

Mountain View VOICE

JUNE 7, 2019 VOLUME 27, NO. 20

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MAGALI GAUTHIER

Steve Rasmussen, the owner of the Milk Pail Market, talks with longtime customer Hildy Crady on June 4. The 45-year-old store is closing down later this month, and throwing itself a goodbye party on Saturday, June 8.

Milk Pail Market says 'goodbye' with a party on Saturday

By Mark Noack

Amid plans to shut down permanently, the popular Milk Pail Market is throwing a farewell party for its loyal customers and community. The free event, set for noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 8, will feature music, activities

and plenty of cheese samples.

For 45 years, the Mountain View grocery has been a local institution and a relic of the city's agricultural past. The former dairy-barn-turned-grocery became a beloved small business that persevered even as the area transformed into a tech hub. For years, Milk Pail owner

Steve Rasmussen resisted calls to close down even as the neighboring properties at the San Antonio shopping center were rebuilt into towering office projects.

After holding out for so long, it was something of a shock

► See **MILK PAIL MARKET**, page 6

Struggling tenants find unlikely savior: luxury housing

By Mark Noack

Politics does indeed make strange bedfellows, and Tuesday night's City Council meeting was a classic example.

A packed house of predominately Latino families came before the City Council on June 4 to express their fears of being priced out of Mountain View. They echoed the common refrain of the housing crisis — ever-rising rents are threatening to drive out the city's service workers, its poor and its diversity.

But the group's call to action could have elicited a double-take for anyone listening. The families were advocating in favor of 226 new luxury apartments being planned by Prometheus Real Estate, a firm often criticized for spurring gentrification in Mountain View.

"I'm delighted to hear these officials from Prometheus are flexible," community activist Job Lopez said to the City Council. "Hopefully the developer and owner will work with you to achieve not only what they want but also what our brothers and sisters need."

However ironic, it was an alliance that made sense for all stakeholders. The tenants and families who attended the meeting almost all live at a nearby 48-unit apartment complex at 660 Mariposa

Ave. Those apartments are more than 50 years old and priced significantly under market rate, about \$1,800 a month for a two-bedroom unit.

But the age of the Mariposa apartments was showing, and its days seemed to be numbered. Prometheus had acquired the property a few years ago for more than \$24 million, and it seemed all but certain to be destined for redevelopment.

That led to the curious scene at the June 4 meeting, in which Prometheus representatives pitched an 11th-hour deal — what if they preserved the old Mariposa apartments in exchange for the affordable housing they were obligated to build as part of a separate project?

In his presentation, Prometheus Vice President Jon Moss gave a walk-through of his firm's plans to build 226 new apartments at 1696 Villa St. This large development has been winding its way through the city's review process for years, and city planners had estimated that Prometheus would need to either provide 33 subsidized units or pay \$10.8 million in fees to meet its affordable housing requirements.

In a letter sent to the city over the weekend, Moss proposed using money for the Villa Street

► See **HOUSING**, page 10

Vargas Elementary principal resigns shortly before new school's grand opening

GRAHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL'S ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL VERN TAYLOR NAMED TO REPLACE HIM

By Kevin Forestieri

After spending a year leading a school that has yet to open, Vargas Elementary School's principal announced his resignation, effective June 30. The new school is set to open in less than three months.

Principal Michael Jones announced his resignation in

an email sent to parents Friday, May 31, stating that he needed "flexibility" to travel from the U.S. to the United Arab Emirates, where his family resides. He said completing his family's immigration into the



Michael Jones

U.S. is an ongoing process that will continue over the next year.

Just days after Michael Jones announced his resignation, Mountain View Whisman School District Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph told parents in an email June 3 that Vern Taylor, assistant principal at Graham Middle School, would be taking over as the new principal of

Vargas Elementary.

Jones described his departure as "bittersweet" and said he was grateful to work with the future school community in the Whisman and Slater neighborhoods of Mountain View.

"Thank you for the opportunity to work as the instructional leader of what I know will be a learning institution of excellence," Jones

said in the email. "Thank you for your trust and for our time working alongside each other as we prepared Jose Antonio Vargas Elementary for our children."

Jones, selected by district administrators in May 2018, previously held an executive position overseeing a cluster of schools in

► See **PRINCIPAL**, page 15

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Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Ray Levy-Uyeda

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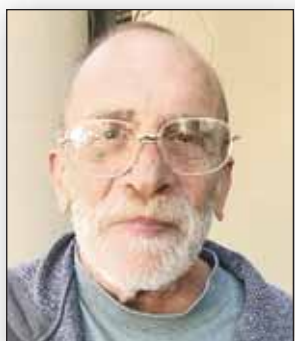
"I would say integrative health and nutrition. It's just an interesting subject for me. I like to learn how to prevent problems before they occur rather than treat illness."

Shelene Worland, Mountain View



"Graphic design or art. I'm still getting the hang of it."

Eduardo Zaragoza, Mountain View



"General science."

Bob Jacobson, Mountain View



"If I were a young man and I could go back to college, I'd get my degree in electronics engineering."

Wesley Orr, Sunnyvale



"I'm a psychologist back in Brazil. I'd like to learn more about statistics."

Kaila Silva, Mountain View

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CRIME BRIEFS

WITNESSES DISPUTE HIT-AND-RUN REPORT

A driver who hit two vehicles and struck a fire hydrant on Tyrella Avenue in Mountain View last week cooperated with police and was apparently suffering from food poisoning, contrary to an initial report by police saying that he fled the scene.

Last week, the *Voice* and other news outlets reported that the hydrant, located on the 300 block of Tyrella Avenue, was struck by a car around 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 26.

Witnesses say the man driving the Volkswagen Atlas smashed the front of a Hyundai Elantra in an apparent head-on collision and side-swiped a Subaru Forester before striking the hydrant, causing a geyser of water to erupt. No one was injured in the incident.

The Mountain View Police Department initially reported that the driver fled the scene and was not located, and the road was shut down to turn off the water and clear the scene. But residents in the area told the *Voice* via email that they saw police officers questioning a man who appeared to be the driver, and conducted a field sobriety test before letting him go.

Police spokeswoman Katie Nelson, when presented with the witness information, then said the man reported he was suffering from food poisoning while driving, and that his illness was likely the reason for the collisions. She confirmed that he cooperated with the police investigation, and was not initially charged or cited for any crimes, Nelson said.

It's not yet known whether a final collision report will recommend any citations or charges, Nelson said.

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 6

POLICE LOG

ASSAULT

1000 block Grant Rd., 5/28

AUTO BURGLARY

- 600 block San Antonio Rd., 5/27
- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 5/27
- 100 block Bryant St., 5/27
- 2500 block California St., 5/27
- 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 5/27
- 100 block Hope St., 5/28
- 400 block Hope St., 5/28
- 400 block Hope St., 5/28
- 2400 block Charleston Rd., 5/28
- 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 5/28
- 700 block W. Middlefield Rd., 5/29
- 1100 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/29
- 500 block San Antonio Rd., 5/29
- 100 block Hope St., 5/31
- 500 block W. Middlefield Rd., 6/1
- 500 block W. Middlefield Rd., 6/1
- 2400 block Charleston Rd., 6/1
- 2400 block Charleston Rd., 6/1
- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 6/1
- 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 6/1

BURGLARY

600 block Showers Dr., 5/31

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

700 block E. Evelyn Av., 5/28

GRAND THEFT

- 200 block Bush St., 5/27
- 2200 block Latham St., 5/28
- 700 block Continental Cir., 5/29
- 1000 block Castro St., 5/29
- 200 block Easy St., 6/1

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

- 800 block High School Way, 5/27
- 1000 block Bryant Av., 5/29
- 1 block Starr Way, 5/29
- 2400 block W. El Camino Real, 5/29

SALE OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

- 1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 6/1
- 1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 6/1
- 1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 6/1
- 1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 6/1

STOLEN VEHICLE

1300 block Terra Bella Av., 5/28

BATTERY

- 400 block Del Medio Av., 5/29
- 700 block Cuesta Dr., 5/31
- 1 block Evandale Av., 6/2

VANDALISM

- 800 block Park Ct., 5/27
- 1800 block Latham St., 6/2

CORRECTION

The story "No raise for LASD teachers this year" in the May 31 issue of the *Voice* erroneously states that the Los Altos School District's total revenue for the 2015-16 school year was \$64,293,529. The figure captures total expenditures for the 2015-16 year, while the total revenue was actually \$65,703,970.

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MAGALI GAUTHIER

Monta Loma Elementary will see a dramatic decrease in students in the fall, according to the latest Mountain View Whisman enrollment projections.

Hundreds of Mountain View Whisman students must change schools this fall

NEW SCHOOL BOUNDARIES CAUSE DRASTIC ENROLLMENT CHANGES

By Kevin Forestieri

With a new school opening in the Mountain View Whisman District, and a host of changes to school attendance boundaries rolling out, hundreds of students will be saying goodbye to their old campuses and going somewhere new in the upcoming school year.

Recently released enrollment projections for the 2019-20 school year show hundreds of district students are being relocated to new schools following a complete redrawing of the attendance zones to reducing overcrowding at some schools.

Vargas Elementary School is also opening in the fall, and is expected to enroll 323 students in its inaugural year.

And while most of the shifts in enrollment were expected by district staffers, whose estimates were central to the boundary-drawing process, there are some surprises. Huff's enrollment didn't decline at nearly the rate anticipated, and Landels Elementary enrollment didn't explode to 545 students — it actually saw a decline.

Monta Loma Elementary, long considered a vulnerable school that could become too small to be viable if enrollment declines, also has fewer students

than anticipated. In 2017-18 the school had 444 students, and now it's projected to have 354 in the upcoming school year.

In 2017, school board members voted to approve new boundaries to balance enrollment between district schools, focusing on a smaller "neighborhood school" model aiming for between 400 and 450 students on each campus. The decision came with a simultaneous crackdown on intra-district transfers, doing away with a long-standing policy allowing the free-flow movement of students to any school

► See **BOUNDARIES**, page 11

Council backs plan to retrofit apartments at risk of quake collapse

PROPERTY OWNERS SAY COSTS ARE BURDENSOME AND TIMELINE IS UNREALISTIC

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View City Council agreed Tuesday night on a plan to retrofit hundreds of aging apartment buildings considered at risk of collapsing in a major earthquake, prioritizing the largest complexes first over the course of a six-year program.

The mandatory retrofit ordinance, which has yet to be drafted, would require landlords to fix residential buildings with a so-called "soft story" design. Soft-story buildings, built between 1950 and 1980, have partially open and structurally weak ground floors that puts them at a heightened risk of collapse in a strong earthquake.

Adopting the ordinance would follow in the footsteps of San Francisco and Berkeley, which imposed a mandatory retrofit program more than five years ago. Oakland was the latest Bay Area city to join in, approving a seismic retrofit ordinance in December.

A survey last year found that 488 buildings in Mountain View appear to have a soft story design and pose a risk to tenants living in 5,123 housing units — roughly 16% of the city's entire housing stock. Potentially dangerous buildings range from small, one- and two-unit buildings to multi-family complexes with as many as 184 homes. The area bounded by Shoreline Boulevard, Showers Drive, Central Expressway and El Camino Real represents the most densely packed region of identified soft story buildings, accounting for roughly half of the units.

Rather than have individual landlords hire a consultant to formally assess whether each building is truly in need of retrofit work, council members agreed at the June 4 study session to spend \$150,000 in city funds on a structural engineering firm to identify the properties. Similar to other cities, the plan is to retrofit buildings in phases, with the largest apartment buildings going first.

Though subject to change, council members generally agreed that buildings with 12 or more units — accounting for more than three-fifths of the vulnerable homes — should go first, followed by buildings with between five and 11 units. The goal is to have all buildings retrofitted over the course of six years, according to a city staff report.

That timeline seems ambitious, said Brian Avery, an apartment owner in Mountain View. He said he's currently in his 12th month of trying to get a permit from the city for a bike storage room, and pushing hundreds of permits for retrofit work through the city's already busy departments in a short period of time is going to be a challenge.

"For you to put up two years for us to get our permit ... it's going to be tough for your different departments to respond," Avery said.

Michael Pierce, president of Prodesse Property Group, said the compressed timeline is going to drive up the costs for retrofit work, which city staff are estimating could cost from \$6,000 to \$20,000 per unit or \$25,000 to \$100,000 per building. Many property owners are going to have difficulty paying for those required upgrades, Pierce said, particularly those relying on rental property income for their retirement.

Adding to the complexity, it's unclear if and how landlords can seek to recover the costs of the retrofit upgrades by raising rents. Under Mountain View's rent control law, landlords can seek rent adjustments above the maximum increase allowed under the Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act (CSFRA), but only through a lengthy process that demonstrates that the property owner is not receiving a fair rate of return on the property.

A streamlined process to pass certain capital improvement costs onto tenants is not provided under CSFRA, though the city's Rental Housing Committee

► See **QUAKE**, page 6

City buys downtown site for \$3.4 million

By Mark Noack

In hopes of building something grand in the future, the Mountain View City Council swiftly put up \$3.4 million to acquire a trio of downtown houses.

The property purchased by the city is located at 996 Dana St. and includes three old houses that city officials expect to rent

out to tenants while they figure out what to do with the site. Dennis Drennan, city real estate manager, said that the Dana Street property is well located for some kind of future development because it is right next to a city-owned parking lot along Villa and Franklin streets. When the city is ready to redevelop the parking lot, the newly acquired property can be paired with it

to build an even larger project encompassing 1.5 acres, he said.

"We're not asking for action right now on how we're going to use this property," Drennan said. "We have to do an assessment and come up with various alternatives, and then we'll come back to council at a later date."

In recent years, Mountain

► See **DOWNTOWN SITE**, page 6

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MILK PAIL MARKET

► Continued from page 1

when Rasmussen announced in March that he had accepted a buyout for the property, saying it was becoming too difficult to stay in business. The good-bye party, he said, was one last opportunity for everyone to appreciate the Milk Pail.

“We’ve been a small business for so long, and key thing here is we want to give the community a

chance to say goodbye,” he said. “My family thought it was only right for the Milk Pail that we do the best we can, and give ourselves one last party.”

No firm date has been set yet for when the Milk Pail will close, but Rasmussen estimated it would be in late June.

The Saturday party will feature local music acts and a variety of family-oriented activities, including face-painting and raffles for various products. Food

trucks will be stationed nearby with meals for sale, but Rasmussen said he also plans to serve free snacks and refreshments. Most of the party’s attractions will not be staged at the Milk Pail but rather at a nearby patio between a Facebook office building and the Hyatt Centric Hotel.

The Milk Pail Market is located at 2585 California St. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

QUAKE

► Continued from page 5

could consider creating such a petition process.

Joshua Howard of the California Apartment Association told council members that many of these soft-story buildings are old and expensive to maintain, and that the costs of a retrofit program — if too great — are going to force property owners out of the rental market. There needs to be some way to recoup those

costs from the tenants, and not over a lengthy period.

“When you’re going to ask someone who is barely getting a 3% revenue increase to take on a six-figure project with very little guarantee to get the expense paid back over a relatively short period of time is rather burdensome,” he said.

Mountain View resident Joan MacDonald said she is seeking the opposite — a lengthy cost recovery period so rents wouldn’t go up “sky high.” If property

owners are going to amortize the costs over a long period of time, so too should the costs be stretched out for tenants, she said.

The council may consider creating a streamlined petition process for landlords to raise rents above and beyond what’s allowed under CSFRA through a ballot initiative that amends the rent control law. CSFRA is an amendment to the city charter, meaning any changes must be made at the ballot box. ▣

DOWNTOWN SITE

► Continued from page 5

View officials have pushed to redevelop some downtown parking lots for housing and commercial growth. Last year, the city approved plans to build a five-story hotel and office complex with an underground parking garage, to replace two parking lots on Hope Street. Likewise, an affordable housing project is expected to eventually be built at another public lot at the corner of Bryant and California streets.

For the 996 Dana St. site, city staff members say they had to move quickly to buy the property before other buyers could swoop in. The property was originally listed for \$2.9 million, but city

officials decided to offer \$2.93 million to be more competitive. The total cost increased to \$3.4 million when including title and escrow fees, repairs and relocation expenses for existing tenants, and a 5% city administrative surcharge for capital improvement projects, according to the city staff report.

The three homes at the Dana Street property include a three-bedroom house and two smaller, one-bedroom units. The houses are more than 100 years old and listed as state historic resources. City staff acknowledged the age of the buildings will likely mean the city will need to do repairs and possibly pest control. They noted the historic status could complicate future

development opportunities. But overall, staff recommended buying the property.

The city will pay the \$3.4 million from its new Strategic Property Acquisition Reserve (SPAR), a special account set up by the city specifically to quickly move on available real estate opportunities. The SPAR account currently has \$9.7 million.

“This is a perfect example of what we have the (SPAR) fund,” Councilman John McAlister said before voting at the May 21 meeting. “This is why is important to maintain that fund so we can jump on things like this.”

The purchase was unanimously approved by the City Council. ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

MAN TRIES TO PULL OFF WOMAN'S SHORTS

A Mountain View woman told police that a man attempted to pull her shorts down while she was walking through the Waverly Park neighborhood on Monday afternoon. The man was not found.

The woman, 40, told police she was traveling east on Diericx Drive around 12:40 p.m. on June 3 when the man ran up from behind and tried to pull her shorts down, police said in a statement Tuesday. The victim said she screamed and saw the man run north toward Franklin Avenue. Officers conducted an “extensive search” of the area

but could not find him.

He is described as a young white man between 5 feet, 8 inches and 6 feet tall, wearing a black baseball cap, a shirt with black and gray horizontal stripes, black shorts and black shoes.

Anyone with information on the suspect is asked to call Detective Robert Medina at 650-903-6189.

SCHOOL THREATS NOT CREDIBLE

Police were maintaining a higher presence at Mountain View High School after rumors that someone had made threats against the school over social media.

Administrators at the school

called the Mountain View Police Department on Monday, June 3, to report a second-hand rumor, spread over Snapchat, that someone made an unspecified threat against the school, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

The department found that there was no credible threat to students or staff, and did not conduct a lockdown of the school, Nelson said. Out of an abundance of caution, police will have a “high-visibility presence” at the school throughout the week, she said.

Although the threats were not considered credible, Nelson said the school’s responsiveness and quick action to notify parents of the incident Monday was appreciated.

—Kevin Forestieri



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Long security lines frustrate fans at Shoreline's kickoff concert

FANS COMPLAIN DEAD & COMPANY SHOW MARRED BY TWO-HOUR WAIT TO ENTER AMPHITHEATER

By Mark Noack

Loyal Deadheads have been cooling their heels for a long time in anticipation of Dead & Company returning to Shoreline Amphitheatre, but they weren't expecting this kind of wait.

Concertgoers hoping to see the Grateful Dead spinoff band on June 1 say they ended up waiting in line for more than two hours to get through an understaffed security checkpoint to enter the show. As the jam band went deep into its set, hundreds if not thousands of ticket-holders were still outside waiting to get in the amphitheater.

Scott Wiener, a physician from Southern California who traveled to Mountain View for the show, said he arrived more than an hour before Dead & Company's 7 p.m. scheduled start time. By that point, he estimated the queue of people waiting to get inside the venue was nearly a mile long. It soon became clear the line was barely moving, he said.

As the minutes ticked by, the Deadhead crowd became crestfallen as it became clear they might miss the show. Some fans



COURTESY OF SEAN COMEY

Dead & Company fans said lines to get into Shoreline Amphitheatre were so long on June 1 that many people missed the start of the show, despite the band taking the stage 45 minutes late.

attempted to cut or jump the barriers, but they were called out by others in line. Wiener said it felt like at any moment the line would fall apart and people would start rushing the entrance. It was a "fiasco," he said.

"We all wait in lines, but not like this. It took two hours for us just to give our tickets in," he said. "Deadheads are a pretty mellow bunch, but I'd hate to see it if this were a heavy metal band and this

kind of thing happened."

Some concertgoers stuck in line took to Twitter to describe the situation, begging Dead & Company to hold off on starting the show. The band came on stage about 45 minutes late, but even then there were still "thousands" of people stuck outside, according to attendees. By the time Wiener and his group took their seats, they had missed about four of the band's famously drawn-out songs.

"I've been to a lot of shows,

and this was the worst logistical situation that I've ever seen," said Sean Comey, a Mountain View resident who was also stuck in the line. "It was so frustrating because you could hear the band come out, and there were still thousands of people waiting to get in."

An estimated 40,000 people attended Dead & Company's two-night appearance at Shoreline Amphitheatre, which kicked off the venue's summer concert season. Lawn tickets for the event sold for just under \$50, not counting retail surcharges. Comey said he and his group had paid about \$250 per ticket for their seats.

Concertgoers say a slow security checkpoint was to blame for long wait to get inside the venue. The checkpoint, which involved about six metal detectors and mandatory bag checks, looked to be understaffed with only one person checking items per line. In some cases, it seemed to take security guards more than a minute just to inspect one bag, several attendees said. The security checkpoint wasn't a problem for the Friday, May 31,

show, but it seemed especially slow for the Saturday concert.

Live Nation spokeswoman Liz Sharkey said in a statement to the *Voice* that the "vast majority" of fans entered the show without any major problems. She apologized to those who had to wait a long time to enter.

"We do our best to manage lines in an efficient and safe manner, and we're always assessing how to improve," she said. "We encourage fans to plan to arrive early and subscribe to venue communications for updates for the most seamless entry experience."

The grueling wait is still a sore subject for some Grateful Dead fans. Fans on Twitter pledged to never attend another concert at Shoreline. Wiener said he sent Live Nation an angry letter co-signed by an attorney to lay out his grievances.

"I was so upset that this organization was so ridiculous. Now I just want them to know the severity of how badly they screwed up," he said. ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

Eight arrested at Dead & Company concert

By Kevin Forestieri

Police say they arrested eight people and cited one man over the course of back-to-back performances by Dead & Company at Shoreline Amphitheatre. Most of the arrests were for suspected drug sales.

All the arrests took place on Saturday, June 1. One man, a 24-year-old Carmel Valley resident, was cited the day before for possession of dried peyote, a psychedelic drug, which was confiscated by police.

Officers arrested a 30-year-old transient man at the concert venue around 12:40 p.m. after he was allegedly found in possession of 100 doses of LSD and nearly one gram of psilocybin, better known as hallucinogenic mushrooms. He was arrested on suspicion of selling a controlled substance, possession of psilocybin and possession of narcotics for sale.

A little over an hour later, officers arrested a second transient man, 35, after he was allegedly found in possession of LSD. He was arrested for possession of a controlled substance for sale as well as failing

to register as a sex offender.

Around 3 p.m., officers arrested a 46-year-old woman from Boulder, Colorado, for possession of more than 10 grams of molly (MDMA). She was arrested on suspicion of possessing a controlled substance for sale.

Around 4:50 p.m., a 59-year-old Los Angeles man was arrested on suspicion of selling a controlled substance after he allegedly traded LSD tablets for concert tickets, police said. Ten minutes later, a 19-year-old man from Temecula, California, was arrested for allegedly selling hallucinogenic mushrooms, and was also found to have an outstanding warrant out of Sacramento.

The final drug arrests came at 6:45 p.m., when officers patrolling the concert arrested a 33-year-old woman from Lincoln, California, and a 32-year-old man from Oroville, California. Police said both were found in possession of LSD and arrested on suspicion of possessing a controlled substance for sale.

The only arrest not related to the sale of drugs preceded the Saturday concert, at 12:20 a.m. Officers at the venue found

a 43-year-old woman from Auburn, California, sitting in a golf cart used by Shoreline Amphitheatre staff who refused to get out. Police said the woman showed objective signs of intoxication and was arrested on suspicion of being drunk in public.

All suspects were booked into Santa Clara County jail. Four of the arrestees, including the man who failed to register as a sex offender, remained in county jail as of Tuesday morning.

During concerts and festivals where drug use is commonplace, Mountain View police have prioritized enforcement efforts to curtail drug sales. While most concert attendees do not cause trouble, police say some bad actors use the large crowds as an opportunity to sell narcotics, even in the presence of children.

In past years, the department has arrested as many as nine people when Dead & Company performs at Shoreline Amphitheatre. Preventing the sale of psychedelic drugs, specifically LSD, is a top priority for enforcement, police said. ▣

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PUBLIC NOTICE — CITY COUNCIL MEETING EL CAMINO REAL STREETScape PLAN

The community is invited to attend a City of Mountain View City Council meeting to review and comment on the Draft Concept for the El Camino Real Streetscape Plan, including installing bikeways which would require removal of on-street parking, on:

Tuesday, June 18, 2019—6:30 p.m.

**Second Floor, Mountain View City Hall
500 Castro Street, Mountain View, California**

Members of the public will have an opportunity to address the City Council regarding the Draft Concept. Comments received at this meeting will be considered in the development of the draft El Camino Real Streetscape Plan. For further information, contact the Public Works Department at (650) 903-6311 or e-mail: public.works@mountainview.gov. The City Council agenda packet will be available on June 14, 2019, at www.mountainview.gov, in the Public Works Department and City Clerk's Office at City Hall at 500 Castro Street.



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Notice of June 11, 2019 Council Meeting on Oversized Vehicle Ordinance and Safe Parking Program Parameters

The City of Mountain View will be discussing a proposed citywide Oversized Vehicle Parking Prohibition Ordinance; the parameters for a Safe Parking Ordinance; and a resolution to operate a Safe Parking Program on two city-controlled lots at the Tuesday, June 11 Council Meeting. The proposed ordinance, resolution and Safe Parking parameters will be available for public review as part of the City Council Agenda packet on Friday, June 7 on the City website at MountainView.gov.

Safe Parking Program: The agenda item will consist of asking Council for direction on the parameters for a new Safe Parking Ordinance. Council will also provide direction and consider adoption of a resolution for the operation of Safe Parking on City-controlled properties and authorize the City Manager to execute contracts consistent with the approved action.

Oversized Vehicle Ordinance: Council will consider the introduction of an ordinance to prohibit the parking of Oversized Vehicles citywide and adoption of a resolution for oversized parking permit fees.

The meeting will take place in the Council Chambers of Mountain View City Hall (500 Castro St., 2nd Floor) on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at the regular meeting to start at 6:30 p.m. (or as soon as possible) under Unfinished Business.

County supervisors reject informing ICE on inmate releases

By Kevin Forestieri

Sticking with a longstanding policy, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted 5-0 Tuesday to reject changing course and notifying federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of the release of County Jail inmates suspected of being in the country illegally.

The unanimous decision comes after county executives, legal counsel and immigrant rights groups called any working relationship with ICE a bad idea that would erode trust with an already vulnerable community. The county would have to blindly trust immigration officials on claims that an inmate in county custody is in the country illegally, which is prone to errors and could subject the county to lawsuits.

“Our county has long been a progressive beacon on this issue and now is not the time to suddenly embrace an agency does that does not respect basic human rights and frequently gets citizenship details wrong, subjecting our county to liability,” said Santa Clara County Public Defender Molly O’Neal.

The board voted in April to consider a policy for the county to provide ICE with the date and time of release of inmates suspected of being in the country illegally. The policy would be limited to those inmates who had been convicted of a serious or violent felony, amounting to an estimated 100 to 150 inmates each year. The county’s current policy ignores these requests, rejecting 6,243 notification requests between November 2014 and March 2019.

The idea came as a direct response to the killing of 59-year-old Bambi Larson, a San Jose woman who was stabbed to death in her home. The suspect, Carlos Arevalo-Carranza, is in the U.S. illegally, and had 10 prior convictions in recent years, ICE officials told the media outlets shortly after the death.

District Attorney Jeff Rosen and local law enforcement agencies — represented by Mountain View Police Chief Max Bosel — supported the idea of the limited coordination with ICE, calling it an important public safety policy that would remove dangerous criminals from the community. Rosen released a statement before the meeting calling

ICE notifications a “balanced approach” that weighs the concerns of the immigrant community against the risk of allowing undocumented residents convicted of serious or violent felonies to stay in the country.

Bosel, who mostly deferred to Rosen, argued that the coordinated transfer of serious and violent felons into ICE custody means immigration enforcement agents won’t have to raid neighborhood communities in order to make arrests. He said the immigrant community is fearful of such raids, which can lead to “incidental contacts” with undocumented people who wouldn’t otherwise be contacted by federal immigration authorities.

“Notifying ICE and providing ICE agents the ability to take custody of individuals in a secure jail would likely reduce the amount of ICE operations in local communities, thereby reducing the probability of these incidental contacts,” Bosel wrote.

While at least three supervisors showed interest in notifying ICE of the release of inmates suspected of being in the country illegally, actually putting that policy into practice was seen as untenable. The county had no way of verifying whether federal immigration officials had accurate information on the inmates, and ICE is an agency known for “aggressive and unscrupulous enforcement tactics” that stoke fear and undermine community trust, according to county officials.

Supervisor Mike Wasserman, originally a proponent of ICE notifications, made clear from the outset at the June 4 meeting that he planned to reverse course. He said the county’s inability to determine legal status of inmates is “unfortunate and disappointing,” but is a reality that prevents him from supporting his own proposal.

“After much investigation and research our county counsel, law enforcement, DA, public defender and numerous immigrant rights-related organizations have proven that there is no practical and legal way of knowing if a person in our custody is truly undocumented,” Wasserman said. “And for that reason I withdraw my suggestion of notifying ICE.”

Because of California’s state sanctuary immigration policy,

SB 54, the county is prohibited from asking inmates about their immigration status. County Executive Jeff Smith said the inability to independently verify ICE’s claims on the immigrant status of inmates is a major cause for concern, given that the agency has been wrong in over 3,000 cases in the last year.

“By operating without adequate information the county is putting itself at risk because it is relying completely on ICE information, which we know has mistakes in it,” he said.

Smith said allowing notifications would also be tantamount to creating a racial profiling program, and that counties that do permit notifications on inmate releases are showing a clear bias against Latinos. In 2018, San Mateo County was asked for notifications on 735 inmates, 7% of whom were eventually picked up by ICE agents. Of those inmates picked up, all but two were of Latin-American descent, Smith said.

Wasserman’s early announcement changed the tenor of the packed crowd of attendees at the June 4 meeting, with close to 160 speakers mostly supporting Wasserman in his rejection of ICE notifications. Most speakers rapidly approached the dais and thanked the board for its decision not to work with ICE, even if the decision was reached due to practical limitations rather than a moral stance against a federal crackdown on illegal immigration.

Board President Joe Simitian, who represents North County, said he agreed that the county should not be working hand in glove with an agency he would describe as institutionally racist, and that he would never advocate for cooperation with ICE when inmates are facing traffic violations, misdemeanors or even the bulk of chargeable felonies in California. But for those convicted of serious and violent felonies and in county custody, he said it does make sense to “step up and engage in some measure of cooperation with immigration officials.”

Despite his dissent, Simitian said he voted in the majority in order to make it a unanimous vote not to turn over any inmates to federal immigration officials without a judicial arrest warrant.

“I think there’s some value in putting this issue to rest in a 5-0 vote today,” he said. ■

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HOUSING

► Continued from page 1

project's affordable housing to save the Mariposa apartments. He acknowledged it was a last-minute idea, and a lot of factors still need to be investigated. But Moss explained he was impartial so long as the council approved his project.

"We have this property down the street that has similar units, and it seemed like a potential win for the city, community and the residents that live there," he said. "If this creates too much angst and complexity, we're more than happy to just pull this proposal, and we'll just do the (affordable housing) on site."

But while the Prometheus team acted nonchalant, dozens of residents from the Mariposa apartments were in a state of desperation, describing it as a matter just short of life or death. Standing with her parents, seventh grader Erica Lopez told the council her

dream of someday going to college was at stake.

"If my family had to move, it would ruin my personal life," she said. "I've lived here all my life and I've always hoped in my future in trying to get into St. Francis High School, going to Foothill and going to university."

Speaking to the *Voice*, Moss said there are no definitive plans for the Mariposa property. The site could be redeveloped or sold off, but that decision has not been made yet, he said.

Prometheus briefly listed the Mariposa apartments for sale earlier this year. The listing was later removed before any sale transpired, but it served as a reminder to residents of how precarious their situation is.

But the proposal to save the Mariposa apartments left many unanswered questions. If the idea went forward, the nonprofit Bridge Housing would buy the apartments from Prometheus

with the city's help. But before that could happen, Bridge Housing officials said they needed to inspect the property to determine all the aging building's repair and maintenance issues, which could run as high as \$200,000 per unit. Prometheus officials acknowledged that three other housing nonprofits had been in talks to take over the Mariposa property, but they withdrew after finding it wouldn't work financially.

Speaking to that issue, Brad Wiblin of Bridge Housing indicated his group still needs to figure out the right formula for rents if they took over the Mariposa apartments. Their goal is to keep all current tenants in their homes, but also to eventually bring rents to what's considered affordable for households earning around 80% of the area median income, he said.

City staffers indicated they also need to do some homework to compare the value of saving 48 run-down apartments at Mariposa against building 33 brand new inclusionary apartments at the Villa Street property.

"We'd need to look at a pro forma," said Community Development Director Aarti Shrivastava. "We need to get to a point where (the affordable housing options) are determined to be equitable."

City staff proposed approving the Villa Street project with the caveat that the affordable housing component is still up in the air. Once all parties finish their due diligence, the city could decide whether it's worth saving the Mariposa apartments. If the answer is no, then Prometheus would be required to build affordable housing as part of the Villa Street project.

Overall, the City Council was receptive to the idea, describing it as an innovative workaround to one of the city's most intractable problems. Elected leaders have faced a series of harrowing decisions in recent months involving redevelopment projects that require displacing large numbers of low-income families in order to build market-rate housing. If they could dodge a dilemma down the road, council members said they were willing to give the deal a try.

"If we can avoid displacement, then it's worth looking at," said Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga. "I understand the timing issues, but I do appreciate the possibility of a win-win situation."

It was an idea that generated unanimous approval, even though there was plenty of nervousness about the uncertainty of the proposal. Plus, it would be a solution that only maintains the status quo.

"We're not creating any new affordable housing units, but we're just preserving what we already have," said Councilwoman Alison Hicks. "Just thought I'd point that out." ■

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGETS ON JUNE 18, 2019

City of Mountain View

Notice of a joint public hearing of the following governmental agencies to review the **Fiscal Year 2019-20 Proposed Annual Budgets, Proposed Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Trash and Recycling Rates and Various Proposed City Fees:**

- City Council of the City of Mountain View
- Board of Directors of the Mountain View Shoreline Regional Park Community
- Board of Directors of the City of Mountain View Capital Improvements Financing Authority

Notice is hereby given that Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, has been set as the time and place for a public hearing to receive public comment on the use of funds for the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Proposed Annual Budgets; proposed increases to water, wastewater, and solid waste trash and recycling rates; and on various proposed City fees. Council will take action to adopt the above after the public hearing.

If you are unable to attend the budget public hearing but would like the City Council, Boards and staff to know your views, please send a letter to the City Council, P.O. Box 7540, Mountain View, California 94039, or an e-mail to city.clerk@mountainview.gov by 4:00 pm on Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

The budget document, including fees, will be available on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 on the City's website at: <http://www.mountainview.gov/depts/fasd/budget/current.asp>

Copies of the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Proposed Annual Budgets, supporting documentation for proposed water, wastewater, and solid waste trash and recycling rates, and various proposed City fees will be available for review by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5, 2019, at City Hall in the City Clerk's Office, 500 Castro Street, 3rd Floor, Mountain View, during normal business hours and during public hours at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin Street, Mountain View. The June 18th agenda report will be available by Thursday, June 13, 2019 on the City website at: <https://mountainview.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Dated this 22nd day of May, 2019

Jesse Takahashi

Finance and Administrative Services Director

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Palo Alto Korean restaurant Maum snags first Michelin star

MOUNTAIN VIEW RESTAURANT CHEZ TJ RETAINS ITS MICHELIN STAR

By Elena Kadvany

Maum, which brought modern, high-end Korean dining to the Peninsula last summer, has won its first Michelin star, joining a small but growing group of South Bay restaurants with the sought-after culinary distinction.

Michelin announced the stars on Monday night in Huntington Beach for the company's inaugural California guide, which now covers the entire state, including Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego and other cities.

In a tweet, Michelin described Maum as "heartfelt, precise, and focused." Husband-and-wife team Michael and Meichih Kim, who both previously cooked at Michelin-starred restaurants, lead the kitchen.

In an email, Michael Kim said the Michelin star has been a "lifelong professional goal" for him and Meichih.

"The Michelin guide has been the gold standard when it comes to restaurant reviews and to be validated with a star in less than a year is a huge achievement for



Executive chef **Michael Kim** and wife **Meichih Kim**, a cook at Maum, stand among rows of vegetables being grown for the restaurant at a small, privately owned farm in Los Altos Hills.

the restaurant and its team," he said. "At the end of the day I am proud of Meichih and the whole team at Maum for their tireless efforts and sacrifice for us to achieve this."

In an Instagram post with photos from the awards ceremony, Meichih wrote: "Incredibly

proud of what we've achieved one month shy of our one year anniversary! Many thanks to all the people who have helped us along the way and our entire team (past & present)."

Maum was first a private dining space, then opened to the public last July. Anonymous

Michelin inspectors said that Maum, which means "from the heart" in Korean, creates an "incredibly exciting dining experience."

The kitchen is fueled by a private farm in Los Altos Hills, where the chefs work with a farmer to grow hard-to-find Korean produce for dishes like kkakdugi brisket rice and abalone porridge. At Maum, which is open just for dinner four nights a week, diners eat at a long, wooden communal table that accommodates 16 people.

With the 2019 guide, Palo Alto is now home to three Michelin stars: Maum, Protégé (which won its first star in November) and Baumé, which has held onto its two stars for several years.

Michelin defines one star as "high quality cooking, worth a stop;" two stars as "excellent cooking, worth a detour;" and three stars as "exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey." Anonymous inspectors determine the stars based on five criteria, according to Michelin: quality of ingredients used, mastery of flavor and cooking

techniques, the personality of the chef in the cuisine, value for money and consistency between visits.

The statewide guide now has 90 Michelin-starred restaurants: 69 with one star, 14 with two stars and seven with three stars.

Below are the other Peninsula winners, all who held onto their stars from last year:

- Chez TJ, Mountain View: one star
- Baumé, Palo Alto: two stars
- Madera, Menlo Park: one star
- The Village Pub, Woodside: one star
- Protégé, Palo Alto: one star
- Manresa, Los Gatos: three stars
- Wakuriya, San Mateo: one star
- Sushi Yoshizumi, San Mateo: one star
- Rasa, Burlingame: one star
- Plumed Horse, Saratoga: one star

Michelin also announced last week its 2019 Bib Gourmand awardees for the California guide, including local restaurants Vesta in Redwood City, Pausa in San Mateo and Royal Feast and wonderful in Millbrae. ▣

Email Elena Kadvany at ekadvany@pawebly.com

BOUNDARIES

► Continued from page 5

campus with space.

The result is that a whole lot of students would be forcefully moved — 540 in total, according to Assistant Superintendent Carmen Ghysels. To take the edge off the transition, school board members allowed "grandfathering" exemptions so fifth grade students could finish elementary school next year, along with their siblings. Several neighborhoods, including Shoreline West, North Whisman, Willowgate and Wagon Wheel, were moved in their entirety from one school to another.

While families were promised the opportunity to contest the move and request an enrollment exemption, the list of legitimate reasons for switching from neighborhood school is narrow and inflexible. Of the 81 that asked for an exemption, only 12 qualified, Ghysels said. Some families sought to switch from Theuerkauf Elementary to Landels, citing a need for safe bike routes to school. Ghysels said the district's exemption committee rejected those requests, in part because those same families were also requesting admission into the Stevenson PACT choice program. Stevenson shares a

campus with Theuerkauf.

"It wasn't really about the distance, it was about the perceptions of the school quality," she said at the May 30 school board meeting. "And those were hard conversations and crucial conversations that the committee had."

One of the driving principals behind the new school boundaries was that Bubb and Huff elementaries, among the district's highest performing schools, were packed to the brim and needed several portable classrooms to house all their students. While both school shrank in size, both are still well above the sweet spot of 450 students.

Part of the reason could be that many families opted for the fifth grade exemption, temporarily dulling the effect of the boundary changes. A total of 95 fifth grade students and 43 of their siblings took advantage of the exemption, Ghysels said.

On the other end is Monta Loma, which is expected to lose students in the coming school year, and district officials are already estimating they will need to reduce the teaching staff from its current 18 down to 14 next year.

For years, outspoken parents and residents worried that opening a new school and redrawing boundaries could

spell trouble for Monta Loma and Theuerkauf, dragging down enrollment until the schools could barely sustain two classrooms at each grade level — otherwise known as "strands." Three strands was considered the goal throughout the boundary-drawing process.

It's unclear whether the boundary-drawing task force and the school board anticipated the enrollment drop. In June 2018, the board was advised that Monta Loma would have 396 students in the 2019-20 school year, just shy of the target. As of May 2, that number was only 342, climbing to 354 by month's end.

District spokeswoman Shelly Hausman cautioned that the enrollment estimates are a moving target and will change — almost daily — in the late spring and summer, before school starts on Aug. 19. She also suggested that the district's estimates back in June 2018 were right on the money, anticipating 346 students at Monta Loma for the upcoming school year. However, the publicly available documents from the June 2018 school board meeting tell a different story, showing a difference of 50 students. Monta Loma's enrollment project is the only school with a number that's changed in what is apparently a revised estimate for the school

that is also dated June 2018.

Monta Loma is the designated campus for military families residing on Moffett Field, which could also be delaying enrollment at the school as families await military orders. Most orders are given in the spring and through July, Hausman said.

Another exemption approved by the school board allows student transfers to "under-enrolled" schools at less than 75% capacity. But the way the rules are being interpreted by district administrators, no school actually qualified for this exemption for the 2019-20 school year, Ghysels said.

"Capacity," in this case, is based on a maximum of 450 students, rather than the available classroom facilities, meaning Theuerkauf and Monta Loma can each handle 575 students but neither one is considered an under-enrolled school.

As for Vargas Elementary, the early projections indicate plenty of families are planning send their children there for its inaugural year. The best guess last year was that 298 students would attend the school in 2019-20, whereas the latest update shows 323 students will be attending in the fall. ▣

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New CEO plans for Silicon Valley Community Foundation's 2.0 version

By Kate Bradshaw

Stepping into the powerful position of president and CEO of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation after the post was vacated last year in a public workplace bullying and misconduct scandal, Nicole Taylor of Menlo Park says she is on a mission to bring the foundation past its history of workplace tumult and put the “community” back in the community foundation.

Despite the presence of the word “community” in its title, though, the foundation is no small mom-and-pop grant maker. It's one of the wealthiest foundations in the world: Its assets total around \$13.5 billion.

It was formed in 2007 following the merger of the Community Foundation Silicon Valley and the Peninsula Community Foundation. Now, it's the largest community foundation and the third-largest foundation in the country, after the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Open Society Foundation.

It also boasts a donor roster of a number of Silicon Valley's iconic and high net-worth presences. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Dr. Priscilla Chan have contributed a combined value of about \$1.96 billion in Facebook stock, according to Forbes. WhatsApp co-founder Jan Koum gave the foundation \$556 million in Facebook stock in 2014. Other donors include Reed Hastings, Netflix CEO; Sergey Brin, Google co-founder; Jack Dorsey, Twitter CEO; Jeff Skoll, former Ebay president; Dustin Moskowitz, Facebook co-founder; Larry Ellison, Oracle co-founder and chairman; and Nick Woodman, GoPro founder, according to Forbes.

A shaken foundation

Despite the foundation's wealth, or perhaps, in part because of what media reports have characterized as a grow-at-all-costs attitude among its top executives in the past, the last year has been a challenging one for the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. In April 2018, its second-in-command officer, Mari Ellen Reynolds Loijens, who worked as chief business, development and brand officer, resigned after an investigative article in the Chronicle of Philanthropy reported former co-workers' allegations that Loijens had created a toxic culture of bullying, embarrassing sexual remarks and oppressive office behavior within the foundation that caused employee turnover.

Loijens had led a team of about 40 people and oversaw the

foundation's donor-advised funds, which represented about 83% of the foundation's assets, the Chronicle of Philanthropy reported.

Legal investigations followed Loijens' resignation, and the foundation's CEO and president, Emmett Carson, was put on administrative leave.

One report, released in June 2018 by law firm Boies Schiller Flexner, found that, in addition to the specific allegations against Loijens, “there were certain widespread workplace culture issues at (the foundation), including a fear of speaking out or reporting workplace issues out of concern for retaliation, as well as a distrust of (human resources) leadership.” Carson stepped down from his position that day.

Following Carson's departure, board member Greg Avis stepped in to act as the foundation's interim president and CEO.

Enter Nicole Taylor, who started working as the foundation's new president and CEO in mid-December. She's a longtime Silicon Valley resident who left the region in early 2017 to work in Arizona, first at Arizona State University as its deputy vice president and dean of students, and then as vice president of the ASU Foundation.

She said she considers the Bay Area home, having attended Stanford for her bachelor's degree in human biology and her master's degree in education; taught in Oakland public schools; worked at the East Bay Community Foundation for more than 15 years, including six as its CEO; led the Thrive Foundation for Youth in Silicon Valley as president and CEO; and worked as associate vice provost of student affairs and dean of community engagement and diversity at Stanford.

During a recent interview, she explained that, more than four months into her tenure, her efforts so far have involved a juggling act of getting to know and introducing herself to the foundation's staff, the communities that make up Silicon Valley, and the foundation's donors. “I had to make sure that I could be as present internally as I needed to be, but also present externally, and that's been a lot of juggling, ... a lot of long days and evenings,” she said.

Coming through this time of “transition,” as Taylor terms it, “There was a lot of work that was done on culture and getting staff to have agency and voice that they may not have had before.”

The foundation created a “culture task force” in which staff drafted its set of values. Among the values identified are courage, collaboration, respect, inclusion

and accountability, she said.

Moving forward

Now, she said, the foundation is aiming to start a “new chapter.” As part of that endeavor, it's preparing to launch a strategic planning process, she added. “We really haven't gone through that kind of comprehensive strategic process, at least for a while, and we plan on it being inclusive.”

The process will involve outreach to staff, community members, donors and civic leaders, she said. “We are their community foundation.”

In doing so, she said, she's hoping to promote leadership within the organization. She said it's time for her to talk with the foundation's leadership team and managers through questions like: What does it mean for them to lead? What does she need to address, and what can they tackle? How can the leadership team lead the organization together?

She said that she's interested in not being the “only spokesperson for the organization.”

“How can we make sure (people who work with donors and in the community) can speak about who we're becoming and what we care about and what we value?” she added.

Big questions, like what that actually means, what it looks like, how the foundation demonstrates the values it claims to espouse, how employees and staff members at the foundation can be heard and empowered, how she should communicate with those staff members, and what the foundation's role should be in the community and with donors are all matters they're talking about now, she said.

More challenges

Workplace atmosphere aside, the foundation has faced criticism on other fronts: specifically, that it's not very transparent, that donors aren't required to spend very much of what they put into the funds, and that a lot of the funds that are distributed aren't spent locally.

A May 2018 Atlantic article by Alana Semuels argues that the type of charitable account that holds most of the foundation's assets, the “donor advised fund,” allows donors major tax breaks for giving money or stock, but doesn't come with transparency or spending requirements.

Philanthropy ethicist and Stanford professor Rob Reich, in his recently-published book, “Just Giving: Why Philanthropy is Failing Democracy and How it Can Do Better,” describes donor-advised funds as a “kind of kudzu



VERONICA WEBER

Nicole Taylor speaks to attendees of the Palo Alto Weekly's Holiday Fund reception, held in April.

that is eating the U.S. charitable sector” and now represents the largest recipient of charitable contributions in the past few years in this country.

Donor-advised funds give donors the immediate tax benefits of a charitable contribution, but permit delays to occur between when the fund is created and when contributions are delivered to nonprofits, he explains. According to Reich, donor-advised funds “represent an opportunity to warehouse philanthropic assets with no legal requirement to make allocations from the fund.”

“The ability to satisfy the payout rule via administrative expenses or payments to donor-advised funds constitutes an evasion of the rule's purpose.”

Taylor doesn't see it that way. “We as a sector haven't talked about our impact enough, and I think that has led to the feeling, right or wrong, that money isn't getting out to the community, that people are parking their funds at donor-advised funds, and not moving them out,” she said.

“For community foundations,” she continued, “that's not true. And for donor-advised funds in general, that's not true. ... Donor-advised funds give out anywhere between 14 to 25% every year out of their funds, and our donors are no exception.”

If funds do become dormant, she said, the foundation staff works with donors to make sure they get the funds out.

She said that the foundation staff is now working to contact every donor every quarter. That means they check in with donors, make sure they have ideas about where to give based on their interests, and offer help and planning guidance. “We're really trying to be proactive,” she added.

In working with donors, she said, foundation staff members get to know donors and understand the issues and kinds of organizations they care about, as well as the kind of impact they want their philanthropy to have. Some donors just want everything on the foundation website; others want staff to sit down with the

family and talk to them in person about their giving options, she explained.

In 2018, the foundation gave a total of \$1.4 billion in grants, foundation spokesperson Sue McAllister reported. Only about \$114 million, or 8%, was given within San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Bay Area counties outside of those two counties claimed an additional \$380 million; the bulk of the foundation's grant dollars, \$795 million, was given in the rest of California and the U.S.; and \$69 million went to international recipients.

It's a fact, Taylor acknowledged, that donors' philanthropic interests sometimes fall outside of Silicon Valley. Perhaps they want to give to their hometown or city, or perhaps they're passionate about addressing international problems. Or maybe a fund from a Silicon Valley-based corporation — a type of fund the foundation also oversees — has other locations in other communities its leaders want to support philanthropically.

Then, foundation staff members make calls to the foundation's network of other community foundations and international nonprofits to do their due diligence to make sure the donor's dollars will be spent responsibly, Taylor explained.

“Part of our role, as is for any community foundation, is to help the donors be the best philanthropists they can be,” she said.

One thing the foundation is trying to do more of, she added, is to help donors see that the problems they care about addressing in other places around the world happen in their own communities too.

For example, she said, some donors care a lot about problems of water access in certain areas of Africa.

“When I brought up that there's some water issues right here, in Santa Clara County, they were shocked,” she said.

“Even mentioning something like that has the donor thinking, ‘Huh, it's not either-or, it's both-and. I can continue to do the work in the villages that I have been, and maybe I need to think about how I can impact that issue here at home,’” she said, noting

that by informing donors of the challenges their own communities face, she can “(help) them do what they really want to do and (expand) their view of what they can be doing locally.”

A shifting outlook

Coming back to Silicon Valley after two years away, she said, she was surprised by how much the place had changed. Or maybe she was seeing it with fresher eyes, she said. There are more people living in RVs and campers on El Camino Real than she remembered; more people living two or three families to a two-bedroom apartment; more people being evicted; more people living just one paycheck away from homelessness.

What’s really changed since she left for Arizona, she noted, is that the problems of Silicon Valley are too big to ignore now.

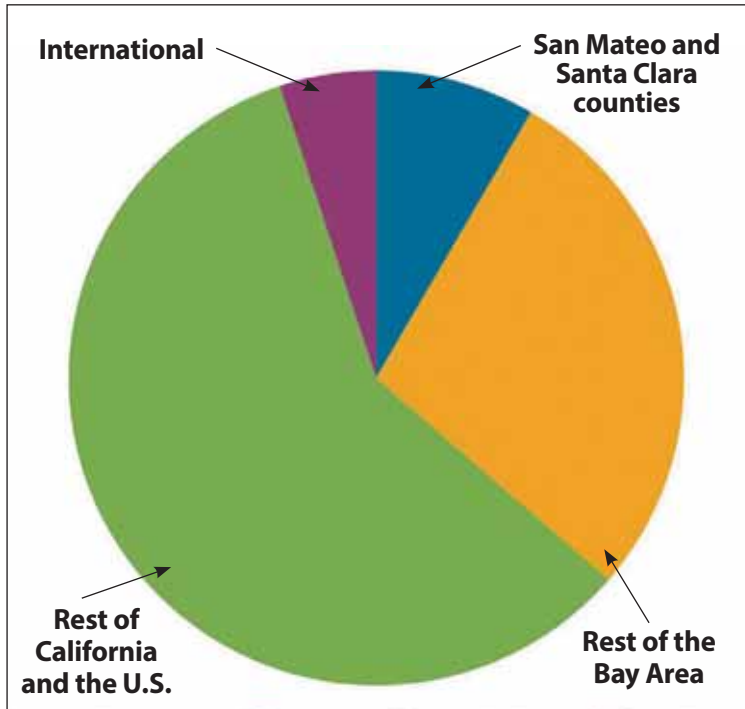
She recounted a recent conversation with the custodian who works at the offices of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, just off of El Camino Real in Mountain View. He told her he was tired, because he’s working two jobs and lives two hours away, even as a father of young kids.

“He sleeps literally three hours a day,” she said. “And he’s not the only one.”

Donors and “some of the folks who are running companies,” she said, are coming to her asking what they should be doing to address the inequities and human problems that are “literally in our faces every day,” she said.

Some of those problems are housing, homelessness, and transportation, as well as the challenges faced by people like her office’s custodian, “people like this wonderful man who’s working two jobs, driving two hours to get home to be with his little ones, and starting it all over again,” she said. “We can’t ignore it.”

Donors, she said, now see their



DATA COURTESY SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

In 2018, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation distributed about \$1.4 billion in grants. Of that, \$114 million went to San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, \$380 million went to the rest of the Bay Area, \$795 million went to the rest of California and the U.S. and \$69 million went to other countries.

employees struggling with these problems, or notice that the teachers at their kids’ schools are leaving mid-year because they can’t afford to stay through the end of the school year. They’re asking for more education and information about what’s working and what the problems are, while community organizations are asking for more resources, and to talk about the impact they’re having.

They’re now seeing and talking about these problems in ways they weren’t a few years ago, she said. “We’re in a position to really help point them to solutions.”

Setting the table

But no foundation — or organization, company or individual — can solve these problems alone, she said. “We have to understand what we can bring to the

table. A lot of times, we can set the table. We can bring people together to talk about these issues and bring people from different perspectives.”

In addition, she said, the foundation works closely with the public sector, shaping public policy by talking to elected officials at the local, state and federal levels.

“We lobby on bills. We work with mayors, we work with county supervisors. We work with folks in Sacramento on issues that impact this region, and we are unabashed about that,” she said.

“I think we’re in a unique position to harness that same creativity, that same innovation, that same disruptive spirit that created the Silicon Valley and the success we’ve had, ... take that, and harness it for these really complicated human problems that we have here.”

for Stevenson Elementary, filling in while its principal, Rebecca Westover, was out on personal leave, according to the district website. After that, he focused on “staffing and logistics” for Vargas.

“I am confident that the next leader of Jose Antonio Vargas Elementary will guide its successful opening,” Jones said in his email to parents.

Taylor, an 11-year district employee, taught at Castro Elementary before becoming an instructional coach in 2014. He was appointed to be assistant principal at Graham Middle School in October 2017, just five months before the school board voted in March 2018 to remove Kim Thompson as principal of Graham and reassigned the other assistant principal, Heidi Galassi, to be the principal of Landels

Elementary School. Taylor joined Graham at a critical time when a new “cascading” eight-period schedule was rolled out, along with a new co-teaching model to support students with special needs.

Rudolph said Taylor was selected as principal on an accelerated timeline so he could prepare for the opening of Vargas Elementary over the summer, and that he is qualified to lead the school.

“I know Mr. Taylor will hit the ground running and build on the Vargas planning set in place,” Rudolph said in the email. “We are excited for him, a well-respected educator, to move into this position that supports our students and the new Vargas community.”

Taylor did not immediately respond to the *Voice’s* requests for comment.

PRINCIPAL

► Continued from page 1

Abu Dhabi for three years. Before that, he worked for five years as a principal at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, a school district in Charlotte, North Carolina.

District administrators hired Jones before the new school on the former Slater campus was named. Students in the northeast end of Mountain View have been divided between Theuerkauf, Huff and Landels elementary school campuses, and many of those children attend the district’s choice programs in lieu of neighborhood schools.

In addition to planning for the opening of Vargas Elementary, Jones spent the early part of his brief stint in Mountain View Whisman as interim principal



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995 Fictitious Name Statement

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Mountain View, CA 94040

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This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on April 26, 2019.
(MVV May 17, 24, 31; June 7, 2019)

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File No.: FBN654626

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File No.: FBN654369

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MIGUEL REYES
453 N. Rengstorff Ave., Apt. 14
Mountain View, CA 94043

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 05/01/2019.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on May 1, 2019.
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN654836

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BRANDON HONG LE
1370 Mills St.
Menlo Park, CA 94040

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Council members respond to the *Voice's* editorial on housing

By Mayor Lisa Matichak and
Vice Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga

It is disappointing that the *Voice* chose to write an incomplete editorial, sensationally titled "A crisis of character" in the May 17 edition. It starts by saying "It isn't clear what Mountain View City Council plans to do about" the Bay Area housing crisis.

Let us take this opportunity to remind the *Voice* — and its readers — what we have *already done* since the *Voice's* 2014 editorial about jobs-housing imbalances. First, the council adopted an award-winning precise plan that transforms a suburban office park into complete neighborhoods, allowing up to 9,850 new housing units with 20% designated as affordable housing. And we are poised to adopt another plan for East Whisman, making 5,000 more units possible. We

have approved 4,400 new housing units since 2014, and another 3,100 are currently under review.

The council updated the below market rate (BMR) ordinance to increase affordability requirements on new rental developments from 10% to 15%, and is expected to do the same for ownership units this

month. In just the past three years, we have added 210 affordable units; 183 affordable units will open later this year for veterans and families; over 200 affordable units were approved just this month; and more than 600 additional affordable housing units are currently in various stages of planning.

We have made it a city priority to address displacement. It is also worth noting that Mountain View is one of only two cities in the county with a tenant

relocation assistance ordinance (TRAO) for complexes under 50 units, and in May 2018 the council amended the TRAO to increase the amount of assistance provided.

Our city has probably done more than any other city of

Guest Opinion

its size on the regional issue of homelessness. As of

March, 116 Mountain View affiliated households have been placed in housing, with an additional 44 households on the path to more stable housing. We continue to combine both funding (nearly \$2 million) and resources with the county and local nonprofits, such as CSA, Hope's Corner, the cold weather shelter at Trinity United Methodist Church, the Graduate House transitional shelter, and the Quetzal House youth shelter. We helped fund

the nonprofit MOVE Mountain View to organize and operate a safe parking program, and have identified two city-controlled lots to expand local capacity to around 60 parking spaces — giving Mountain View nearly 50% of all such locations operating in the county at this time. And we have implemented an affordable housing strategy that includes facilitating the development of 200 to 250 units of permanent supportive and rapid rehousing.

We believe the Mountain View City Council has shown incredible character, compassion, and leadership on these very complex regional issues. And we challenge you to find another city in the area that has done more, relative to our size, on housing and homelessness.

Lisa Matichak is the mayor of Mountain View and Margaret Abe-Koga is the vice mayor.

Council should show compassion for vehicle dwellers

By Dave Arnone and
IdaRose Sylvester

Like many other Bay Area cities, Mountain View has a visible population living in vehicles. In December 2018, our police department counted 290 vehicles people appeared to be living in, including 192 motor homes and 89 passenger vehicles.

The city has responded by providing both public safety enforcement and social services, including assistance that has helped many vehicle residents find permanent housing. But the high cost of living keeps driving more people onto the streets.

In January, the city concluded a survey of the general public. Of the 1,170 who responded, only 44% supported "parking restrictions." Despite public sentiment against parking restrictions, on March 19 our City Council directed staff to draft a citywide ban for overnight parking of oversized vehicles. In exchange, the council has promised to open a few safe parking lots for a limited number of vehicles. The council is scheduled to take up the issue at its meeting on Tuesday, June 11.

As proposed, this ordinance will immediately force nearly

200 inhabited vehicles out of Mountain View.

Here's what we believe that ordinance should do instead:

- Vehicle dwellers are residents: First, we recognize those living in vehicles in Mountain View as residents. They work in our schools, homes and restaurants. The children attend our schools. As residents, they each deserve a protected place and a protected experience in our community.

- Enforcement and safe parking: We ask that the City Council implement clear, actionable safe parking plans before increasing any form of enforcement. Compassion dictates that enforcement and safe parking not be separated.

- Parking spaces: We ask that the city identify and protect 200 "safe" parking spaces so that no current law-abiding resident has to leave Mountain View. Since currently identified lots will not provide sufficient spaces, we ask the city to identify and protect some on-street parking in nonresidential areas to offset the difference.

- Resident registration: It is often said that we don't know who is living in the vehicles. Concerns about identity are both

legitimate and addressable. The city should implement a simple registration system for authorized parking areas. Registration should prioritize those working, attending school or who recently

Guest Opinion

lived in permanent housing in Mountain View to help

limit the influx of new vehicle households. Residents we have spoken with support registration. Additionally, they support paying a regular safe parking fee, as they wish to pay their way and support the community.

- Parking lots that enable efficient support of our residents: Our council has declared that we have a housing emergency. Until the emergency is over, we ask for a streamlined set of requirements for building and managing safe parking. The city of San Diego provides safe parking with minimal city requirements, and thereby fits many more vehicles into lots than Mountain View allows. The city should waive requirements for permanent lighting, professional grading, on-site garbage pickup, and redundant driveways for emergency vehicles.

Parking should be allowed 24/7 for up to 90 days before residents need to move. Operation 24/7 will keep motor homes from parking on the streets

during the day.

- Non-oversized vehicles: The city must also preserve the long-term right for residents to live in non-oversized vehicles parked on the street.

Banning vehicle residents from our streets does not make them disappear. It only exacerbates homelessness, pushing people into more desperate situations. Mountain View has the financial means and the good sense to be a leader in providing safe parking. The homelessness crisis will only get worse until we build more low-income housing. We must be fair, inclusive, and equitable to address the needs of all our residents.

Dave Arnone is a 25-year resident of Mountain View and IdaRose Sylvester has lived in the city for 20 years.

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.

LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

RV BAN IS IMMORAL

The proposed ban on parking RVs in Mountain View is immoral. It is not right to pass an ordinance that turns a group of people into criminals. It is unconscionable when the people in question are poor and faced with few options. Most of these people have jobs and are contributing members of society, but even if they weren't, we have no right to turn our backs on them. The solution is to provide more housing, and if the City Council and the voters aren't willing to do that, all in the name of "quality of life" or other euphemisms that are just thinly disguised NIMBY-isms, then it is a moral failure. Mountain View is a great city on balance; let's make it a great city for everyone.

Mark Ruzon
Vaquero Drive

ALLOW MORE HOMES NOW

As a Democrat and someone who grew up in the Bay Area, I am very disappointed in my party, my city, and my state.

I have been doing grassroots housing advocacy since

2014. Recently my organization reached out to a Bay Area nonprofit affordable housing developer to look for advocacy opportunities for their new upcoming projects. They said they've put all new projects on hold because they can't hire staff to work on them.

Opposition to allowing us to shelter all of our population, which hides under the guise of anti-corporatism, is despicable coming from my neighbors who claim to care for others.

I am bewildered by Democrats who oppose SB 50 and call for caution in undoing the zoning mistakes of the past. We need to take action to allow more homes now! A year from tomorrow is too late.

David Watson
Montecito Avenue

CALTRAIN CAN DO BETTER

I have been a Caltrain rider for over 40 years. I have seen Caltrain progress from not allowing any bicycles on trains to becoming one of the best transit agencies for allowing bikes on board. Being able to take a bicycle on the train is

critical to using the train as a substitute for a car. It allows train riders to use multiple stations, run errands and meet clients during the day. Without the ability to have my bicycle with me, I could not do this. This is true for many other regular train riders as well.

For many people the train/bike combination is the only way to get to work, as they cannot afford a car. Caltrain passengers with bicycles are the only class of train riders that are denied boarding at the platform. For some people this can cause them to lose a job. All other Caltrain passengers are always allowed to board the train.

The current staff proposal for electric train layout reduces bicycle space and encourages bike theft. Having only two bike cars, rather than four, will increase dwell time, causing delays and forcing passengers with bikes to stand in the aisle, making it hard for people to restack bikes and move in and out of the train. Additionally, it will cut capacity from 77 to 72 bikes per train at a time when demand is growing. Caltrain can do better than the current staff proposal.

Bob Mack, Publisher,
Cycle California! Magazine

BIKE CARS

I am a monthly Caltrain pass holder and cyclist who has utilized both forms of transportation to commute to work for well over a decade.

I was concerned to learn that the proposed car layout for Caltrain's new electrified cars will reduce bike capacity, fails to meet Caltrain's own board-mandated seats-to-bike space ratio, and will reduce the number of seats within view of bikes, which is critical to the reduction of bicycle theft.

Understanding that cyclists are commonly bumped today, the decision to reduce and not increase bike capacity going forward appears to be extremely shortsighted at best.

As a cyclist, I feel that we are the most dependable monthly pass holders for Caltrain and require the least amount of infrastructure by not requiring parking or shuttles to reach our final destination (e.g., work).

Just the other day, I stood in a full Caltrain bike car while looking toward a completely empty passenger car. I cannot understand why any business would intentionally inconvenience its most dependable customers and place their possessions at increased risk.

Barry Marchessault
San Bruno

CLIMATE-CHANGE MACHINE

From a popular old-timey kid's song, modified for today's issues:

O Dunderbeck o Dunderbeck how could you be so mean to ever have invented the climate-change machine

Now all the rats and long-tailed cats (and millions of other species)

will never more be seen.

They've all been crushed by flood and drought from Dunderbeck

(actually Exxon Mobil's) climate-change machine.

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We honor these retirees and staff members for their years of service. Please join us in celebrating their commitment, and expressing our gratitude for their dedication to our students and families!

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Carol Braunstein – 20 Years
Patricia Burris – 20 Years
Ramon Farias – 26 Years
Christine Funk – 7 Years
Melanie Hibbs – 26 Years
Theresa Hygate – 14 Years
Michael Kahl – 18 Years
Cynthia Murphy – 19 Years
Merlene Saunders – 33 Years

Years of Service

10 Years

Rachel Fetroe
Gloria Higgins
Arlene Miyata
Irene Morrison
Ysidro Rivera
Kirstin Solorzano
Melanie Standley
Moira Turner

15 Years

Ranen Bhattacharya
Irene Cuevas
Anne Jennings
Doreen Kalb
Lela Karzian
Sara Kearns-Vella
Steven Keesecker
Gail Lee
Dorian Martinka
Sherri Minor
Paula Pasquini
Cristobal Pichardo
Elizabeth Reeves
Frances Rodriguez
Felix Ruiz
Leanne Rzepiela

20 Years

Carolyn Anzia
Carol Braunstein
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Ana Gomez

Melanie Gray

Jose Lopez
Leslie McClellan
Colleen McCullough
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30 Years

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Ready for takeoff

Flights' food and drink trios are gimmicky, but fun



Story by Monica Schreiber
Photos by Veronica Weber

The Mountain View Flights was the fourth to land in the Bay Area in less than 18 months, following rapid-fire launches in Campbell, Los Gatos and Burlingame. Fasten your seat belts, ladies and gentlemen, the next stop is Las Vegas. The world capital of concept eateries is the obvious next destination for this fast-growing chain, built on the notion that comfort food and classic cocktails are more fun in threes.

Aviation-themed and over-the-top, Flights is as gimmicky as it is cacophonous. The servers sport pilot uniforms and there's a call button on your table to summon them. It is a fun kind of gimmicky, though, and my visits to the 7-month-old Mountain View location were mostly enjoyable. Ultimately, it is more economy

plus than first class, but the three-is-better-than-one premise can make for an entertaining evening.

Flights is piloted by Sweden native and one-time pro hockey player Alexander Hult and his wife Sarah, a former Miss Nevada. Hult was drafted by the San Jose Sharks in 2003 but was derailed by an injury before he could officially join the team. He previously ran an eponymous fine-dining restaurant in Los Gatos. The couple has high-flying ambitions for their growing empire, envisioning Flights in cities and airports (of course!) around the country. The Vegas outpost, set to open later this month, will seat 300.

The prime location at the corner of Castro and California streets, previously occupied by Shiva's, now does a good impression of an airport bar, with loud — much too loud — music most



Above: Bartender Amanda Burney prepares a trio of frozen margaritas at Flights in Mountain View. **Top:** The ahi tuna flight serves up tataki, poke and sashimi.

evenings. TV screens, usually tuned to sports, flash aggressively from every corner of the dining room. Uncomfortable metal chairs call to mind coach seating for a long-haul flight. But you can't help but smile once your epaulet-wearing server presents the full-color, photo-adorned menu.

It is all way more Vegas than Valley. And it seems remarkable that such a brash, decidedly American concept sprang from the mind of someone from Scandinavia, known for clean-lined restraint.

A few months ago, the Hults hired a new executive chef, Kyle

Kingrey, to elevate and expand their initial menu, which had been tilted more toward all-American bar bites. The result is a mix of middlebrow comfort food, some trendy ethnic-fusion and cocktail standards. There are a solid number of vegetarian and vegan selections. While the food ranges from tasty to terrible, the adult beverage portion of the experience is what distinguishes Flights. There are at least as many cocktails as food selections on the menu.

The varied flavors and cute glasses definitely triple the fun of a pre-meal cocktail. I enjoyed a potent, whiskey-forward

Manhattan flight (orange, classic and chocolate) and, during another visit, the Old Fashioned flight (orange, classic and "bold") (both \$19). The pours were generous and the flavors on point. A cocktail flight adds up to about one and a half typical drink servings. A flight of "first class reds"

(\$19) came with a card detailing the vintages and offering hints on what notes and finishes you might experience as you sip each wine. It was a nice touch and made for a fun, mini wine-tasting experience.

To accompany the wines, I chose the prime New York strip

steak with creamed spinach and homemade steak sauce (\$32), one of Flights' four "shareable entrees." The 12-ounce steak arrived medium well, rather than the medium rare I had requested, a surprise given that I was one

► See **FLIGHTS**, page 20



The New York strip steak is served with chimichurri and steak sauces, a small side of creamed spinach and salad.



Bartender Chris Russell serves a flight of three mojitos.

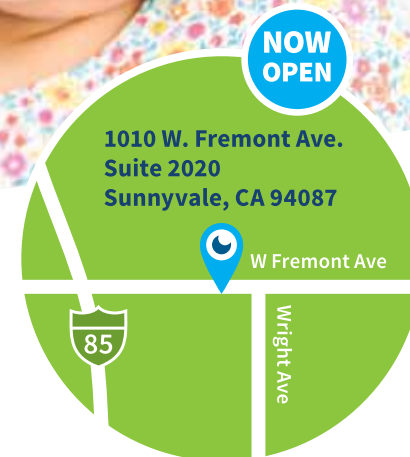
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"Google walkout" by Natalia Nazarova

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"Hell's bells! Neighborhood outcry over church's mishap" by Magali Gauthier

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"Firm behind local ADA lawsuits is being sued" by Mark Noack

Feature Story

"Mushroom houses on Mars" by Mark Noack

Editorial Comment

"A dishonest debate over rent control" by Andrea Gemmet

Inside Page Layout & Design

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Flights in Mountain View, which specializes in food and drink trios, offers three versions of macaroni and cheese: plain, truffle and bacon.

FLIGHTS

► Continued from page 19

just a handful of diners in the restaurant early on a Sunday evening and the kitchen likely was only working on a few orders.

That said, my attentive server noticed my steak was overcooked and quickly volunteered a re-do. The medium rare steak that came back was tender and nicely seasoned, accompanied by a small, lightly dressed green salad. The creamed spinach was served more as a condiment than a proper side (there was far more steak sauce than spinach). This was too bad because I wanted more of that spinach and bechamel decadence.

A meatless but oh-so-meaty Beyond beef slider (\$6) from the "bites" portion of the menu was a larger-than-average slider slathered with an avocado spread, pickled onions and pepperoncini. The French fry flight (\$14) was ideal for sharing (not all the flights are), with three baskets of piping hot but unremarkable fries: sweet and smoky, sea salt and truffle. The truffle version was the most flavorful. The other two were barely distinguishable from each other.

The dips and pita flight (\$12) offered creamy hummus, smoky baba ganoush and a tangy tzatziki along with fresh, thick pieces of pita. This was a winner. Not so much the ceviche flight (\$16). The tuna ceviche was edible, barely. The salmon and shrimp versions were not: heavy on the onion, light on the seafood (which was mushy anyway) and bathed in a cloying tomato sauce that tasted like something from a can.

I had high hopes for the mac and cheese flight (plain, truffle, bacon; \$18), but was a little underwhelmed. The presentation was delightful: three cute little skillets served atop a long wooden board. But the skillets were deceptively shallow and three petite servings of what turned out to be rather bland macaroni did not add up to \$18 worth of cheese and pasta.

The dessert menu seems inspired by TGI Fridays with a hint of The Cheesecake Factory. To wit: the "macaron payload," (\$12) an only-in-America cookie and ice cream extravaganza that again had me marveling at the fact that Flights is the brainchild of a Swede.

As someone who enjoys culinary variety and routinely makes a meal from the appetizer portion menus, I love the concept here, even if I did not love everything I tried. Note that it is easy to over-order, especially as some flights are not all that shareable with parties larger than three. Expect to pay at least \$60 per person at dinner if you have a cocktail or wine flight. It is easy to spend more. Note the 4% service charge is added to each bill to cover minimum wage increases.

A generous happy hour runs from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and would be a good opportunity for a test flight. ▣

■ DINING NOTES

Flights

800 California St.,
Mountain View
650-386-6424

flightsrestaurants.com

Hours: Monday-Tuesday,
11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.;
Wednesday-Thursday,
11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.;
Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.;
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Happy Hour ✓

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Giant, angry beasts are on the rampage in 'Godzilla: King of the Monsters.'

MOVIE OPENINGS

The thrill that's 'Godzilla'

'KING OF THE MONSTERS' UPS THE CREATURE-FEATURE ANTE

★★★1/2 (Century 16 & 20, Icon)

The new American film "Godzilla: King of the Monsters" honors a tradition that has won over millions of Japanese "kaiju" (giant monster movie) fans for the past 60 years. Directed and co-written by Michael Dougherty, this sequel to 2014's "Godzilla" dusts off other iconic creatures from the Godzilla family: giant-moth-thing Mothra, pteranodon-esque Rodan, and three-headed monster King Ghidorah. The promise of monster versus monster — in various combinations — is all that the true believers need to get their butts in seats.

For everyone else, "Godzilla: King of the Monsters" has a

higher bar to pass in an era that has produced blockbusters including "Godzilla," "Kong: Skull Island," the "Cloverfield" movies, the "Pacific Rim" movies, "Rampage" and more.

While Dougherty's take emphasizes its plethora of monsters, it also gathers a cast of character actors in an attempt to create a human-interest story on which to hang the action.

The biggest human star here, oddly enough, is teenager Millie Bobby Brown, making her big-screen debut on the strength of her Netflix sensation "Stranger Things" (another sci-fi monster tale). Brown plays Madison

Russell, whose estranged parents are kaiju experts. Paleobiologist Dr. Emma Russell (Vera Farmiga) and anthrozoologist Dr. Mark Russell (Kyle Chandler) couldn't keep their marriage together after the loss of their son in a monster attack. When kaiju start making havoc again, and Emma and Madison get lost in the shuffle, monster-managing organization Monarch brings a reluctant Mark back into the fold.

From there, it's a lot of character actors gathered around consoles in dark laboratories, under big radar maps that track the monsters' movements. Ken Watanabe and Sally Hawkins reprise their

roles from the 2014 film, and we're introduced to new scientists played by Bradley Whitford, Thomas Middleditch, and Zhang Ziyi. Dougherty makes every night dark and stormy and every interior shadowy, making for a night at the movies that sometimes feels more like a patience-testing blackout at home (3D only enhances that impression).

We spend too little quality time with Godzilla for him to register as a character (it's a tough trick to give a creature personality, but hardly impossible), and the human characters prove one-note, mostly because there's no time to discuss anything but monsters. While every plot twist is explained, that doesn't mean every plot twist is believable, and the Russells are so grumpy and/or kooky that there's no rooting interest in bringing them back together.

The CGI creatures impress — a star is reborn in Mothra — and their battles, though dark and often too tightly framed, basically deliver the fire-breathing goods. It's just unfortunate that the picture as a whole lumbers a lot like its 40-story-tall star.

Rated PG-13 for sequences of monster action violence and destruction, and for some language. Two hours, 11 minutes.

— Peter Canavese



MOVIE REVIEWS

NON-FICTION ★★★

"Non-Fiction" slyly addresses our human-natural instinct to hunker down in our comfort zones even as we fear the world passing us by should we remain in one place. With good humor, French writer-director Olivier Assayas tells a fictional/non-fictional tale about how we think and how we consume media, how we tell stories to each other and ourselves and what we need out of our personal connections. In large part, "Non-Fiction" plays out like an '80s or '90s Woody Allen comedy-drama, a roundelay of strained marriages and illicit affairs, and how we understand and relate to our world in a post-truth era. Juliette Binoche plays Selena, a somewhat less successful version of herself who feels stifled in her gig on a cop show named "Collusion." Her husband, Alain (Guillaume Canet), runs a publishing company built on shifting sands. At the film's outset, Alain rejects the latest book by novelist Leonard (Vincent Macaigne) for reasons that may or may not be objective — his wife is having an affair with the novelist. But then Alain, too, is carrying on an affair, with his publishing company's "head of digital transition" Laure (Christa Theret). As the characters navigate their fraught relationships, they never stop bantering about the state of the world. Assayas has the wit to both mock his characters' privileged viewpoints and earnestly make their cases.

Employment

QA Engineer

(Zanbato, Inc - Mountain View, CA) Create test plans, cases, analyze data across platforms. MS Comp. Science + 2 yrs exp as QA Eng. incl. web/mobile apps, Black/White box testing, Selenium req. 35 hrs/wk. Email resume: zanbatoinc@gmail.com

Senior DevOps Engineer (SDE-SA)

Maintain DevOps software & tools already in production on AWS Cloud. MS+3 or BS+5. Send resumes to MobileIron, Attn: Lana Lam, 401 E. Middlefield Rd, Mountain View, CA 94043. Must ref title & code.

ENGINEERING

Synopsis, Inc. has openings in Mountain View, CA: Program Manager, Sr. II: Mng the dvlpmnt and implementation of P&R tech. Req MS in EE, CS, IS or rel + 2 yrs prgrm mngmnt exp mnging large SW projects. REQ# 21866BR. Systems Admin, Sr. I: Provide tech support for UGE/LSF/RTDA Compute farms. Req. MS in CE/EE/CS or rel. + 1 yr exp in Linux system admin. REQ# 22004BR. Multiple Openings. To apply, send resume with REQ# to: printads@synopsys.com. EEO Employer/Vet/Disabled

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NOW SHOWING

Aladdin (PG) ★★ Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Avengers: Endgame (PG-13) ★★★1/2
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Bend of the River (1952) (Not Rated)
Stanford Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

The Biggest Little Farm (PG)
Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

Booksmart (R) Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Dark Phoenix (PG-13) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Echo in the Canyon (PG-13)
Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

Godzilla: King of the Monsters (PG-13) ★★★1/2
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum (R)
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Ma (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Non-Fiction (R) ★★★ Guild Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

Photograph (PG-13) Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

Pokemon Detective Pikachu (PG) ★★
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Rocketman (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

The Secret Life of Pets 2 (PG) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

The Souvenir (R) Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

The White Crow (R) Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

Winchester '73 (1950) (Not Rated)
Stanford Theatre: 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

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

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MILK PAIL FAREWELL CELEBRATION

After 45 years in business, the Milk Pail Market will be closing at the end of June. The farewell celebration will include cheese tasting, sampling of Milk Pail products, food trucks, activities and live music. June 8, 12-4 p.m. Free. Milk Pail Market, 2585 California St., Mountain View. milkpailfarewell.eventbrite.com

THEATER

'Archduke' TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents the Northern California premiere of "Archduke." Written by Pulitzer Prize finalist Rajiv Joseph, the story explores how one man, one moment, can derail an entire century. June 5-30, times vary. \$60; discounts for students, seniors. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org

'Next to Normal' This Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning musical explores mental illness and the effect it has on the American family. Through June 22, 8 p.m. \$38; discount for students. Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos.

'Present Laughter' by Noel Coward A frothy comedy about show business, "Present Laughter" is replete with seductions, suspicions, adulteries and blackmail. June 6-30; times vary. \$15-\$35. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. thepear.org

'12 Angry Women' "12 Angry Women" is a crime screenplay telling the story of a murder trial with tense deliberations becoming personal as the jurors project the evidence upon their own individual truths. June 7, 8 p.m. and June 9, 2 p.m. \$10. The Lohman Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Fratello Marionettes Present 'The Frog Prince'

Children of all ages are invited to attend the timeless fairytale of a spoiled princess, a golden ball and a talkative frog in this theatrical production. June 12, 3-3:45 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. scl.evanced.info

'One Man, Two Guvnors' This fast-paced farce follows Francis Henshall, who finds himself down on his luck, hungry and suddenly employed by two mob bosses. June 14-30; times vary. \$25-\$52; discounts available. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. paplayers.org

'Two Arrows: Stone Age Detective' Presented by TheaterGames Productions, this play about a murder committed within a tribe is performed entirely in Russian. June 8, 4 p.m. and June 9, 1 p.m. \$27; \$22 for students, youth under 21. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. tickets.mvcpa.com/

CONCERTS

'A Ruby Necklace' The final concert of the Bay Choral Guild's 40th season will feature Bach's "Jesu, meine Freude," Brahms' "Scha?e in mir, Gott," Dole's "Invitation to a Voyage," "Bogoroditse Devo" from Rachmanino's "All Night Vigil" and more. June 7-9; times vary. \$30; discounts for students, seniors. First Congregational

Church Palo Alto, 1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Brad Paisley, Chris Lane and Riley Green Country music artists Brad Paisley, Chris Lane and Riley Green will perform. June 7, 7-10 p.m. \$29-\$99. Shoreline Amphitheatre, 1 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

'KidStock' featuring Martin and the Green Guitar "KidStock," a new event series made for kids, will feature live children's music, games, arts and crafts and more. June 15, 10 a.m.- noon. Free. Mountain View City Hall, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Mountain View Public Library Summer Reading Kick-Off Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by a concert at 7 p.m. with Andy Z. June 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Gershwin Concert for Cancer Charity George and Ira Gershwin will perform a benefit concert for Cancer Commons, a nonprofit company using artificial intelligence and data-mining to match patients with experimental cancer treatments. June 9, 3:30-5 p.m. \$20 suggested donation. Bridges Community Church of Los Altos, 625 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

'In Your Light' Concert 200 young women from iSing Silicon Valley, Palo Alto's international award-winning girls' chorus, take the stage to perform. June 9, 2:30 p.m. \$15-\$30. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

'Abide With Me' The New Choir, an audition chamber choir, will perform various music selections. June 8, 7:30 p.m. and June 9, 4 p.m. \$25; discount for students, seniors. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverly St., Palo Alto. newchoir.org/

MUSIC

Open Mic @ Red Rock Coffee Performers sing in front of a supportive audience and meet fellow musicians and artists during Open Mic Mondays at Red Rock Coffee. Sign-ups start at 6:30 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. redrockcoffee.org/open-mic/

TALKS & LECTURES

Jennifer Chambliss Bertman Jennifer Chambliss Bertman will discuss her New York Times bestselling middle-grade novel, "Book Scavenger." June 9, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Free. Books Inc. Palo Alto, 855 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. booksinc.net

'Pout Pout Fish' Story Time with Deborah Diesen Author Deborah Diesen hosts a special storytime to introduce her new book, "The Pout-Pout Fish Cleans Up the Ocean." June 10, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

How to Be a Romance Author Romance author Anita Claire will share her experience of transitioning from a tech employee to a writer. June 13, 7-8 p.m. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainview.libcal.com

'Patron Saints of Nothing' Author Randy Ribay celebrates the launch of "Patron Saints of Nothing," a coming-of-age story about grief, guilt and the risks a Filipino American teenager takes to uncover the truth about his cousin's murder. June 12, 7-8 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

'Disappearing Earth' Julia Phillips' debut novel "Disappearing Earth" follows the women of Kamchatka, a remote Russian peninsula, after the disappearance and potential kidnapping of two young women in their tight-knit community. June 7, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

'This is Now': Louise Aronson Geriatrician Louise Aronson offers a re-examination of the later decades, with all of their joys and frustrations. June 11, 7:30-9 p.m. \$23 or \$45 with book; discount for students. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Rick Atkinson on the Revolutionary War Pulitzer Prize-winning author Rick Atkinson celebrates the publication of his new book, "The British Are Coming." June 10, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

West Bay Model Railroad Association Open House Trains run on a scenic two-level layout while club members answer questions. Held on the second Saturday of June, July and August; 1-4 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Caltrain station, 1090 Merrill St., Menlo Park. business.menloparkchamber.com

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

Josiah McElheny: 'Island Universe' Josiah McElheny's "Island Universe" examines both cutting-edge art and physics. The monumental installation of five hanging chandeliers is a visual response to recent theories of the multiverse, an elaboration of the Big Bang theory. Through Aug. 18, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Kahlil Joseph: 'BLKNWS' Kahlil Joseph, a visiting artist in the new Presidential Residencies on the Future of the Arts program, presents his work "BLKNWS," a two-channel video projection that blurs the lines between art, journalism, entrepreneurship and cultural critique. Through June 16, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

'The Medium Is the Message: Art since 1950' Using works created since 1950, this exhibition explores the relationship between subject, content and the materials that informed each object's production. Through Aug. 18, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

'Gadgets Galore! Transforming the American Household' Los Altos History Museum presents "Gadgets Galore! Transforming the American Household," an exhibit that looks at gadgets and where they originated. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org

If Software, Then Space As the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing approaches, the Computer History Museum presents a distinguished panel to provide insights and perspectives on the place of computing in space history. June 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. computerhistory.org

COMEDY

Mahatma Moses Comedy Caravan Samson Koletkar headlines with 45 minutes of jokes in his mother tongue, Marathi. Joining him are Abhay Paranjape, Advait Paranjape, Meghana David and Shruti Nimkar, who will share their life stories, experiences and observations. June 15, 6-8 p.m. \$22; discount for students, seniors. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. tickets.mvcpa.com

FILM

Kerry Tribe: 'The Elusive Word' The 2017 film "Afasia" pairs the verbal journey of Christopher Riley, a photographer and friend of the filmmaker who struggles to speak after experiencing a left-hemisphere stroke that left him aphasic, with Tribe's own narrated effort to relearn the Spanish language. Through Sept. 30, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Tuesdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Fun for Families: Free Second Saturdays at Gamble Garden Garden director Richard Hayden and volunteer garden guides lead children on a nature hunt around the 3-acre garden. Other activities include nature-inspired arts and crafts and a guided tour of the first floor of the Gamble House. Every second Saturday through Dec. 14, 10-11:30 a.m. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. gamblegarden.org

Volunteer at Arastradero Preserve Volunteers participate in hands-on activities, including weeding, planting and creating habitat structures to improve conditions for the area's wildlife. Every second and fourth Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon. Pearson-Arastradero Preserve, 1530 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

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For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

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\$2,395,000 3 Bed 2.5 Bath 1,598 SF

12,272 +/- square foot lot in a highly sought-after neighborhood

Beautifully landscaped grounds with expansive lawn areas

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Living room with cathedral ceiling

Fireplace with a picture window overlooking rear grounds

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Located near excellent Mountain View schools



Mountain View

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Gourmet kitchen

Single-level home

Romantic Master Suite

Excellent Mountain View Schools



Mountain View

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