

# Mountain View VOICE

AUGUST 2, 2019 VOLUME 27, NO. 28

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MOVIES | 19



Local  
gyro  
WEEKEND | 16



COURTESY OF SAINT LOUIS CHESS CLUB

**Ruiyang Yan**, a 12-year-old Mountain View resident and chess enthusiast, surprised herself by finishing third while competing against mostly older players at the U.S. Girls Junior Chess Championship.

## Chess player sets new strategy: 'faith in myself'

RUIYANG YAN, 12, TAKES THIRD PLACE IN JUNIOR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

By Nisha Malley

When 12-year-old Mountain View resident Ruiyang Yan narrowly qualified for the U.S. Girls Junior Chess

Championship, she set her expectations cautiously low.

However, as the wearying 10-day competition, hosted by the Saint Louis Chess Club in Missouri from July 10 to 20, came to a close, Ruiyang faced

a surprising result. With five wins, two tied games and two losses, she placed third, taking home a \$1,500 prize.

She said the experience taught

► See **CHESS**, page 8

## More than 50 thefts reported at Audiotistic festival at Shoreline

By Kevin Forestieri

Mountain View police are investigating dozens of theft reports from people who attended the Audiotistic concert event at Shoreline Amphitheatre in mid-July, with phones, wallets and other personal belongings reported lost or looted during the festival.

As of last week, the department received a total of 51 reports

of theft and 14 reports of lost property during the concerts on July 13 and July 14, according to police. Many of the cases were reported online in the days following the event, and the majority were initially reported as grand theft — meaning items valued at more than \$950 had been stolen.

The number of thefts reported vastly exceeds past concert events at Shoreline, including

the Audiotistic concert from last year. Police spokeswoman Katie Nelson told the *Voice* that the cases are under investigation and that many details cannot be released, but the department is looking into whether one or multiple thieves targeted the event and were able to steal phones and wallets undetected.

Given the length of the concert

► See **THEFTS**, page 8

## UC Berkeley plans huge satellite campus at Moffett Field

UNIVERSITY TEAMS UP WITH NASA AMES

By Mark Noack

NASA Ames and the University of California at Berkeley are spearheading plans for a sprawling new education and research park at Moffett Field. If built, the plans would add a new satellite university campus at the former military base intended to bring together scientific talent across academia, government and the private industry.

The new plans call for up to 1.3 million square feet of mixed-use space, most of which would be devoted to research-and-development labs that could also serve as an industry incubator. This new research space would be reserved for public or private organizations that help further NASA's scientific mission, much like the Ames buildings that are already leased to outside groups.

About one-quarter of the new building space would go toward educational purposes, such as classes or research programs directed by the university system. The plans also could include new medical offices, a conference center and a series of new restaurants and retail stores.

Exactly how these buildings would be laid out and configured is left unspecified, and university officials say they don't expect a formal design plan to be ready for up to three years.

What is clear is the site this development would occupy at NASA Ames. The proposed campus would go on a 36.2-acre swath of land on the eastern side of the research park, immediately south of Hangar One. This area includes a scattering of older buildings from the airfield's military days.

In a presentation made to the UC Board of Regents last month, university staffers acknowledged that many details in the plans still needed to be worked out, but they were enthusiastic to swiftly move forward. For now, UC Berkeley officials are leading discussions with NASA, but the plans indicate that any of the 10 campuses or extension programs in the statewide UC system could participate in the new Moffett Field outpost.

In her remarks to the board of regents, UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ said she believed the collaboration with NASA could operate like other fruitful academic partnerships, such as with the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. University staff promoted the collaboration with NASA as a way to strengthen its programs in aerospace engineering, quantum computing and astrophysics.

"The prospects for our faculty and students to collaborate with NASA, industry in Silicon Valley and neighboring educational and research partners are quite attractive," Christ said. "We must reach and teach more Californians, and we believe that an opportunity for this kind of expansion in the heart of Silicon Valley is very compelling."

At this early stage, many details of the new campus remain up in the air, but UC officials say they have been in talks going back more than 15 years on collaborating with NASA on some kind of joint educational project. About a decade ago, UC Santa Cruz and the Foothill-De Anza Community College District were eyeing the same site for a

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PRESENTS



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# Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Nisha Malley.

## Have you ever owned or considered buying a gun?



“No, I haven’t. I probably wouldn’t (buy one). My grandfather had guns. He had them mostly for hunting. Since I don’t really have a use for a gun, I don’t see a need to get one.”

**Hannah Gravius**, Mountain View



“I have never owned a gun, and I have never considered owning a gun, and the reason for that is I know the statistics. Guns are more likely to be used against the members of the household than in their defense. So you’re more likely to die in a household that owns a gun.”

**Laurel McClure**, Mountain View



“Why, if you live in a functioning society, would you ever want to own a gun? When you live outside of the U.S. and you get a little perspective, you realize how extreme of an idea it is, that you would own a weapon that could hurt you or other people. Gun issues in the U.S. are a lack of self-reflection in our part.”

**Carolyn Daher**, Barcelona, Spain



“I’ve never owned a gun. I can’t own a gun. I don’t really want to own a gun.”

**Erika Montelibano**, Mountain View



“I do not own one. I have considered (it) just because people are crazy — I don’t know if that’s the right way of saying it — but I have not because just the risk of having one at home seems too high with kids.”

**Tom McMahon**, San Jose

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■ **CRIME BRIEFS**

**MASKED BURGLARY SUSPECTED ARRESTED**

Mountain View police arrested a Milpitas man last week after he allegedly broke into a home in the Cuernavaca neighborhood of Mountain View. He was spotted by a home security camera and swiftly arrested, according to police.

The man, 21, entered the home on the 1000 block of Carlos Privada around 1:15 a.m. Friday, July 26. The house was not occupied at the time, but the homeowners had a security camera that alerted them of a possible intruder, police said.

Officers reported seeing a flashlight moving around inside the homes and lights turned on, and saw a man exit wearing a mask and gloves.

The man ran from officers but was caught after a short pursuit. He was carrying a backpack containing electronics, jewelry and other property from inside the home, police said.

Police say the man likely entered the home by shattering a back door. He was arrested on suspicion of residential burglary, resisting arrest and wearing a mask as a means of concealment or evasion.

**MAN KILLED BY CALTRAIN IDENTIFIED**

A man who was struck and killed by a Caltrain in downtown Mountain View last week has been identified as 30-year-old Jordan Koger, according to the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office.

Koger was hit by a southbound train around 7:47 p.m. on

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 13

■ **POLICE LOG**

**AUTO BURGLARY**

2600 block Terminal Blvd., 7/25  
900 block E. El Camino Real, 7/29

1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 7/24  
700 block Sylvan Av., 7/24

**BATTERY**

N. Shoreline Blvd. & Stierlin Rd., 7/25

1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 7/24  
2600 block Casey Av., 7/24

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY**

900 block Castro St., 7/25

1900 block Adams Ct., 7/27  
2000 block Latham St., 7/27

**CRIMINAL THREATS**

1900 block W. El Camino Real, 7/23

**ROBBERY**

500 block San Antonio Rd., 7/26  
1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 7/29

**GRAND THEFT**

1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 7/23  
1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 7/23

**STOLEN VEHICLE**

1 block Pioneer Way, 7/23  
100 block Permanente Way, 7/23

1300 block Grant Rd., 7/23

500 block Walker Dr., 7/23

1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 7/24

**VANDALISM**

Stevens Creek Trail, 7/25

■ **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**NEW DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF**

The Mountain View Police Department announced Wednesday that Capt. Chris Hsiung has been promoted to the new role of deputy police chief, a high-ranking position created this year.

Hsiung, a 24-year officer with the department, began his new role on Monday, July 28. He will oversee day-to-day operations out of the police chief's office and will play a crucial role in staff development and "succession planning," which



Chris Hsiung

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 13

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SADIE STINSON

## JUMP RIGHT IN

Nothing says summertime in Mountain View like the swimming pool at Rengstorff Park. On July 30, youngsters from YMCA summer camps splashed around under sunny blue skies.

## State launches \$50M program for school-based mental health

BEVY OF RECENT BILLS BOOST THE ROLE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN HEALTH CARE, SUICIDE PREVENTION

By Kevin Forestieri

The California State Legislature is calling on local school districts to come up with new ways to fill big gaps in mental health care for children and teens, setting aside \$50 million this year for schools willing to try new ways of detecting and preventing mental illness through campus-based services.

The Mental Health Student Services Act, established through budget legislation this year, launches a grant program where county behavioral health departments — largely responsible for publicly funded mental health care — can partner with local schools to create campus-based mental health services. The goal is to reach students before mental illness becomes severe and disabling, preventing suicide, dropouts, homelessness and suffering.

The act builds on a common trend among California lawmakers, who have sought over the last three years to migrate the role of mental health care from the clinic to the classroom. Services provided on campus could serve as the first line of defense, with the potential to detect mental health conditions long before they worsen. Studies have found that close to half of all mental health conditions start by age 14, rising to three-fourths by age 24.

Santa Clara County Superintendent Mary Ann Dewan said she is prepared to pursue

the funding. The shift toward school-based mental health has been driven by school leaders and school board members who understand the increasing need for student services, she said. A child's wellness affects how well they perform in school, she said, and many schools have already launched in-house mental health initiatives.

"Public schools are already engaged in supporting children and families with mental and behavior health as well as promoting wellness on school campuses," Dewan said. "It brings tremendous value when schools and county offices of education can work together to offer early intervention, access to ongoing support and coordinated care."

State leaders are still working out the nuts and bolts of the grant process but are expecting plenty of interest, said Toby Ewing, executive director of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. When the state set aside money for triage services — essentially crisis mental health care including residential treatment — starting in 2013, he said there was a "tremendous" response from agencies, including schools. There were many conversations with teachers, said Ewing, who urged the state to support more mental health care in schools.

► See **MENTAL HEALTH**, page 11

## Google announces \$50 million loan for housing growth

By Mark Noack

As the first piece of the \$1 billion housing pledge, Google officials last week announced they would invest \$50 million in the Housing Trust Silicon Valley.

Considered the largest investment in the nonprofit's history, the Google funding is expected to serve as a catalyst for affordable housing development, particularly by helping projects to

overcome early obstacles such as land and planning costs.

The new endowment is being invested in the Housing Trust's Tech Fund, which was set up in 2017 and has already attracted large contributions from a series of regional companies, including LinkedIn, Cisco and Pure Storage. In total, the fund is credited for raising \$112 million that has helped build more than 2,250 homes across the South Bay.

In Mountain View, the Tech

Fund provided money to help acquire land for a 93-unit affordable housing project along La Avenida Avenue. The same funding pool helped Palo Alto Housing to purchase a Taco Bell property at 950 W. El Camino Real that will eventually be redeveloped for 71 apartments.

Google's new \$50 million investment is a loan that must eventually be paid back with

► See **HOUSING GROWTH**, page 10

## New rules could force hospitals to publish prices negotiated with insurers

BILLS AND EXECUTIVE ACTION AIM TO CUT DOWN ON SURPRISINGLY LARGE HOSPITAL BILLS

By Kevin Forestieri

Federal regulators want to give patients a clearer picture of what they will spend during a hospital visit, with a more accurate list of costs for everything from hip replacements to CT scans.

The new requirements, announced by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on Monday, would compel hospitals to publish the

prices for hospital services that have been negotiated with individual insurance companies. The policy is aimed at helping consumers anticipate out-of-pocket costs and make prudent choices on where to seek care, and has the potential to lower costs by boosting competition among hospitals, CMS officials said in a statement.

Though the policy has the potential to make the byzantine and opaque structure of hospital

billing more accessible to the public, hospital leaders swiftly condemned the proposal. Rick Pollack, president and CEO of the American Hospital Association, said it could "seriously limit" choices available to patients and fuel anti-competitive behavior among private insurance companies.

"While we support transparency, today's proposal misses the mark, exceeds the administration's legal authority and should

be abandoned," Pollack said in a statement.

The proposed policy comes at a time when two-thirds of Americans say they are either "very worried" or "somewhat worried" about unexpected medical bills, according to a survey published by the Kaiser Family Foundation. Among the concerns, hospitals that are within the network of an insurance plan may provide care through out-of-network doctors, leaving

patients with surprisingly large bills.

In 2017, 18% of inpatient visits and 26% of emergency room visits to an in-network hospital in California incurred at least one out-of-network charge, according to the foundation. Congressional lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have been drafting policies in recent months aimed at limiting how much

► See **HOSPITAL PRICES**, page 9

# California steers toward a future of self-driving cars

SELF-DRIVING CARS WILL BE PART OF RIDESHARING FLEETS, REDUCING THE NUMBER OF PERSONAL VEHICLES ON THE ROAD

By Julie Cart/CalMatters

California is laying the groundwork for the next, slightly scary, phase in its push toward zero-emission transportation: self-driving cars packed with computers using finely tuned algorithms, high-definition cameras, radar and other high-tech gadgetry. What the driverless cars won't feature: steering wheels, brake pedals and gas pedals.

Autonomous vehicles, mostly electric, are already here in a limited fashion — as a slow van, for example, to move people around a Bay Area office park. That kind of shuttle, and small delivery trucks, will likely be the first self-driving vehicles in wide use, employing GPS, 3-D imaging and other technology to process and respond to what their cameras see on the road: other cars, pavement markings, traffic signals, pedestrians, etc.

Officials say automated cars will dovetail in two ways with greenhouse-gas-cutting policies in California, where the transportation sector belches out nearly half of the state's climate-warming



Randy Iwasaki with an autonomous bus, deer decoy and other objects in a GoMentum Station warehouse.

emissions. They'll be included in the fleets of ridesharing companies, reducing the number of personal cars on the road as the state transitions to electricity-powered transportation. And they'll almost certainly operate on batteries (though some could run on zero-emission hydrogen fuel cells), helping motorists wean themselves off gasoline.

If properly managed, the coming driverless-car revolution could address other vexing problems as

well, said Daniel Sperling, who directs the Institute of Transportation Studies at UC Davis. He cited his sister's poor peripheral vision, which prevents her from driving.

"It could lead to a dramatic improvement in safety, a dramatic improvement for mobility for the elderly, for physically disabled people and for low-income communities," he said. For many, autonomous vehicles will mean emancipation.

In addition, computer-driven cars are expected to reduce fatalities. They will never be afflicted with road rage, will not stop off after work for one too many and won't nod off after endless hours on the road. And productivity could rise as motorists who now lose hundreds of hours idling in traffic each year are freed from the tyranny of paying attention and can legally text, work, answer email and even watch YouTube.

But it's a significant step from allowing testing of automated cars in protected, supervised settings to unleashing them solo on the road, which experts say remains on a far horizon. There is much to be perfected: how best to turn left in traffic, for example, a maneuver that bedevils many human drivers. Multiply that by many more dicey scenarios and it makes sense that test vehicles' current response to most obstacles is to just slow down.

Although the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says human errors cause 94% of serious crashes, motorists are reluctant to turn over the controls to computers, telling pollsters they prefer to drive a car, not interface with one. And the potential for hacking has led some doubters to paint a future in which bad actors "weaponize" a vehicle, taking over the controls with harmful intent.

Still, California is pressing ahead. It was among the first states to

contemplate a future for autonomous cars, when the Legislature in 2012 authorized the Department of Motor Vehicles to devise rules for them. Those regulations are now the nation's most extensive; in April the DMV proposed allowing testing of autonomous lightweight delivery trucks.

"You have to know what you are regulating, and we had to go to manufacturers to understand the technology," said Brian Soublet, the DMV's chief counsel, who has been writing the regulations since 2014 and is excited about leading the way. "We had to start from scratch....My kids are tired of hearing about it, but to me it's completely fascinating — the future of how we are getting around."

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research has set out principles, such as prioritizing emissions reduction and more car-sharing, to help guide future state policies on smart cars.

And California's controversial 2017 gas-tax increase encourages the transportation department and local jurisdictions to tap road funds to build infrastructure that smart cars will require, such as traffic lights that tell them how much time remains on a green light and freeway signs that announce their messages digitally.

The DMV has doled out permits to more than 60 companies for testing autonomous cars — nearly 800 of them — on California streets. Those vehicles have traveled more than 3.6 million miles and have been involved in 177 collisions.

It's not a free-for-all. Testing has been allowed since 2014, in nearly every case with a human "safety driver" on board, able to take over the car's controls. And, although one company, Waymo, has a permit to conduct tests without a driver, it has yet to do so.

The future can be glimpsed at a former Navy base near the Bay Area city of Concord, converted to the nation's largest autonomous-vehicle proving ground where computer-driven cars are let off their leashes and are free to roam across 2,100 acres. The facility, GoMentum Station, run by the AAA Northern California, Nevada & Utah, is an innovation hive where Silicon Valley marries its futuristic vision to the automobile industry's traditional know-how.

California could reap economic benefits from a smart-car industry, attracting new business and jobs, officials say. Researchers forecast that investment in the technology, by traditional

industry players and newcomers alike, will grow to \$85 billion nationally through 2025, on top of \$225 billion in spending on electric vehicles through 2023.

This transformation in transportation is taking place in a deceptively modest setting. The testing area has all the dusty charm of an abandoned town: shuttered buildings and empty parking lots, along with cattle, wild turkeys and coyotes wandering freely.

That's perfect in the eyes of Randy Iwasaki, executive director of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, which is a partner in the facility. He guided his electric (though not autonomous) car along some of the 20 miles of rough streets on a recent day.

"Look at this road, it's cracked, you can barely see the center line it's so worn, there are weeds growing all over," Iwasaki said with a trace of pride. When testing first began, researchers had to mow the streets because the earliest automated vehicles perceived that they had wandered off-road. The imperfections provide excellent preparation for the vehicles to navigate California's bumpy, clogged and often chaotic streetscape.

The facility also features 45 types of intersections, various railroad crossings and a warehouse full of "targets"— vinyl deer decoys, pedestrian mannequins, bicycles and traffic cones. Such accessories help the vehicles "learn" to process what they see and make decisions through artificial intelligence.

"The camera vision is great, but the perception is not always there," said Huei Peng, who directs an autonomous-vehicle research program at the University of Michigan. "The vehicles can see, but they can't always understand."

Iwasaki explained this in people terms: At age 24 or 25, humans may be at the peak of their acuity, with quick reflexes and excellent vision. But drivers of that age lack a broad base of experience to make informed decisions about the safest responses in traffic. The current generation of automated vehicles, Iwasaki reckons, is still in its 20s and has much to learn from errors on the road.

That ignorance of some learned conventions and courtesies of driving gives many motorists pause. But they can relax: California is a long way — a decade or more — from hosting truly autonomous cars on city streets.

Iwasaki said most autonomous

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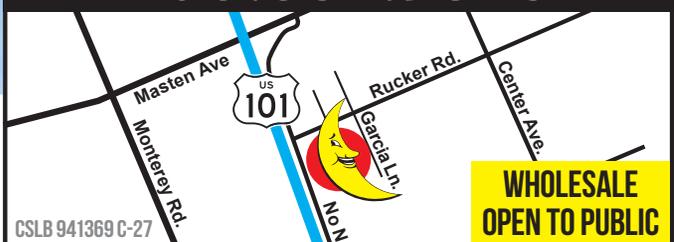
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**Ruiyang Yan** stares intently at the chess board during the fourth round game of the U.S. Girls Junior Chess Championship held in St. Louis last month.

## CHESS

► Continued from page 1

her “just to have more faith in myself.”

Ruiyang first gained exposure to the sport at age 4, when her parents purchased a chess set for her as a gift. Her parents had no knowledge of the game, so she enrolled in a class to meet fellow competitors and get an introduction to the basic strategies and rules of the game.

That initial experience piqued her interest, and Ruiyang said she dove further into the world of chess, studying strategy books to improve her skills and playing against other children through online communities such as ChessKid.com.

“It’s fun to beat everyone,” Ruiyang said.

In the last five years, she has transformed her hobby into a

competitive endeavor. Ruiyang usually spends three hours a day practicing, waking up at 6:30 a.m. to play chess online, and attends local competitions in Northern California three to four times a month, she said.

She also trains with Weiliang Li, former head coach of China’s national chess team. Even after 40 years involved in the sport, Li said that he still finds every game to be “magical.”

At the St. Louis tournament, Ruiyang played one opponent each day of the competition, recalling her shortest game against Maggie Feng in Round 6 lasting two to three hours, with the rest lasting far longer.

Li, who traveled to St. Louis with Ruiyang, said her round 6 game was “perfect,” adding that Ruiyang was able to set up her pieces in a winning position just a few moves into the game.

“She played just like a computer,” Li said proudly, through a translator.

As the second youngest of her cohort, with most players 15 or older, Ruiyang said she lacked self-confidence throughout many of her games, but sought to “try her best.”

“It felt really good,” Ruiyang said, describing the moment she learned of her third-place win. “I did way better than I expected.”

Li credited much of Ruiyang’s success to her self-motivation and genuine interest in chess.

Ruiyang said she wants to save her \$1,500 prize to put toward future college tuition, and hopes to maintain a lifelong love for the sport. In a week, she is set to travel to China to take on her next challenge, the World Cadets Chess Championship, before starting seventh grade at Egan Junior High School. ▣

## THEFTS

► Continued from page 1

and the number of attendees — roughly 22,000 people — there’s a lot of potential for pickpockets while crowds are tightly packed, dancing and jumping around, Nelson said. The law enforcement presence at the concert was on par with previous years, she said, but keeping a vigilant watch at such a large event can be challenging.

“Working a show like this is busy, with our officers constantly doing several things at once,” she said. “While we wish we could be everywhere at once, that just isn’t possible.”

Many of the suspected grand thefts were likely cases where

an expensive cellphone was taken. In the days following the concert, police found 15 phones and have identified the owners of each one, and are in the process of contacting owners to retrieve them from the police department. It’s unclear at this point whether the found phones are connected to lost property or theft cases.

The spate of thefts is unusual for Shoreline Amphitheatre, where fewer than 20 thefts had been reported during the entirety of 2018. Reports, citations and arrests for public intoxication and drug sales tend to significantly exceed property crimes at the venue. Over the course of this year’s Audiostic festival, four people

were arrested for the sale of controlled substances and three were arrested for public drunkenness.

Although 40 of the cases are listed as grand theft, it’s unclear how many thefts actually are for items exceeding \$950, Nelson said. Many of the cases were filed online after the concert, meaning officers haven’t independently verified the value of what was stolen.

Concert attendees are encouraged to store phones, wallets and other valuable belongings in a secure location, rather than in back pockets, and to be aware of their surroundings at all times, Nelson said. ▣

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## HOSPITAL PRICES

► Continued from page 5

out-of-network hospital services can cost patients.

But having an accurate view of the costs ahead of time has been a priority of the Trump Administration, which announced last month its intent to demand more transparency on hospital pricing. The rule change would expand on existing laws requiring hospitals to publish so-called “gross charges,” which are arguably useless to consumers. These prices are typically negotiated down through contracts with individual insurance companies and are much higher than reimbursement rates set by public insurers like Medicare. Even the uninsured are unlikely to pay the list price.

Instead, hospitals would be required to list the negotiated price of at least 300 services for all insurers, including 70 hand-picked by CMS. Those services include psychotherapy, X-rays and CT scans, blood tests, joint replacement procedures and mammograms.

The announcement comes after CMS began publicly releasing billing information from a federal database in 2013 showing health care costs for common procedures vary enormously from one hospital to another, sometimes by an order of magnitude.

In a press release Monday, CMS officials describe the plan as a step toward improving consumer choice and competition among health care providers, encouraging lower prices and higher-quality services. A report produced by the U.S. departments of the Treasury, Labor and Health and Human Services last year recommended that any effective price transparency policy must include third-party agreements between hospitals and insurers.

“Boosting price transparency will likely have limited utility unless the dampening effect of third-party payment on consumer engagement is also addressed,” according to the report.

The changes proposed by CMS do not address the problem of out-of-network doctors providing services at in-network hospitals.

Whether publishing the negotiated prices will help is up for debate. Jan Emerson-Shea, vice president of external affairs at the California Hospital Association (CHA), told the *Voice* that patients are concerned about out-of-pocket expenses and the bill that arrives after a hospital visit. Individual plans and differing options for deductibles and co-payments aren’t going to get captured through the disclosure of negotiated prices with

insurance companies.

Transparency is important and is supported by the CHA, Emerson-Shea said, but the proposed rule changes by CMS won’t be useful.

“Simply disclosing the negotiated rate between hospitals and insurance companies is not going to help patients shop and compare at all,” she said. “We don’t think this is useful or helpful for patients — it’s frankly a misguided approach to increase transparency.”

The premise that patients will be able to easily shop around and pick the cheapest option is also flawed, Emerson-Shea said. Patients typically go to the hospital that’s in network or where their doctor works. Finding out the out-of-network hospital down the street offers the procedure at a better rate isn’t relevant information, she said.

El Camino Hospital officials have yet to take a position on the

president’s executive order or the proposed rule changes by CMS, but agreed it could have far-reaching implications on insurance companies and hospitals alike. Iftikhar Hussain, the hospital’s chief financial officer, said El Camino is generally in favor of greater transparency when it comes to informing patients how much they’ll pay, but that it’s still too early to comment on whether it would be a good change for the hospital and its patients.

“Surprise” billing after emergency room visits hasn’t been a problem at El Camino, Hussain said. Rather than charge patients the out-of-network rate for services, he said the hospital negotiates directly with insurance companies for reimbursement and avoids penalizing patients with a higher rate.

“We understand that a patient in an emergency situation may have no choice of hospital, being brought in by ambulance or

needing to go to the nearest hospital,” Hussain said.

In recent years, many hospitals and insurance providers have voluntarily sought to improve transparency through online price estimators and calculators that attempt to capture the costs associated with visiting the hospital. In 2017, El Camino Hospital launched an estimator with a short list of services that takes into account the patients’ insurance plans including Aetna, Blue Shield, Blue Cross and Cigna.

The caveat is that the out-of-pocket costs generated by the tool are a “good faith estimate” based on information provided by the patient and the likely costs for all the services rendered, according to the hospital. An extended stay in the hospital, unexpected treatment or services deemed necessary by a doctor all have the potential to rack up a higher bill. The estimator also includes a limited range of just over 80 services

and procedures, most of them types of imaging and lab work. By comparison, the list of gross charges provided by El Camino includes the costs of 34,290 procedures, supplies and tests.

Financial counseling and price estimates are also available via telephone and in person at the hospital, Hussain said.

Price transparency is one of numerous changes proposed by federal regulators in Monday’s announcement, and must go through a lengthy months-long public comment period ending Sept. 27. Pollack of the American Hospital Association accused the Trump administration of trying to further cut payments for outpatient clinic visits in order to save money, which he calls both illegal and a harmful to rural and vulnerable communities, and ramping up the cost of drugs provided in an outpatient setting. ▣

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## MOFFETT

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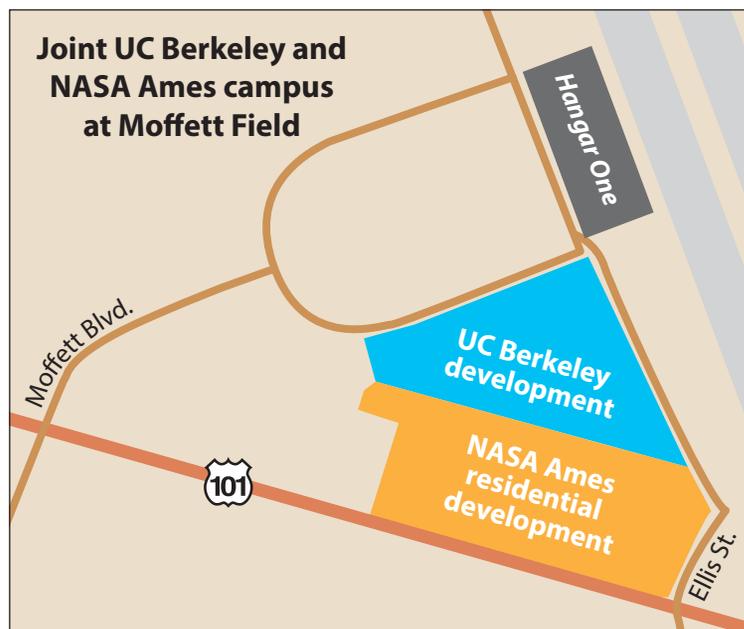
similar research-park concept, but those plans reportedly fizzled a few years ago.

One point that has already drawn criticism in the new plans by UC Berkeley is a lack of sufficient housing. In all likelihood, the proposed office and commercial space would bring thousands more researchers and students to NASA Ames; however, the campus plans would build only 200 apartments as well as some kind of short-term lodging for visitors.

In recent months, NASA Ames officials have signaled they wanted to do more to address the housing and traffic concerns of their workforce. Just to the south of the proposed Berkeley campus, NASA is working to build a residential project with 2,000 apartment units, but that housing will be explicitly reserved for federal employees.

In a statement to the *Voice*, NASA officials said they are not stipulating housing as part of the Berkeley proposal.

Upon reviewing UC Berkeley's plans, former Mountain View councilman Lenny Siegel said he was dismayed to see that the project was implicitly treating housing as an afterthought.



UC Berkeley and NASA Ames are planning a new research park at Moffett Field with up to 1.3 million square feet of offices and research and development labs, adjacent to a planned housing development for federal workers.

He pointed out that NASA Ames also allowed Google to build its 1.4 million square foot "Bay View" office with a comparatively meager housing component.

"This Berkeley plan could bring as many as 4,000 more employees. Where are they going to live, and how are they going to get to work?" he said. "It sounds great, but someone's got to think ahead about the housing and transportation."

In July, UC Berkeley officials released a request for qualifications for potential developers to draft a business plan that can be brought back to the board of regents. Before the end of the year, the university expects to make a formal proposal to NASA. If all goes according to plan, the project is anticipated to begin construction sometime in late 2022. ■

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## HOUSING GROWTH

► Continued from page 5

some interest. The Housing Trust's Tech Fund is designed for companies to be paid back their investment within five or 10 years.

The Housing Trust Tech Fund serves as a pool of money that can be used to provide short-term loans to help finance housing projects. Typically these projects are affordable rental housing, and usually the money is repaid back into the fund after no

more than three years.

What is significant about the new funding is it provides new revenues for building subsidized housing without sapping existing sources, said Julie Quinn, Housing Trust chief development officer.

"This is an entirely new piece of the pie for affordable housing, coming from the corporate treasury," she said. "It will help affordable housing project by giving them the ability to have fast, flexible capital."

In a June blog post, Google officials announced the company would invest \$1 billion

toward the goal of building 20,000 homes near its Silicon Valley offices. At least \$750 million of this pledge is expected to come in the form of land owned by the company that would be dedicated for housing.

The new Housing Trust loan is being drawn from a separate \$250 million fund set up by Google to help jump-start affordable housing. The company has set the goal to eventually build 5,000 new homes with this money. ■

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## MENTAL HEALTH

► Continued from page 5

Trouble is, most of that money didn't go to schools or kids at all. In the first round of funding, just over 15% went to youth-centric programs.

The new Mental Health Student Services Act explicitly calls for counties and schools to partner up, putting forth a joint grant application showing how schools could support students with in-house mental health care and, if deemed necessary, link them to clinical services provided through Medi-Cal or private insurance coverage.

It may seem unusual for school districts to lead the way on health care services better suited for a clinic, but Ewing said there's been increasing recognition from a broad range of school staff — from teachers to principals to superintendents — that schools have a role to play in mental health. California schools have long provided mental health care in a limited capacity through special education funding, but the growing consensus is that it's not enough.

"Often times there are kids who would benefit from and

need mental health services where special education is not the right strategy," he said.

National studies have found that about one in five children have a mental, emotional or behavioral disorder, but only about 20% of those children actually receive care from a mental health provider. The delay in receiving treatment often spans six to eight years for mood disorders and nine to 23 years for anxiety disorders, with longer delays for males, minorities and lower-educated patients.

In the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District, more than a half-dozen therapists are already employed to support hundreds of students each year, primarily for anxiety and depression. Initiatives include anonymous referral boxes, giving the district's clinical services team a chance to check in with teens who may be struggling. Even with help from outside funding sources, the district is spending in excess of \$1 million a year on student wellness.

Nellie Meyer, the district's new superintendent, told the *Voice* that she's aware of the new legislation and will watch to see what requirements will

be placed on the grant funding. She said it's good to see the state's renewed commitment to support mental health care for students, and that the available funding could boost the framework of support services already financed by the district.

**'Children in our schools need support, and the lack of support is impacting their educational progress.'**

SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
SUPERINTENDENT MARY ANN DEWAN

Grants from the Mental Health Student Services Act can pay for both direct mental health services as well as prevention and early intervention, which could include hiring therapists and training existing school staff. The funding can't pay for the existing programs already operating in Mountain View-Los Altos.

Counties must give all school districts an equal chance at

the funding, but it's unclear exactly how many grants will be accepted. Although the the budget signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in June allocated \$50 million in funding to the program, state legislators had asked for \$550 million.

State Sen. Jim Beall (D-San Jose) is seeking to supplement that funding with changes to the Mental Health Wellness Act through Senate Bill 582, which would require half of the mental health triage funds to pay for "local educational agency and mental health partnerships." The Santa Clara County Office of Education was among the applicants for the funding, Dewan said.

Since 2016, California has passed a number of mental health bills focused on the role of schools. In 2016, then-Gov. Jerry Brown signed a law requiring all school districts to adopt their own suicide prevention plan for high-risk students from seventh to 12th grade. Assembly Bill 2639, authored by Assemblyman Marc Berman (D-Palo Alto) last year, strengthened the bill by requiring mandatory updates to those policies and more guidance for training school staff on both suicide

awareness and prevention.

Another bill passed last year, Assembly Bill 2022, requires school districts to inform students multiple times per year of mental health services available on campus and in the community. An early version of the bill called for one mental health professional to be employed for every 600 students, but the language was cut in an early round of amendments.

The goal is to put out a request for proposals and start accepting grant applications by the end of the year, Ewing said.

When asked whether the added responsibility of providing mental health care could become a burden on public schools, Dewan said she believes schools can balance mental and behavioral services on top of academics — so long as they receive adequate funding and trained, qualified staff. The real and immediate problem is that kids aren't getting the health care they need to be successful.

"The risk that we see now is that children in our schools need support, and the lack of support is impacting their educational progress," she said. ▣

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## CRIME BRIEFS

▶ Continued from page 4

Monday evening, July 22, after trespassing on the tracks near Castro Street, Caltrain officials said.

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office investigating the fatal collision did not immediately determine whether the act was intentional or accidental.

The coroner's office had yet to determine a city of residence for Koger after interviewing family members.

The death was the ninth Caltrain fatality in 2019, and the second one that day. That afternoon, a man was killed in a collision in Burlingame at the north lane crossing. The man was later identified as

75-year-old Burlingame resident Michael Nichols.

## LOS ALTOS, FOOTHILL COLLEGE THEFTS

Police arrested a man and woman during a traffic stop in Los Altos last month after they were allegedly found in possession of stolen property taken from homes in Los Altos and from the Foothill College campus.

The pair were stopped near Foothill Expressway and Magdalena Avenue on July 16 in connection to an early-morning residential burglary, but officers found belongings taken during residential burglaries and thefts that had "just occurred" in the city, according to a statement

released by the Los Altos Police Department.

Officers received reports of the residential burglary shortly before 5 a.m. on the 500 block of Lassen Street in Los Altos. A witness provided a description of the thieves and their vehicle, a maroon or burgundy Chevrolet Tahoe, which was used to locate and arrest the pair less than 2 miles away, police said.

Burglary tools and a controlled substance were also found in the truck, police said.

The man and woman were both arrested on suspicion of felony burglary, possession of burglary tools and possession of a controlled substance. They were booked into Santa Clara County jail.

—Kevin Forestieri

## SELF-DRIVING CARS

▶ Continued from page 6

cars being tested in California are operating at very low speeds, almost crawling. That's because their computers need time to analyze what they are seeing. "If computers got faster you could drive faster, but they are not ready to make that jump," he said.

Uneasy about self-driving cars? Your vehicle is partly autonomous if it has such features as cruise control, parking assist and lane-keeping notifications. If you own a Tesla, you may have the highly advanced Autopilot, which makes decisions about steering and speed that maintain the vehicle within its lane.

What's critical is the programming instructions companies feed to their computers to teach them decision-making of the sort human drivers make every day: Is it appropriate to break the law and cross a double yellow line to avoid an accident? Is it ok to drive on the shoulder to get around an obstacle?

Programmers use real-world experiences, like the cars get at GoMentum Station, to build databases enabling the vehicles to make split-second decisions as people do.

Bernard Soriano, deputy director of the state DMV, said his agency issues a driver's license when a human exhibits a "minimum set of skills" and can be expected to improve over time. Autonomous cars will be held to the same standard, he said. At the moment, the state requires manufacturers to self-certify that their vehicles operate within the rules of the road — not exceeding the speed limit or crossing double lines, for example.

Autonomous vehicles are programmed to be cautious, to put safety first and to always obey the law. That typically translates into low speeds and frequent braking, trying the patience of the humans involved in the testing.

That makes for a sobering real-world scenario: What happens when fleets of law-abiding, speed-limit-adhering cars hit the road and mingle with California's sometimes willful motorists, known to call their own shots?

"It's an ongoing discussion," Soriano said. ▣

*CALmatters.org is a nonprofit, nonpartisan media venture explaining California's policies and politics. Read more state news from CALmatters online at [mv-voice.com/calmatters](http://mv-voice.com/calmatters).*

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

▶ Continued from page 4

will ensure that there are strong in-house candidates for outgoing lieutenants and captains.

"Chris models our city's values and organizational priorities that reflects an authentic desire to make us better, within the MVPD family and for the community we serve and protect," police Chief Max Bosel said in the statement.

Hsiung has served for years as a police captain in charge of field operations and more recently in the department's Investigative Services Division, which is responsible for follow-up investigations and preparing cases for prosecution as well as crime prevention. His responsibilities included the release of information to the public, and for years he managed the department's social media strategy.

"I am honored to continue to serve the city of Mountain View," Hsiung said in a statement. "My commitment to the safety and protection of our residents, business community, and those who work and play in Mountain View stands strong."

Department staff talked internally about creating the deputy police chief position for six months and included it in the city's budget for the 2019-20 year. A police lieutenant is expected to take Hsiung's previous position as captain, and the lieutenant position will not be replaced in order to absorb most of the increased costs of having a deputy chief. The total increase in annual spending is expected to be about \$50,000.

Hsiung told the *Voice* he is prepared for his new role as second in command at the department — overseeing practically all of the department's operations at some point during his career

— and that it's exciting to take on the responsibility of the newly added position.

—Kevin Forestieri

## FOOTHILL WAIVES COSTS FOR STUDENTS

Foothill College has expanded its Foothill College Promise, a program that offers two years of free tuition and textbooks for students, regardless of their income level.

To be considered for the program, applicants must be first-time college students, enroll in at least 12 units, and complete the California Dream Act application or an application for federal student aid. Under the program, students also receive access to Foothill's support services and a free Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority SmartPass.

"Because of the high quality of education and its low cost, Foothill College has always been an extraordinary bargain. However, we recognize that the cost of college includes expenses such as textbooks and transportation," Foothill College President Thuy Thi Nguyen stated in a press release issued Tuesday.

This expansion was made possible by the California College Promise, which was established with the passage of Assembly Bill 19.

More information on the program can be found at [foothill.edu/promise](http://foothill.edu/promise).

—Daniel Li

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AT RENGSTORFF PARK

Residents are encouraged to come out to Rengstorff Park next week and meet cops and firefighters at Mountain View's

fifth National Night Out event.

The event, which starts at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 6, is both a celebration and a community-building event aimed at improving the relationship between residents and public safety employees. National Night Out is a meet-and-greet with cops and first responders over food and activities rather than during an emergency or a crime. There will also be a dunk tank for residents seeking to soak an officer.

Police dogs, a firetruck, police cars and motorcycles will also be at the park, and kids and adults alike are invited to tinker with the various tools used by police and firefighters, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

The event will be hosted at the new Rengstorff Community Center, at 201 S. Rengstorff Ave., which was remodeled and reopened earlier this year. National Night Out has drawn several hundred people in past years, Nelson said, and the hope is that it will be jam-packed again this year.

National Night Out will also be a chance for the police department to promote the nonprofit Community Cycles of California, which has been a partner with the department for close to two years. The nonprofit accepts donated bicycles and employs homeless people — including some from Mountain View — to repair, refurbish and sell bikes, giving them skills in bike maintenance, sales, customer service and finance.

Residents are encouraged to bring unwanted bikes in any condition to the Aug. 6 event, or to drop them off to Sgt. Wahed Magee at the police department headquarters, located at 1000 Villa St.

—Kevin Forestieri

## Public Notices

## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

A.B.S.  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: FBN656950  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
A.B.S., located at 360 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301, Santa Clara County.  
This business is owned by: An Individual.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
ALEXANDER STANKOVIC  
175 Ridgeway Road  
Woodside, CA 94062  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/19/2019.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on July 19, 2019.  
(MVV Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2019)

## 997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:  
BERTHA R. PRITCHETT  
Case No.: 19PR186262  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of BERTHA R. PRITCHETT.  
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: CLAYTON DALE PRITCHETT in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA.  
The Petition for Probate requests that: CLAYTON DALE PRITCHETT be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.  
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates

Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on October 16, 2019 at 9:01 a.m. in Dept.: 13 of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, located at 191 N. First St., San Jose, CA, 95113.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:  
Sabrina M. Johnson  
380 Hamilton Avenue #1602  
Palo Alto, CA 94301  
(650) 690-2175  
(MVV July 19, 26; Aug. 2, 2019)

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## Going solo

DRAGON THEATRE HOSTS A TRIO OF AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SHOWS IN ITS FIRST 'SINGULAR STORIES' FESTIVAL

By Karla Kane

Creating a one-person show takes a certain amount of chutzpah, relying on just one bold soul to connect with an audience and hold its attention throughout. It's even more of a personal investment when the story being told on stage is actually drawn from the real life of the performer. Dragon Productions Theatre Company is highlighting the art of the solo show with its first "Singular Stories: Celebrating Unique Voices" festival this month, featuring three Bay Area writer/actors.

### 'Mutti'

When Laura Jane Bailey began exploring the idea of doing solo work, she recalled the advice of a friend, who said to think about a topic that makes a good story at a dinner party. Her thoughts turned to how she met her husband.

"It's a romantic, funny little story but then it always kind of segued into this story about his mother, my new mother-in-law," she said. "Her story is fascinating to me." Bailey's mother-in-law grew up in Germany, survived World War II and immigrated to the United States shortly after. "Mutti," the show that resulted, is a weaving together of stories about Bailey's mother-in-law's experience and her own experience falling in love with her husband and becoming part of his family. It's a monologue, according to the Dragon's press release, "about a Midwest, middle-aged woman

finding who she is through women's work."

Bailey's a familiar name and face on the local theater scene as an actor and director, but "Mutti" marks her foray into writing and solo-performing. The show made its debut at the Dragon's Monday Night Play Space, so it's fitting to bring it back to the Redwood City stage.

"Being a middle-aged actress in the Bay Area, there aren't always a tremendous amount of work opportunities," she said in a phone interview from Sacramento, where she was performing with Capital Stage. Creating her own show, she said, is a good way to "take agency over my career."

What does Bailey's husband, whom she described as "in no way a performer," think about her sharing his family's memories with the public? While she said he felt a little "exposed" when seeing the full show in the company of friends, all of whom were looking to him for reaction, he appreciates the honor being paid to his family's story.

"I'd ask him all along the way, when there's something personal about him or his mother, I'd run it by him and ask, 'Is this OK?' He hasn't said no yet so, so far so good," she laughed.

### 'Working for the Mouse'

Trevor Allen worked for four years as a costumed character at Disneyland, and his adventures in the Happiest Place on Earth form the basis of "Working for the Mouse," giving audiences a



COURTESY OF TREVOR ALLEN

Trevor Allen spent four years as a costumed character at Disneyland, inspiring his one-man show "Working for the Mouse."

glimpse behind the scenes at the Magic Kingdom.

"I do many different character voices in the show. It may strike some folks as cartoonish but that's the point. That's sometimes hard to pull off because you're just one body playing multiple characters in a scene," he said. "Making that clear, funny and entertaining can be a challenge but when it works, the characters come alive and the audience is with you ... well, that's the best feeling there is."

Park employment involved working for "part-time, minimum wage in hot fur costumes and stifling conditions without 'voice clearance' or medical insurance," but there were magical moments, too, he said. Some favorite memories chronicled in "Working for the Mouse" include playing an imaginary game of baseball, dressed as the Mad Hatter, with children along the parade route when a float broke

down; celebrating a "mad luau" with other costumed characters, and helping make a terminally ill child's wish come true.

Allen has been performing versions of the show, including at the Dragon, for several years.

"It's a period piece now because it's about a time and a place that doesn't really exist anymore, but it still feels fresh and new every night because it has to be. Each audience is different," he said. "I am happy to be coming back to the Dragon. It's a wonderfully intimate theater."

### 'The California Missions and Race Tour'

For Fred Pitts, a self-professed history geek, it was a 2012 tour of the California missions that inspired his one-man show. At each stop along the way, he encountered numerous friendly folks who were all eager to tell him he resembled "someone famous

and black," he said. "Me taking a solo trip to satisfy my love of history turned into a journey about what it's like to live as an African American man in this world."

As his trip went on, Pitts (whom local theater fans will recognize from frequent appearances as an actor, including most recently with Palo Alto Players) updated his friends about his adventures via social media, he found he had an eager audience following along.

"Every day, people were asking 'What happened today?' and 'You gotta make this into a solo show at some point,'" he said. "I am not a solo guy; that's not what I do." Nevertheless, he dutifully copied his reports into a file and when years later he took a class on creating a solo show, "The California Missions and Race Tour" was ripe for revisiting. The show made its debut at the Playground Solo Performance Festival in San Francisco.

What makes a successful solo show, he said, is "a story that's compelling and a performer that can keep you interested from start to finish." For Pitts, who portrays around 34 characters in his piece and named San Juan Capistrano as his personal favorite mission site, it's important that audiences are both entertained and gain a bit more knowledge of history and culture.

"I ask the audience, 'How many of you grew up in California and built a mission out of sugarcubes in the fourth grade?' I like to have people walk away understanding that history is not all that sugar-coated history we were taught. There's a pretty side to his and a really ugly side, especially with the missions, and in terms of Native American and African American history," he said.

"I'm not judging anyone. We get taught history as kids and the history we're told is usually slanted, depending on what they want you to remember or not remember," he said. "The history you're taught can't be the whole story. Find out the details. It's much more fascinating!"

**Right:** Bailey's "Mutti" is inspired by her mother-in-law.



COURTESY OF LAURA JANE BAILEY

**Far right:** Fred Pitts combined his love of history and personal experiences to create "The California Missions and Race Tour."



COURTESY OF FRED PITTS

### ■ INFORMATION

**What:** "Singular Stories: Celebrating Unique Voices."

**Where:** Dragon Productions Theatre Company, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City.

**When:** Aug. 7-11 (performance times vary; see online).

**Cost:** \$20-\$25.

**Info:** dragonproductions.net.

# Viewpoint

- EDITORIAL
- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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### ■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

#### HIGH-DENSITY DEVELOPMENTS

Several communities are banding together to oppose the proposed 555 W. Middlefield Road project. The project will be re-zoned from medium to high density. Most of the construction will border Cypress Point Drive, a dead-end street. Our area has more than our share of high-density projects and this project will have a significant impact on the quality of life of our residents.

The purpose of the General Plan 2030 is to perform a unified, thoughtful and fair planning for housing developments in our city. But the way it really works is a developer requests approval to build a new high-density housing development and rezoning. The rezoning is almost always approved. Each project is evaluated on its own merits separately from all the other projects. The cumulative impacts of all the proposed and existing projects are not taken into account. This is not careful planning that at the same time preserves the quality of life. The General Plan is a paper tiger and so are the environmental impact reports. Just another hurdle to get over.

The General Plan 2030 needs serious revision if the city simply plans to meet the demands for more housing by building many high-density developments east of Central Expressway without the resources needed to support the rising population of people and cars. I request your help in this matter by writing a story about this high-density project, which is just the beginning of building to the sky in Mountain View. It's streets clogged with cars, nonstop 24/7 high noise levels, loss of neighborhood character, increasing pollution from car exhaust and particulates, loss of the redwood tree belt that traps dust and pollution from highway emissions, no parking spaces, safety of children and bike riders compromised from congested roadways.

*Daniel Shane  
Cypress Point Drive*

#### RANCHO SAN ANTONIO PARKING

My wife and I, who frequently use RSA (Rancho San Antonio), have completely given up on going there on weekends ("No easy fix for Rancho San Antonio's crowded parking lots," July 26). In

addition, the place is inaccessible on many days before or after holidays, and on many Fridays, when I assume, because of local Silicon Valley rules, no one is working. The parking situation can be so bad at times that I would expect there have been serious fights over parking spaces.

Another note, RSA has three trailheads located in Los Altos Hills (Ravensbury Avenue, Mora Drive, Stonehaven Drive), that are completely inaccessible to ordinary citizens. There is no parking anywhere near these trailheads, no pedestrian access, no bike access. The only folks that get to use these are the residents of a handful of expensive homes in Los Altos Hills — in the case of Ravensbury Avenue, about four homes within walking distance, whose homes were there when Rancho San Antonio was built, so it should have been clear that these were trailheads for the wealthy only. Ravensbury is the most egregious example, with about a 1.5-mile trip in from the nearest parking, with no shoulders, no sidewalks, no bike paths, no on-street parking anywhere along the way, and the trailhead itself festooned with no-parking signs. The four homes on Ravensbury and West Ravensbury near the trailhead were there when Rancho was built, and the residents were clearly successful in ensuring that there was no access by anyone else to the trailhead.

*Carol and David Lewis  
Oak Street*

#### DEVELOPMENT IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

As your article states, "Hotels race to open in MV" (July 26) — look around town and it seems that developers want to build in Mountain View at any price. Some might call it a sellers market. Others might protest that there is far too much building in our growing town.

Incredibly, our previous (2016) City Council negotiated like bumpkins and gave away the hotel tax to lure one of these hotels, developer Robert Green, to a prime location on Hope Street, just off Castro Street. Most hotels would pay dearly for this location adjacent to the train station, but our council actually paid them to build here. This places quite a burden on current and future councils to make the questionable deal works financially.

Silicon Valley Business Journal's (former reporter) Nathan Donato-Weinstein (Jan. 13, 2016), noted that, "The city of Mountain View would need to help fund the project to the tune of about \$26.4 million." He points out that the usually lucrative transit occupancy tax (TOT) was given away to the developer, deferred for 10 years. "The city would give Robert Green a hefty rebate on TOT for a decade." Did we also negotiate away the other hotel taxes?

We're fortunate that Mountain View is a well-run city. But the current council has inherited some questionable decisions, like the marijuana retail shops and developers with sharp pencils. Fortunately, some of these judgment errors can be undone.

*Don McPhail  
Hope Street*

#### THE FUTURE OF TRANSIT

Upzone your neighborhoods like crazy so that they are dense enough for transit. This will ensure you also have housing for all the maids and gardeners who work in everyone's homes, and the public servants who can't live anywhere near the area. You can't have transit in car-dependent suburbia. You need to stop providing parking with residences, make sure there are protected bike lanes, and prioritize biking, walking, and whatever public transit you do have. Make sure you have bus shelters at every stop, info on next buses, and maps. Also, be sure the streets are lined with trees. Companies should give monthly passes to all of their employees and not give parking tax credits (which are twice as high as for public transit).

This won't change anything overnight, but you have to start sometime. In 20 and 30 years it'll become urban. That is, unless the NIMBYs stop you, which is very likely.

*Tanya Seaman  
Founding executive director of  
PhillyCarShare  
Formerly of Portola Valley*

#### P IS FOR POISON

The P in GOP appears to stand for poison. Their climate change denial and drill-at-any-cost philosophy is poisoning our land, water and atmosphere. Their support of blatant racist remarks is poisoning our national psyche. And their environmentally destructive policies are poisoning

the future for wildlife, our children and our grandchildren. Time to detoxify our country and instead move toward domestic policies that help working people live a healthy and prosperous life.

*Ed Taub  
Devoto Street*

#### HOMELESSNESS

Victory. We conquered space. We set foot on the moon. A first step toward populating the universe. The sky is not the limit. And recently we concluded the biennial USA homeless census. Reflect on what we leave behind when we blast off from Earth.

Census Bureau homeless data for 2007 shows approximately 641,000 homeless. The homelessness steadily decreased (except for a 1.1% increase in 2010) to 550,000 by 2016, down 14% from 2007. Twentieth century USA homelessness data is not readily available.

The homeless population from 2016 is increasing at a double digit percentage rate in Santa Clara County and surrounding counties. There was a surplus of affordable housing in 1970, and decisions were made from 1980 to 1989 to cut Department of Housing and Urban Development budgets. The surplus eroded and turned into a 3 million unit deficit by 1985. We never recovered a surplus.

What can be done?

The obvious solution to homelessness is a roof for every unsheltered person. It's also apparent that a surplus of affordable housing may be a favorable condition for decreasing homelessness.

Multiple studies demonstrate success in reducing homelessness as well as its harmful financial and societal effects by providing a combination of housing without preconditions and supportive care. It's the right thing to do.

Where is the money going to come from? Nobody asked this question when President Kennedy outlined the moon expedition.

Our president wants a wall between Mexico and the USA? No problem funding.

May I suggest a large tax on funds expended to conquer the universe, earmarked for Earth's homeless and needy, would be healthy.

Sheltering should be a human right. Homelessness eradication is equivalent to a moon shot, and should receive priority.

*Robert Pollak  
W. Middlefield Road*

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW



## LOCAL GYRO

NICK THE GREEK BRINGS HELLENIC STREET FOOD TO A FUN CORNER OF REDWOOD CITY

By Monica Schreiber  
Photos by Sinead Chang

The leafy block of Broadway Street between Jefferson and Main is one of the liveliest streets in downtown Redwood City. Summer evenings on this little stretch are delightfully energetic, with jam-packed bars and bustling sidewalk tables in front of restaurants showcasing a large swath of the world's cuisine: Korean, Italian, Indian, Mexican, Japanese and so on. Nick the Greek sits at the center of the international action.

With a huge window opening to the sidewalk, this bright little souvlaki and gyro house is part of a rapidly expanding chain that launched in 2014 in San Jose. There are 10 Nick the Greeks from Santa Cruz to San Carlos, most of which are owned by the founding trio of cousins. They recently started franchising.

Nick the Greek's backstory reads like something a scriptwriter might come up with: three first-generation cousins, each with exactly the same name — Nick Tsigaris — leverage their families' collective restaurant experience and set out to prove wrong a naysayer business professor



**Above:** The gyro salad at Nick the Greek in Redwood City.  
**Top:** The beef and lamb gyro includes French fries tucked inside pita bread.

who didn't get the whole street food trend. A successful business ensues. American dream realized. Let's call it "Three Cousins and a Big Fat Restaurant Chain" or maybe "My Three Nicks."

"Big Nick," "Little Nick" and "Baby Nick" are riding the fast-casual wave, offering a small but well-curated menu of fairly priced Greek standards in a friendly environment. A Mediterranean blue palette, cute logo and an order-at-the-counter setup give the place a decidedly corporate, cookie-cutter feel, but that's exactly what they're going for: Greek street food tweaked a little for California palates and served with American-style efficiency that can be easily replicated in each location.

The menu is pretty much what you would expect: gyros, salads, souvlaki plates, pitas, hummus and, of course "bowls," because any self-respecting fast-casual joint has to have a bowl option these days. I'm not complaining. I love the bowl trend and happily dug into one of Nick the Greek's with tender, nicely seasoned grilled chicken, basmati rice, lettuce, onions, tomatoes, cucumbers and feta, topped with tzatziki and a yogurt sauce (\$9.50). A little red wine

vinaigrette added zing. It was a substantial lunch.

I was much less happy with Nick the Greek's limp, lukewarm and utterly uninteresting French fries (\$3.50 for a side; \$5.95 for "Greek fries" with chunks of garlic, feta crumbles and the same yogurt sauce that was drizzled atop the bowl). I ordered fries on each of my three visits, primarily because it is so easy to give into the combo upsell (order a main dish and for \$3 more you can tack on a drink and fries or a small salad). The thin, sad fries were lackluster every time.

We also were unimpressed by a chicken souvlaki plate (\$13.25). The chicken was nicely seasoned, but instead of the grilled cubes that were promised by the menu, we received a pile of scrappy bits. On the other hand, the Grecian beef-teki burger (\$9.50) was fantastic. Beef-teki is Greek meatloaf seasoned heavily with oregano, garlic and other spices. Here it is served hamburger-style on a brioche bun with lettuce, tomato, onions and feta. It was a flavorful alternative to a traditional hamburger.

The beef/lamb gyro (\$9.50) was another meaty winner. A

► See **GYRO**, page 18



**Above:** Habib Hadj Sahraoui, manager of Nick the Greek in Redwood City, prepares an order on July 29. **Top:** A sweet triangle of baklava (left) and fries (right) topped with garlic, yogurt sauce and crumbled feta cheese.



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a guide to the spiritual community

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## Weekend

### GYRO

► Continued from page 17

huge pile of well-seasoned beef and lamb was enveloped by a pillow-soft pita, along with tomatoes, onions, tzatziki and a few French fries stuffed in for good measure. My gyro was tasty, but a little bland for my palate, so I enlivened it with some Sriracha, a decidedly nontraditional but smart condiment offering. Interestingly, even though I didn't like Nick the Greek's fries as a stand-alone item, they are a great addition to the gyros. The kitchen just needs to include more than four or five of them.

Avgolemeono (\$5.50) is a classic chicken soup thickened with egg yolk and made tangy by lemon juice. Nick the Greek's version is made with orzo rather than the rice I expected — a nice riff on the traditional recipe.

A simple side of hummus with pita bread (\$5.95) was elevated from boring to noteworthy by one simple detail: the pita triangles were deliciously grilled.

The loukoumades (\$5.95) didn't quite measure up to the fried pieces of heaven I've encountered at the Belmont Greek festival, but it is hard to go wrong with Greece's version of donut holes, bathed in a honey syrup and topped with walnut pieces.

Nick the Greek offers exactly what one would expect from a fast-casual restaurant. Prices are fair, service is friendly and the food is a little hit and miss, but there's clearly local demand for budget-friendly Greek fare. Nick the Greek is helping to fill the niche with its bright little eatery on a fun Redwood City street. ■

Email *Monica Schreiber* at [monicahayde@yahoo.com](mailto:monicahayde@yahoo.com)



*Loukoumades* are similar to donut holes, doused with honey syrup and topped with chopped walnuts.



*Nick the Greek* offers outdoor seating on a busy stretch of Broadway Street in Redwood City.



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

### Mountain View Shuttle Study – Community Survey

The City of Mountain View is exploring the possible modification, expansion, and/or consolidation of local transit and shuttle services to better serve Mountain View residents and employees. And we need your help! Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey which will help us identify transit improvements within the City. Survey is available until **August 23, 2019** on the City's website [MountainView.gov/ShuttleSurvey](http://MountainView.gov/ShuttleSurvey).

Paper copies of the survey are also available at the following locations- Mountain View City Hall – Public Works Department, Library, Community Center, View Teen Center, and Senior Center. We appreciate your time in helping to plan for a better transit/shuttle system for Mountain View.

### DINING NOTES

#### Nick the Greek

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■ MOVIE OPENINGS

# Family lies

COMEDY-DRAMA 'THE FAREWELL' NOTES WHAT'S LEFT UNSPOKEN WITH LOVED ONES

★★★ 1/2 (Century 20, Aquarius)

White lies are typically framed generously as politesse or self-ishly as social lubricant. In "The Farewell," written and directed by Lulu Wang, the white lie manifests as all of the above and more: a cultural reflex and a perverse expression of love. When a Chinese family launches into a cover-up of one member's stage-four lung cancer, even a colluding doctor casually tells a skeptic, "It's a good lie."

Wang first told her version of the story, which she bills as "based on an actual lie," on a 2016 episode of "This American Life." Like the true story, the fictionalized version taps a rich vein of gentle humor concerning the idiosyncrasies and foibles within family dynamics and generational differences.

Wang creates an avatar in Billi (Awkwafina), a first-generation Chinese American immigrant living in Brooklyn and struggling to make ends meet as a writer.

Billi's parents, Haiyan (Tzi Ma) and Jian (Diana Lin), reluctantly break the news that Billi's grandmother, or "Nai Nai" (Zhao Shuzhen), hasn't long to live, and

as Haiyan explains, "The family thinks it's better not to tell her."

The tension of that moral decision, which must be remade in every moment with Nai Nai, suffuses every scene in "The Farewell," pressing the audience to adopt their own moral stance. Most viewers will struggle along with protagonist Billi, viewing the choice through a predominantly Western lens favoring the rights of the individual. Haiyan's older brother Haibin (Jiang Yongbo) articulates the other side: "In the East a person's life is part of a whole. Family. Society. It's our duty to carry this emotional burden for her."

And so the family conspires to hasten a wedding between Billi's cousin Hao Hao (Chen Han) and his girlfriend Aiko (Aoi Mizuhara) as a pretext for an international family reunion at the home base of Changchun, China. In safety-by-numbers fashion, the family can enjoy the company of Nai Nai and bid an unspoken farewell. An aghast Billi must process the injury of this news and the insult that her parents forbid her to attend. As someone who wears her heart on



COURTESY OF A24

A family decides to keep grandmother's terminal diagnosis a secret in "The Farewell."

her sleeve — perhaps especially when it comes to her beloved Nai Nai — Billi cannot be trusted to maintain the lie. Her regular long-distance phone conversations are one thing; her expressive face is quite another.

The setup makes for genuinely amusing light farce, but in their patient observation, Wang and cinematographer Anna Franquesa Solano conjure a heartfelt intimacy with the family. The actors' subtleties of expression — revealing to us but not quite to Nai Nai, the truth of their suffering and yearnings — contribute to the film being more of an emotional experience than an intellectual one (consider Awkwafina and Zhao, along with Wang, as early

Oscar frontrunners).

Even at a slim 100 minutes, the dynamic becomes somewhat repetitive, but the actors always offer up finely etched emotional truths about the ways generations of family communicate and fail to communicate, the domestic implications of immigration, and the transcendence of

blood-bound familial love. Even when half a world away, even when alone, one intuits that love of family and of home remain strong and, as Wang suggests, free as a bird.

Rated PG for thematic material, brief language and some smoking. One hour, 40 minutes.

— Peter Canavese



■ MOVIE REVIEWS

'ONCE UPON A TIME ... IN HOLLYWOOD' ★★★ 1/2

For the comedy-drama "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," Quentin Tarantino quantum-leaps back to 1969. In February, fading star Rick Dalton (Leonardo DiCaprio) laments his career. "It's official, ol' buddy," he tells his erstwhile stunt double and only friend Cliff Booth (Brad Pitt). "I'm a has-been." True to form, Tarantino has

made another exquisitely crafted film that chases poor taste and mature filmmaking with a juvenile prank as its punchline. The contradictions are part of the bargain, and "Hollywood" feels somehow both more and less than the sum of its parts depending on the wavelength you tune in to. "Hollywood" is mostly about inarticulate male friendship, about the inevitability of change that comes with time, but more so about how movies are our wish fulfillment and actors suffer their insecurities and anxieties for our pleasure. — P.C.

■ NOW SHOWING

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

**The Art of Self Defense (R)** Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

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

**Crawl (R)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

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

**The Farewell (PG) ★★★ 1/2**  
Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

**The Fast & Furious: Hobbs & Shaw (PG-13)**  
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.  
ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

**It Started with Eve (1941) (Not Rated)**  
Stanford Theatre: Friday

**The Last Black Man in San Francisco (R)**  
Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

**The Lion King (PG)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun.  
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

**Maiden (PG) ★★★** Guild Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

**Meet Me in St. Louis (1944) (Not Rated)**  
Stanford Theatre: Sat. & Sun.

**Midsommar (R)** Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

**Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood (R) ★★★**  
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

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

**Rocketman (R)** Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

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

**Spider-Man: Far From Home (PG) ★★★**  
Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

**This Happy Breed (1944) (Not Rated)**  
Stanford Theatre: Sat. & Sun.

**Three Smart Girls (1936) (Not Rated)**  
Stanford Theatre: Friday

**Toy Story 4 (G) ★★★ 1/2** Century 16: Fri. - Sun.  
Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

**Yesterday (PG-13) ★★** Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

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

**Century Cinema 16:** 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View [tinyurl.com/Century16](http://tinyurl.com/Century16)

**Century 20 Downtown:** 825 Middlefield Rd, Redwood City [tinyurl.com/Century20](http://tinyurl.com/Century20)

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

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

**ShowPlace Icon:** 2575 California St. #601, Mountain View [tinyurl.com/iconMountainView](http://tinyurl.com/iconMountainView)

**Stanford Theatre:** 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 324-3700) [Stanfordtheatre.org](http://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](http://www.mv-voice.com) and click on movies.

## MEET UP - REALTORS

### PRDS Contract Highlights

8/6/19 Tuesday ~ 11:30 am-12:30 pm

JLee Realty, 4260 El Camino Real, Palo Alto  
Brewer Offord & Pedersen Law Office

\$20 per person includes lunch. RSVP required.  
Mail check to JLEE Realty to reserve seats. Limit to 12 realtors.

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[julianalee.com/agent-class](http://julianalee.com/agent-class)



# GOINGS ON

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

## HIGHLIGHT

### 'ANNA CONSIDERS MARS'

Commissioned by Planet Earth Arts and PlayGround, "Anna Considers Mars" by San Francisco playwright Ruben Grijalva tells the poignant story of a young woman who dreams of being chosen for a one-way journey to Mars. Through Aug. 11; times vary. \$15; discount for students, seniors. Stanford University, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

## THEATER

**'The Language Archive'** A quirky, comic drama about communication — its potential and its limits — this modern romantic parable features a linguist at a loss for words, especially the vocabulary of the heart. Through Aug. 4; times vary. \$25-\$60; discounts available, pricing subject to change. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

**'Beat Bugs,' A Musical Adventure** Palo Alto Children's Theatre presents "Beat Bugs," in the Summer Outdoor Hotdog Season. This new musical adaptation based on the Netflix animated series centers around five pals who explore the world and learn life lessons. Through Aug. 4, 6:30-8 p.m. \$14-\$16. Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. cityofpaloalto.org/childrenstheatre

**'Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella'** Foothill Music Theatre presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," the Tony-winning Broadway musical. This contemporary take on the classic tale features Rodgers and Hammerstein's beloved songs, including "In My Own Little Corner," "Impossible," and "Ten Minutes Ago." Through Aug. 4; times vary. \$36; discounts for seniors, students. Smithwick Theatre, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. tickets.vendini.com

**New Works Festival: 'Revival'** TheatreWorks' New Works Festival presents "Revival," a romantic musical drama across the vast prairies of 19th century Nebraska from the authors of Broadway's "Tuck Everlasting." Aug. 10, 14, 17; times vary. \$20 single tickets; \$65 festival passes. Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

## CONCERTS

**Beethoven, Brahms and Franck** This concert functions as an "overture" to the future of chamber music: world-renowned festival artists will share their knowledge,

experience and traditions with the burgeoning International Program musicians as they perform together. Aug. 2, 7:30 p.m. \$34; discount under age 30. The Center for Performing Arts, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. musicatmenlo.org

**'Music is Magic' Concert Series** In partnership with the city of Palo Alto, the Magical Bridge Foundation presents a summer concert series, featuring local artists and musicians. All concerts are family-friendly and sensory-friendly. Every Friday through Aug. 30, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Magical Bridge Playground - Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

## 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

**Sing with a Drop-in Choir** As part of Schola Cantorum Silicon Valley's Summer Sings Program, Kristina Nakagawa, artistic director of Resounding Achord in San Jose and choir director of St. Francis Episcopal Church of Willow Glen, conducts Vaughan Williams' "Dona Nobis Pacem." Aug. 5, 7:30 p.m. \$17; free for students under 25. Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos. scholacantorum.org

## FESTIVALS & FAIRS

**Vintage Computer Festival** Collectors and restorers will be on hand with dozens of exhibits, each featuring a different systems representing aspect of computer history with everything from education, entertainment, business and personal systems. Aug. 3-4, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. \$20 or \$30 weekend pass; kids 14 and under free. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. vcfed.org

**Farmer's Market** The Downtown Los Altos Farmer's Market, where shoppers can find fresh vegetables and fine foods, continues every Thursday through Sept. 26, 4-8 p.m. Free. Located on State Street between 2nd and 4th streets, Los Altos Hills. losaltoschamber.org

## TALKS & LECTURES

**West Bay Model Railroad Association Open House** Trains will run on a scenic two-level layout while club members answer questions. Aug. 10, 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 Nov. 25, 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

**Artist Reception for Karen White** Viewpoints Gallery hosts a reception for Palo Alto artist Karen White in honor of her new exhibit, "Color Stories," an exhibition of oil paintings. Aug. 2, 5-8 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

**'Gadgets Galore! Transforming the American Household'** Los Altos History Museum presents "Gadgets Galore! Transforming the American Household," an exhibit that looks at how we came to have so many gadgets in our lives and where they originated, on display at the J. Gilbert Smith House. Through Sept. 15, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org

## FILM

**'The Bit Player'** The Computer History Museum presents a screening of "The Bit Player," the story of an overlooked genius who revolutionized the world but never lost his childlike curiosity. A Q&A with director Mark Levinson to follow the film. Aug. 2, 6:30 p.m. Free. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. computerhistory.org

**Los Altos Movie Night: 'Jaws'** The Los Altos Third Street Green will feature a pop-up park of synthetic turf, with chairs, tables and shade umbrellas, open to the public, for a screening of the movie "Jaws." Aug. 10, 8:30-10:20 p.m. Free. 150 3rd St., Los Altos. losaltoschamber.org

## FOOD & DRINK

**Rachel Fong: 'Kawaii Sweet World' Baking Party** YouTube star baker Rachel Fong hosts a party for kids and families to celebrate her "Kawaii Sweet World Cookbook: 75 Yummy Recipes for Baking That's (Almost) Too Cute To Eat." Aug. 4, 4-5:30 p.m. \$6; \$33 with book. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

**National Night Out 2019: Los Altos** The city of Los Altos hosts a community barbecue for National Night Out, an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Aug. 6, 6-9 p.m. Free. Saint Paul's Anglican Church/Canterbury Christian School, 101 N. El Monte Ave., Los Altos. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

## LESSONS & CLASSES

**Baby Sign Language** This class covers the basics of sign language, taught by Stefanie Jatta, an American Sign Language trained instructor. A 20-minute "Play and Learn" session follows each program, allowing babies and their caregivers more time to interact with each other. Aug. 7, 1-2 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos. scl.evanced.info

## OUTDOOR RECREATION

**Fun for Families: 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

## SPORTS

**Los Altos 30th Annual Golf Tournament** Presented by Los Altos Chamber of Commerce, the tournament features 18 holes of golf, lunch provided by Le Boulanger, tee prizes, a silent auction, cocktails, a barbecue dinner and more. Aug. 5, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. \$335 per golfer; \$65 party only. Los Altos Golf & Country Club, 1560 Country Club Drive, Los Altos. losaltoschamber.org

**One-Pitch Softball Tournament** Sponsored by Vintage Softball Club of Santa Clara County, this one-pitch softball tournament is open to men and women ages 50 and older. Aug. 3, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. \$20 for individuals, \$150 for teams. Moffet Field, 500 Severys Ave., Mountain View. vintagesoftball.org

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

**Meeting with the Mayor** Mayor Roger Spreen will meet with Los Altos Hills residents to listen to their concerns on an appointment-only basis. Please call ahead to the city clerk, Deborah Padovan at 650-941-7222 to check his availability and make an appointment. Through Sept. 17, 9-10 a.m. Los Altos Hills Town Hall, 26379 Fremont Road, Los Altos Hills. losaltoshills.ca.gov

**Mountain View Woman's Club** Mountain View Woman's Club is a charitable organization working on community projects. For more information please call Lana at 650-282-5336. Meetings held first Wednesday of each month, noon. Free. Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View. mtviewwomansclub.org

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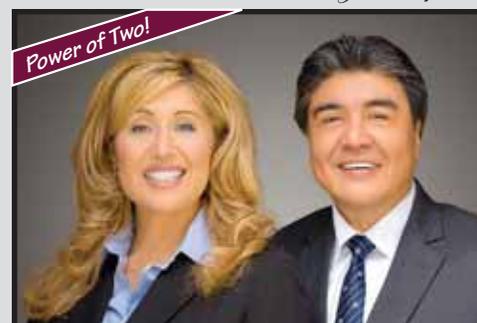
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