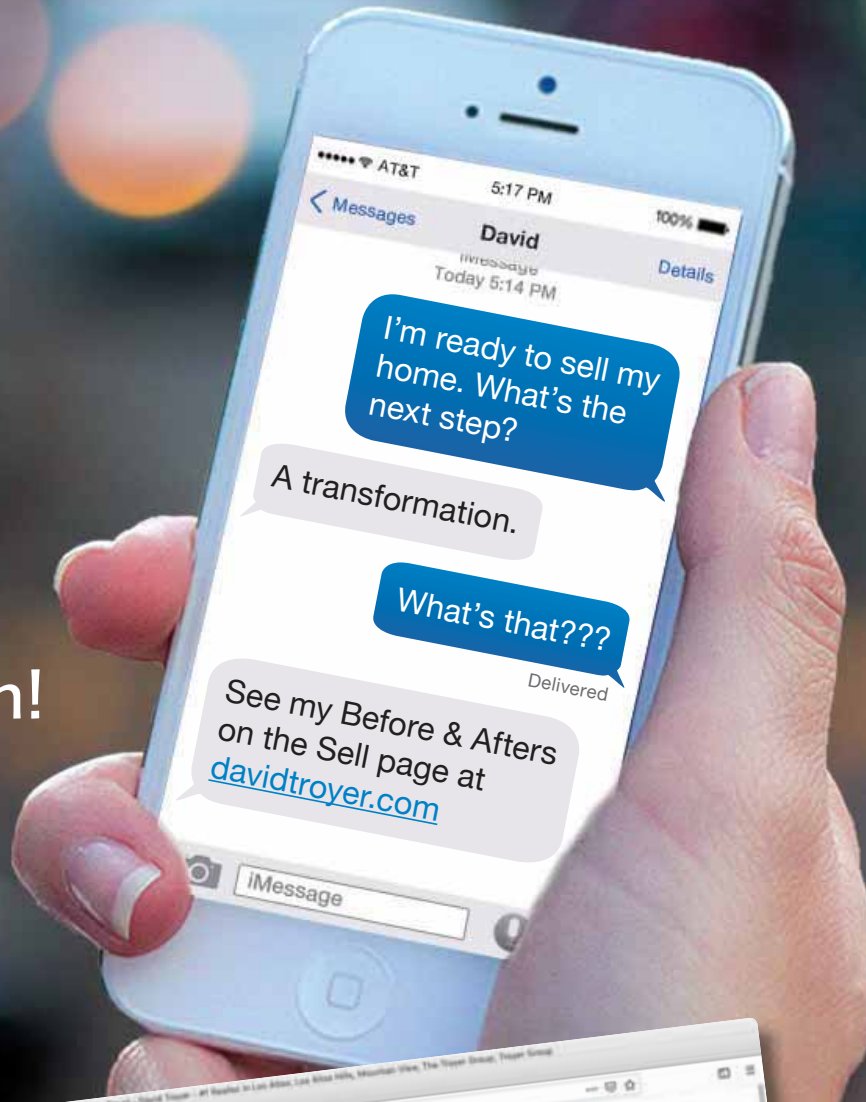
Meet with Michael to discuss any preliminary tax and legal questions about selling your home, and let him tell you more about what makes DeLeon Realty's innovative approach to real estate so successful. There is no cost or obligation for this consultation.

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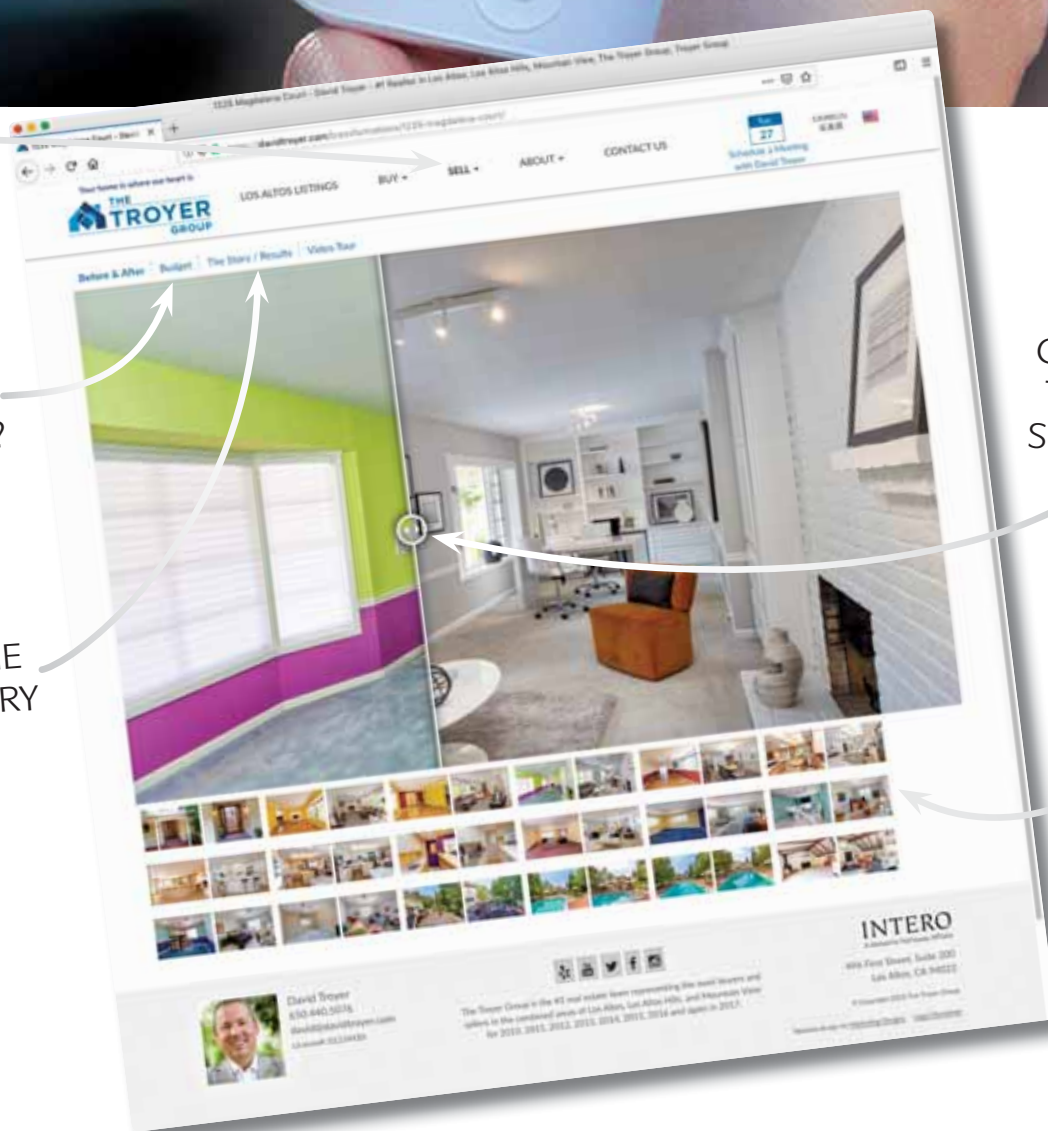
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