

Mountain View VOICE

AUGUST 9, 2019 VOLUME 27, NO. 29

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Super
sweet
WEEKEND | 18



FEDERICA ARMSTRONG

Three-year-old **Penelope Gill**, with encouragement from **Derick Gill**, considers whether to approach Mountain View police K-9 **Odin** and Officer **Dorene Hansen** at the National Night Out event at Rengstorff Park on Aug. 6.

Mountain View's big night out

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT OFFERS FRIENDLY ENCOUNTERS WITH LOCAL POLICE, FIREFIGHTERS

By Nisha Malley

Children filed into lines at Rengstorff Park Tuesday evening, eagerly awaiting their turn to sit in the front seat of a fire engine, play on a

bouncy house slide and, if they had any luck, throw a winning pitch to soak a police officer in a dunk tank.

The festivities were part of Mountain View's fifth annual National Night Out,

a meet-and-greet with police officers and emergency first responders.

With roughly 100 people in attendance, the

► See **NIGHT OUT**, page 8

Ace Hardware to take over vacant Orchard Supply site

By Mark Noack

A mothballed building once occupied by Orchard Supply Hardware is set to be revived under a new home-improvement chain. On Tuesday, an Ace Hardware affiliate announced it would take over the former Orchard Supply building at 2555 Charleston Road in Mountain View.

The new Ace Hardware is

expected to open for business by late next month, and it will employ up to 50 workers from the area. The store is expected to feature dedicated departments for gardening, backyards, power tools, paint and kitchen appliances, according to the Aug. 6 announcement.

"We're looking forward to becoming a supportive, active and helpful part of the Mountain View community," said Chris

Gueriero, the newly hired Ace general manager, in a statement. Gueriero previously worked at the Mountain View Orchard Supply.

Fans of Orchard Supply, also known as OSH, were saddened last year when the chain abruptly shut down after nearly 90 years in business. The hardware retailer originated in the South

► See **ACE HARDWARE**, page 11

Mountain View murder trial stalled over mental competency question

JAN NEAL IS ACCUSED OF BEATING MAN TO DEATH OUTSIDE CITY HALL IN 2017

By Kevin Forestieri

The criminal case against a man accused of killing a homeless man in downtown Mountain View in 2017 has barely budged this year, stalled by the need to determine whether the defendant is mentally fit to stand trial.

Jan Neal, 44, is facing murder charges after he allegedly attacked a man in the Civic Center Plaza on Castro Street on Nov. 4, 2017. The victim, later determined to be 55-year-old Jose Ospina Jaramillo, was transported to Stanford Hospital with severe injuries, where he was later pronounced dead. The incident is one of only three criminal homicides in Mountain View since 2010, according to the Mountain View Police Department.

The case hasn't been headed toward a speedy resolution over

the last two years. In October last year, the criminal proceedings were suspended after Neal's mental competency was called into question, launching an entirely separate set of hearings that have now spanned more than nine months without much progress.

Under state law, courts are required to appoint two psychiatrists to conduct mental competency assessments in situations where a defendant may be unable to understand the nature of the court proceedings or assist in the defense. If the reports are conflicting, a third psychiatrist may be assigned to act as a tiebreaker. Defendants who are deemed mentally incompetent may be prescribed antipsychotic medication, opening up a further debate about whether the medication is administered voluntarily or involuntarily.

Court documents show that Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Michele McKay McCoy was awaiting an evaluation from



Jan Neal

► See **TRIAL**, page 11



MAGALI GAUTHIER

Ace Hardware announced Tuesday it will open a store in the vacant Orchard Supply Hardware building on Charleston Road in Mountain View and hire up to 50 people.

INSIDE

FALL CLASS GUIDE 15 | GOINGS ON 22 | REAL ESTATE 23

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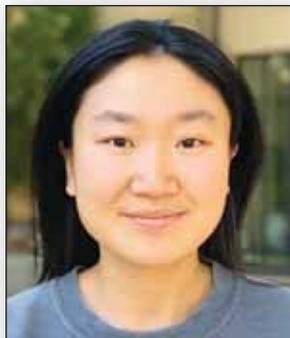


Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

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

What advice would you give to students starting school?



“Spend time on your interests. Don’t focus too much on your study. I come from China. All the high school students there try their best to work on study(ing) things but they miss themselves ... it’s hard now to go back to find yourself.”

Yoyo Li, Mountain View



“Probably just to take it seriously. You never know what you’ll retain that might be useful later in life.”

Nick Towstopiat, Mountain View



“I’d say, just enjoy your time in school while you can. Don’t stress out about it too much. Make friends and do fun things.”

Larry Wai, Mountain View



“It’s hard to see school as anything except for a bunch of tasks when you’re in it, but it is one of the very few opportunities in your life when you are just investing in yourself constantly. Any amount of work that you’re putting into school is putting work into you.”

Steve Woyach, Columbus, Ohio



“Focus on school, but also take time for yourself to understand what you need to make yourself happy throughout the year. Take the time to relax and give your mental health a break sometimes.”

Olivia Bindon, Mountain View

Have a question for **Voices Around Town**? Email it to editor@mv-voice.com

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Navigating the Termination Process (Landlord Focused)



What evictions are allowed?



Are notices required?



When is tenant relocation assistance necessary?

Thursday, August 15, 2019 | 6:30 p.m.

Plaza Conference Room - 2nd Floor, City Hall
500 Castro Street, Mountain View
City of Mountain View | Rent Stabilization Program



■ CRIME BRIEF

MAN ARRESTED FOR PUNCHING CONCERT EMPLOYEE

A San Jose man was arrested over the weekend after he allegedly hit an employee at Shoreline Amphitheatre multiple times in the face and head, according to police.

The confrontation between the 28-year-old man and the Live Nation employee occurred around 10 p.m. during the Pitbull concert on Saturday, Aug. 3, and was reportedly sparked when the employee tried to stop the man from stepping in front of a large video screen near the right lawn area inside the venue, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

The man reportedly hit the employee in response, and tried to walk away when he called for help, Nelson said. The victim suffered wounds to his face and head, and was taken to Shoreline Amphitheatre's medical tent for treatment.

The alleged assailant was stopped and detained by concert staff at a bar inside the venue and was later arrested and transported to Santa Clara County jail on suspicion of battery causing serious injuries.

—Kevin Forestieri

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

100 block Hope St., 7/29
2400 block Charleston Rd., 7/30
1400 block Mercy St., 8/4
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 8/4
400 block Mariposa Av., 8/5
500 block Piazza Dr., 8/5

1900 block Polk Ct., 7/30
300 block Showers Dr., 7/30
1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 7/31
1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 7/31
2500 block El Camino Real, 7/31

INDECENT EXPOSURE

California St. & Oak St., 8/4

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

700 block Continental Cir., 8/4

STOLEN VEHICLE

200 block Sierra Vista Av., 7/29

VANDALISM

300 block Easy St., 7/29
800 block E. El Camino Real, 8/5

BATTERY

400 block San Antonio Rd., 7/30
1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 7/30
Castro St. & Villa St., 8/3
1 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 8/3
N. Shoreline Blvd. & Terra Bella Av., 8/3

DRUNK DRIVING

Colony St. & N. Rengstorff Av., 7/30

GRAND THEFT

500 block Cypress Point Dr., 7/30

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BENEFIT RAISES NEARLY \$5K FOR HOPE'S CORNER

On Aug. 1, the first annual "Tour de Hope" indoor cycling benefit raised \$4,800 for Hope's Corner, a nonprofit in downtown Mountain View that provides meals and services to vulnerable and unhoused members of the community.

The El Camino YMCA hosted the event in partnership with Hope's Corner and Humu, a Mountain View startup that uses behavioral change technology to improve workplace environments.

At the event, six teams competed on stationary bikes, trying to pedal the most miles in 90 minutes. Hope's Corner volunteers and employees of Humu and Fenwick & West battled for the "Tour de Hope Cup," an oversized stainless-steel measuring cup. The prize went to winners Vin Wolff and Chris MacAskill.

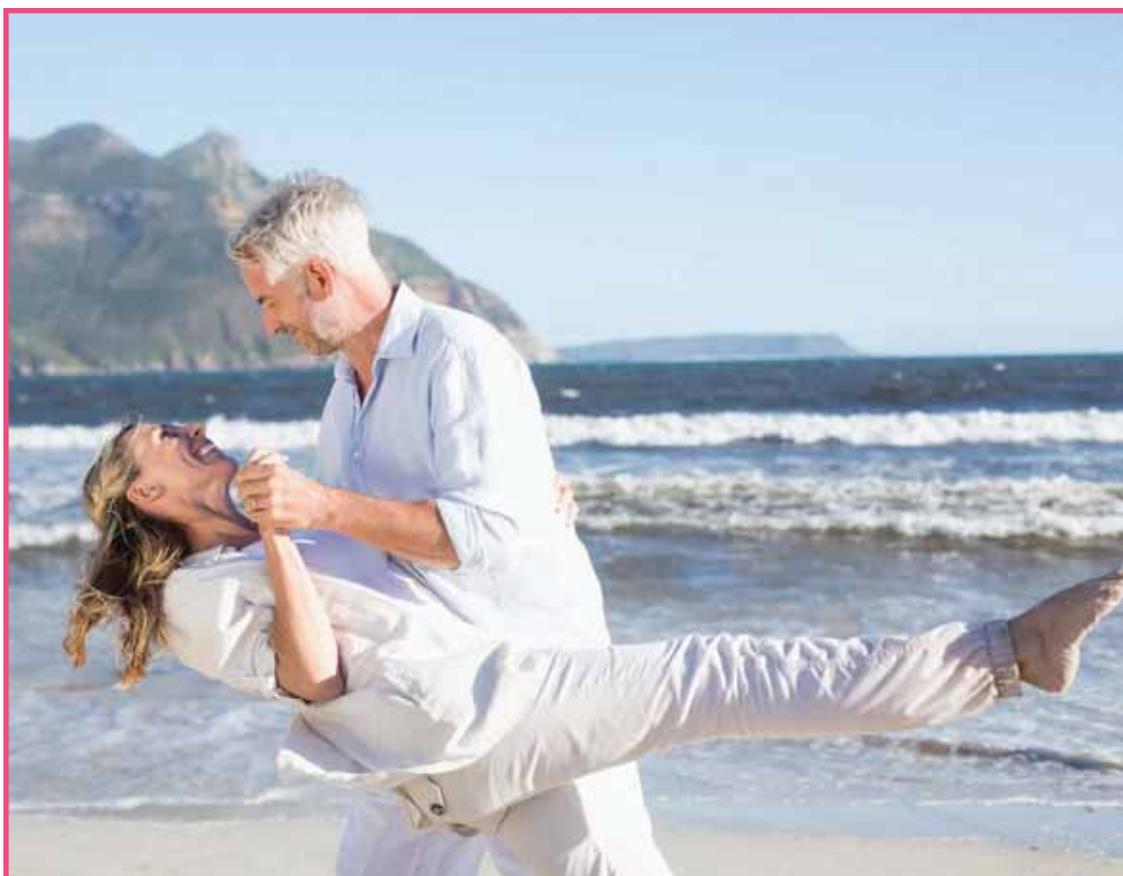
Participants were also entered in a raffle to win gift certificates for local businesses and restaurants.

Hope's Corner serves breakfast and bagged lunches to over 200 people every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and offers free showers Thursday and Saturday mornings at its facility at 748 Mercy St.

SECOND HARVEST UNVEILS NEW NAME, LOGO

As the tech industry transforms the cost of living in the Bay Area, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties is unveiling a new name and logo to reflect the distinct challenges facing the region.

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 10



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MAGALI GAUTHIER

Chris Hsiung was promoted to the Mountain View Police Department's newly created role of deputy chief. As police captain, he was credited with transforming the department's social media and public outreach strategy.

Deputy chief seeks to prepare future Mountain View police leaders

MORE TRAINING NEEDED AS GROWING NUMBER OF SEASONED OFFICERS REACH RETIREMENT

By Kevin Forestieri

Deputy Chief Chris Hsiung, a veteran officer promoted last week to second in command at the Mountain View Police Department, will be heading efforts to train officers as the agency's top brass nears retirement in the coming years.

Hsiung has worked in or overseen virtually every aspect of law enforcement in the Bay Area throughout his 29-year career, and is largely credited for transforming the way

the department communicates with the public. His new job puts him in charge of most day-to-day operations including budget and finance matters, Hsiung told the *Voice* in an interview.

Described by colleagues as an approachable, compassionate leader who frequently walks the department halls to check in on co-workers and remembers birthdays, Hsiung has spent the last six years as one of the department's two captains. Since his promotion to captain in 2013, he has overseen law

enforcement functions ranging from investigations and personnel services to field operations and the more than half-dozen patrol teams.

Capt. Jessica Nowaski, who has worked with Hsiung for the last 24 years, said she couldn't be more thrilled to work alongside him at the department, calling him a calm and level-headed presence. Though soft-spoken and not outwardly boisterous, she said Hsiung is very social and was the driving

► See **DEPUTY CHIEF**, page 14

Permits for new homes sink in Santa Clara County

SURVEY DATA SHOWS 2019 IS OFF TO A SLOW START FOR BAY AREA HOUSING GROWTH

By Kevin Forestieri

The number of permits for new homes fell across California and most of the Bay Area during the first half of 2019, despite concerns about a lack of housing supply and 10 straight years of sustained regional job growth.

Santa Clara County issued permits for 2,781 housing units

from January through June this year, a precipitous drop from the 3,808 permits issued over the same period in 2018, according to preliminary data collected by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Housing advocates and developers alike point to the region's high cost of construction, labor shortages and tariffs as factors in the decline.

Mountain View appears to be an outlier, with the preliminary data showing the city still leads the way on housing among suburban Peninsula cities.

Alameda, Contra Costa and San Mateo counties also saw permits fall over the same period, contributing to the sudden reversal of otherwise consistent

► See **PERMITS**, page 12

City launches new registry to rein in Airbnb

RULES ON SHORT-TERM RENTALS AIM TO PROTECT NEIGHBORS, HOUSING SUPPLY

By Mark Noack

After years of consideration, Mountain View officials are finally ready to begin regulating the fast-growing cottage industry of Airbnb and other short-term rental services.

Under a new registry system that launched last month, city officials will begin enforcing new rules on the hundreds of bedrooms, apartments and homes that have been converted into short-term lodgings within the city. All hosts will soon be required to pay for fees for business licenses, registration and hotel taxes.

"We firmly believe that people operating short-term rentals in Mountain View want to be compliant with the city's rules," said Melvin Gaines, city management analyst. "At this point, we are really trying to be educational, and not punitive."

It's fair to say these fees and rules have been a long time coming. For more than a

decade, Airbnb and its rivals have faced minimal taxes and scrutiny from city officials. By taking this approach, the city essentially waived more than \$1 million in annual taxes. In turn, the number of short-term rentals has ballooned, growing to more than 1,000 listings spread across platforms such as Airbnb, VRBO and Bookings.com, according to city estimates.

The new regulations are expected to clamp down on reports of apartments being converted into de facto hotels, creating a variety of problems. For some neighborhoods, unregulated Airbnb homes have generated noise, parking and garbage complaints. Meanwhile, housing advocates blame the unfettered short-term rental industry for exacerbating the regional housing shortage.

To give one example, Prometheus Real Estate Group has been using short-term rental sites

to fill unoccupied apartments in at least three of its Mountain View residential properties. These apartments, some of which are rent-controlled units, are listed for between \$200 to \$300 a night.

A resident at Prometheus' Madrone Apartments told the *Voice* she recently found that several units at her complex were being leased out like hotel rooms on short-term rental sites. She was disturbed by the practice, saying it seemed like a shady trick to pull amid the brutal housing crisis. She asked for her name to be withheld over fears of retaliation.

"It seems like because they have rent stabilization, they're trying to get a higher price," she said.

'It took them a while, but I think the city of Mountain View did it right.'

DAVID HAEDTLER, AIRBNB HOST

"I just don't trust that they're following the rules, and these apartments already aren't worth what they're making us pay."

Prometheus representatives did not respond to a request for comment.

Under the new city rules going into effect, land-

lords will be prohibited from renting out homes or apartments on sites like Airbnb for more than 60 days per year. City officials say they wanted to give some flexibility for homeowners to temporarily rent out their properties if they leave the area, such as for an extended vacation. The 60-day cap, they believe, will make it unprofitable for speculators to buy up homes just to convert them to Airbnb rentals.

If hosts are living at their property while taking in guests, by renting out a spare bedroom or granny unit, then they will face no limit and they can operate it 365 days a year.

Surprisingly, some Airbnb hosts are welcoming the new regulations. For years, Mountain View resident David Haedtler has taken in Airbnb guests at his Slater neighborhood house as a way to make ends meet. His

► See **AIRBNB**, page 10

Chez TJ, Tied House granted historic status

RECOGNITION COULD IMPEDE PROPOSAL TO REDEVELOP SITES

By Mark Noack

A pair of old downtown restaurants that could have been demolished two years ago have been granted historic status. In a victory for local preservationists, the buildings that house Chez TJ and the Tied House brewery have both been added to the California Register of Historic Resources, further cementing their position as fixtures in the city.

For more than 30 years, the two restaurants have been mainstays of downtown Mountain View, but the buildings they occupy have been around much longer. In the application sent to state officials, the local neighborhood group Livable Mountain View highlighted both buildings as irreplaceable relics of the city's early years.

For history buffs, the Chez TJ building, home of the city's only Michelin-starred restaurant, should be better known as the Weilheimer House, a Queen-Anne style cottage that was once occupied by one of Mountain View's most prominent



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Chez TJ, Mountain View's only restaurant with a Michelin star, is in the historic Weilheimer House, a Queen-Anne style cottage next to the Tied House.

citizens. In a state Historical Resources Commission hearing earlier this year, advocates delved into the storied life of the house's namesake owner, Julius Weilheimer, who served a hodgepodge of roles in early 20th century Mountain View, including mayor, shopkeeper, postmaster and banker. They also asked that the Tied House brewery be regarded as the Air Base Laundry, a former laundromat with its own historic and architectural significance.

But the Chez TJ and Tied House owners were not so eager

to see their buildings recognized as historic. An attorney representing Chez TJ dismissed the idea, pointing out that preservationists were rushing to attach significance to the building when it didn't have much history that was noteworthy.

"The Weilheimer House? This is the first that I've ever heard of it," said Peter Brewer, an attorney representing Chez TJ. "This is a new (name) appointed to this house to push this through, but I don't believe this property has any events of historic significance."

The state Historical Resources Commission later voted to grant historic status to both buildings, a designation that also makes them eligible for federal recognition in the National Register of Historic Resources.

The backstory to this feud is that the owners of Chez TJ and Tied House both want to replace their old buildings in order to make way for a 41,000-square-foot office redevelopment. Their proposal drew backlash from the downtown-focused Livable Mountain View group, which blamed similar office projects for ruining the Castro Street area's charm and character. When this office project came up for review in 2017, the City Council narrowly rejected it, even though the restaurant owners promised they would preserve the Weilheimer House by relocating it to a nearby site.

Despite the setback, the proposal to redevelop the two properties remains an active project with the city's planning department, and both restaurant owners say they are still trying to find a way to make it work.

It remains to be seen how the new historic status will impact any future development plans at the site. Historic designation does not necessarily preclude a development or land sale, but it will require further analysis to investigate and mitigate any impacts.

"I would say the standard of review now becomes the important question once a property has this level of historic designation," said Livable Mountain View member Louise Katz. "They can't just walk into the planning department and say, 'Here's where I want to put an office building.'"

The historic status is nothing more than an encumbrance, said Chez TJ owner George Aviet. He said he expected it would cause a small fortune to be wasted on attorneys and consultants for any future development.

"How can I get a permit when they say, 'You can't even touch the building?'" he said. "In their success, they are destroying my life." ▣

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com



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Public Notice

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

Draft Response Plan Available for Review Former Fremont Laundry Site

990 Villa Street, Mountain View, California 94041
Public Comment Period: August 9, 2019 – September 9, 2019

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED? The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on the draft Response Plan for the former Fremont Laundry, located at 990 Villa Street, Mountain View, California 94041 (Site). Dry-cleaning businesses operated at the Site between 1962 and 1991. The draft Response Plan is a cleanup plan to address tetrachloroethylene (PCE) contamination found in soil, soil vapor (air between soil particles), and indoor air at the Site. PCE was a commonly used dry cleaning solvent that is being phased out. The current owner is renovating the building and plans to cleanup the Site prior to future commercial use. DTSC is overseeing this proposed cleanup.

Environmental investigations conducted in 2011 and 2017 found that soil, soil vapor, and indoor air at the Site are contaminated with PCE. PCE was also found in groundwater, but the Site was not determined to be the primary source. The draft Response Plan proposes the following activities to remove and manage contamination: use an active sub-slab vapor depressurization system (SSVDS) to prevent vapor intrusion; prepare an Operation and Maintenance Plan (OMP) to address long-term operation and maintenance of the SSVDS; prepare a Soil Management Plan (SMP) to mitigate risks during any future soil excavation work; and record a Land Use Covenant to restrict future use of shallow groundwater, sensitive land uses, and to ensure compliance with the OMP and SMP.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE? During the public comment period from August 9, 2019 to September 9, 2019, we encourage you to review the draft Response Plan. Please send comments no later than September 9, 2019 to: Jayantha Randeni, Project Manager, DTSC Berkeley Office, 700 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, California 94710 or by email to Jayantha.Randeni@dtsc.ca.gov.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA): As the lead agency under CEQA, DTSC determined that there is no possibility of a significant environmental effect and therefore the project is exempt from CEQA. DTSC would file a Notice of Exemption with the Office of Planning and Research to comply with CEQA as part of the approval process for this response action.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION? The draft Response Plan, and other Site-related documents are available to review at the following locations:

Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St, Mountain View, CA 94041, (650) 903-6887; call for hours

DTSC – File Room, 700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94710, (510) 540-3800; call for appointment

You can also view Site-related information on DTSC's EnviroStor database at: <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public> (Enter "Fremont Laundry" in the search field and select from the drop-down menu.)

CONTACT INFORMATION: For questions or more information about the Site, please contact:

Jayantha Randeni
Project Manager
Phone: (510) 540-3806
Jayantha.Randeni@dtsc.ca.gov

Asha Setty
Public Participation Specialist
Phone: (510) 540-3910
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Florida man sentenced for mailing explosives to political figures

BAY AREA AND CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS AMONG INTENDED TARGETS

By Bay City News Service

A 57-year-old Florida man was handed a 20-year sentence Monday after he pleaded guilty in March to 65 felonies for mailing 16 explosive devices across the country last October, including to some Bay Area and California targets, federal prosecutors said.

Between Oct. 22 and Nov. 2, 2018, the FBI and the U.S. Postal Service recovered 16 envelopes containing explosives mailed by Cesar Altieri Sayoc to his victims, including current Democratic presidential candidates Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, Cory Booker and Tom Steyer, as well as former President Barack Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and CNN, among others.

One addressed to Harris, former San Francisco district attorney and state attorney general and current U.S. senator, was intercepted in Sacramento and another intercepted in Burlingame was addressed to Steyer, a former hedge fund manager from San Francisco who has funded a campaign to impeach President Donald Trump.

The envelopes shared the seemingly misspelled return address in "Florids," as well as contents, and an initial forensic analysis located Sayoc's fingerprints on at least 11 of them.



Cesar Sayoc

"Sayoc's domestic terrorism challenged our nation's cherished tradition of peaceful political discourse," said U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman from the Southern District of New York, where the sentencing took place.

Sayoc had attacked many liberal political figures online since at least 2011, and he posted incendiary comments about some of his victims prior to mailing out his envelopes.

The FBI also found several exhaustive Internet search entries on Sayoc's laptop, including "address kamila harrias," "tom steyers mailing address" and "michelle obama mailing address."

In addition to his prison sentence, Sayoc was sentenced to five years of supervised release. ▀

NIGHT OUT

► Continued from page 1

community-building event aimed to give residents an opportunity to interact with law enforcement in a friendly environment and put a face to the police and fire departments, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

"They're not just a badge and a uniform. They're people," Nelson said. "Any time (residents) see an officer, they should know that they're there in a capacity to help people."

As friendly K-9s and their handlers roamed the walkways, officers chatted with kids and adults over food, including bilingual officers who connected with Spanish-speaking residents.

Attendants could tinker with police tools and gadgets, pose on a police motorcycle and experience the inside of a patrol car and fire engine. Mayor Lisa Matichak and 10 volunteers from the police department took shifts sitting in the dunk tank throughout the evening.

Several organizations stationed booths at the event, including the Community Services Agency, the city's Recreation Division and the Mountain View Fire Department. YMCA hosted a raffle, and there was a place at the event where people could donate unwanted bikes to the nonprofit Community Cycles of California.

Local government officials spotted at National Night Out included council members Ellen Kamei and Margaret-Abe Koga, City Manager Dan Rich and Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen. Matichak and police



PHOTOS BY FEDERICA ARMSTRONG

Above: Luka Jonsson Pereira, 3, pretends to use the radio as Artsion Shut, 6, takes the wheel of a patrol car on display at Mountain View's National Night Out event on Aug. 6. **Top:** Children gather around K-9 Zeus and Mountain View police Sgt. Wahed Magee at National Night Out in Rengstorff Park.

Chief Max Bosel delivered a welcoming address to the crowd, inviting them to take advantage of the food, activities and educational information at the booths.

Matichak also noted the historical significance of the event,

a nationwide tradition that started in the 1980s in Pennsylvania and has grown to involve millions of Americans across 50 states each year. ▀

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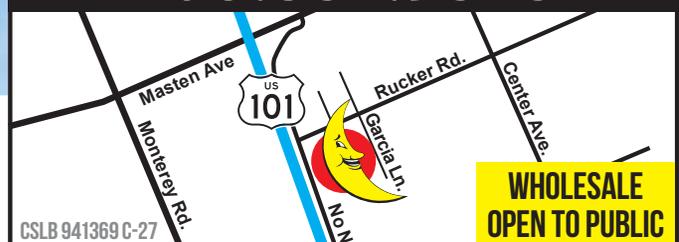
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AIRBNB

► Continued from page 5

children moved out years ago, so it made sense to rent out his two spare bedrooms and an unused backyard cottage, he said.

Haedtler said he was sanguine about the new rules, and other local Airbnb hosts whom he's chatted with generally feel the same way.

"It took them a while, but I think the city of Mountain View did it right," he said. "This solves the problem of people buying up properties and reducing our housing stock."

When it comes to enforcing these regulations, the city will be treading lightly. The emphasis

for now would be on educating hosts to register and comply, according to city staffers.

Any hosts who fail to register with the city will be given a warning. After that point, they could receive a \$500 fine, or \$1,000 if it takes three warnings. Any absent hosts who rent out their houses or apartments for more than 60 days per year could be fined \$500 per day.

San Francisco-based company Host Compliance has been hired by the city of Mountain View to handle enforcement and analyze the local rental listings to single out any hosts who are skirting the rules. The company will also operate a 24-hour-a-day hotline for complaints or concerns.

City staffers say that drafting a contract with Host Compliance took longer than expected, which forced them to push back their deadline for when full enforcement will begin. All short-term rental hosts are now expected to be registered and fully compliant with city rules by Sept. 1.

When the new regulations fully come online, all short-term rental hosts will be expected to operate like independent businesses, paying fees similar to those levied on hotels and other lodgings. Mountain View is expected to receive at least \$1.26 million in hotel taxes from Airbnb and similar services. ■

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

The organization, founded in 1974, announced its change to the name Second Harvest of Silicon Valley. Its new logo features an image of a wheat stalk against a rising sun.

"Over the past four decades, Second Harvest has grown right along with Silicon Valley, and as a result, we've had to become more than just a food bank," said Leslis Bacho, Second Harvest of Silicon

Valley CEO, in a press release. "Second Harvest has grown into an organization that is leading the community to end local hunger, and we think the new name and logo better represent both the challenges and opportunities of the region that we serve, as well as our commitment to finding new, more innovative ways to reach people with food."

Bacho said that the organization will continue to serve the Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The link to its website, shfb.org,

will also remain unchanged.

One in four residents in the two counties report being food insecure, meaning they don't have reliable access to sufficient food, according to the nonprofit. Second Harvest distributes healthy groceries through its extensive local network — providing enough food for 57 million meals a year — connects people to federal nutrition programs and advocates for anti-hunger policies.

—Nisha Malley

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ACE HARDWARE

► Continued from page 1

Bay and expanded throughout California, but it had been struggling for years amid tight competition. The company bounced between different owners and was later acquired by Lowe's in 2014. After initial attempts to prop up the chain, Lowe's officials announced last year they were closing all of Orchard Supply's 99 retail locations.

A small number of those shuttered hardware stores are now expected to be revived under new ownership. Earlier this year, a Tennessee-based business group announced it would reopen seven Orchard Supply locations under the new name "Outdoor Supply Hardware."

And at least eight Orchard Supply locations throughout California will be resurrected as Ace Hardware stores. Along with the Mountain View store, an Ace Hardware subsidiary expects to take over former Orchard Supply locations in Fresno, West Los Angeles, Chico, Pinole and other cities.

While Orchard Supply may have struggled, Ace Hardware officials expressed confidence

that they could make the business work even in the challenging retail climate. There are more than 4,800 Ace Hardware locations, which operate together as a retail cooperative.

"It all comes down to service. Ace stores live and breathe this, and we're focused on customer service and delivering an excellent experience," said Ace Hardware spokesman Tom Mentzer. "People are going to be surprised and delighted by the breadth and depth of the products we offer here."

In Mountain View, the 34,000-square-foot OSH building has remained vacant since November, leading to much speculation over its future. For a period, city and nonprofit officials tried to persuade the building's owners to allow the site to be used as a safe parking lot for people living out of vehicles.

The new Ace Hardware location is expected to open for business on Sept. 25. A grand opening event is scheduled for Oct. 18 through 20, which will include a variety of promotions.

Information about jobs available at the new Ace are online at tinyurl.com/newMV-ace. ▼

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

TRIAL

► Continued from page 1

Dr. John Greene, a forensic psychiatrist, in December 2018. Four months later, she was still waiting for that report, noting in court minutes on April 25 that the defendant has "refused to meet with Dr. Greene." On multiple occasions Neal was not present during the hearing, and in one instance refused to be escorted by a sheriff's deputy to court.

Because Neal faces felony charges, criminal proceedings could be mothballed for another two years pending psychiatric treatment if he is found mentally incompetent. The attorney assigned to represent Neal through the Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office was not available to comment prior to the *Voice's* press deadline.

The slow-moving nature of mental competency hearings has been a growing problem in California, exacerbated by an increase in the number of county inmates referred for psychiatric treatment by judges across California. Last year, the number of inmates deemed mentally incompetent to stand trial rose to more than 800 people — a 33% increase in three

years, according to a report by the Los Angeles Times.

Defendants could previously be committed for treatment for up to three years for felonies, but recent legislation authored by state Sen. Jim Beall (D-San Jose) that took effect earlier this year reduced the period to two years. The bill, SB 1187, revised language in the statute dating back to 1973 prior to advancements in medication and treatment that, today, can restore mental competency for most inmates in less than six months.

Determining mental competency has to strike a careful balance between the rights of a defendant to due process and rights to a speedy trial, which can be challenging, said Benjamin Rada, a spokesman for the Santa Clara County Superior Court. Attorneys need to take both into account, and legal precedent doesn't put a firm deadline on how long criminal proceedings can be delayed for tests of mental competency, he said.

"There's no clarity on when it will move forward, other than it will," Rada said.

Long-standing criteria set by the U.S. Supreme Court to determine whether the right to a speedy trial has been violated

include whether the delays are unusually long, and whether the defendant or the government is more to blame for the delay. The standard was recently applied in a Los Angeles County case where a man was held in detention awaiting trial for 17 years — a delay caused in large part by staffing cuts at the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office that left attorneys scrambling to prepare his defense multiple times. California's 2nd District Court of Appeal ruled unanimously in favor of the defendant in September last year, ordering him to be released.

The next court date for Jan Neal is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 5, with a second hearing to receive a mental competency report on Sept. 20. ▼

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PERMITS

► Continued from page 5

growth across California extending back to the 2008 recession. An analysis by the Public Policy Institute of California found the state is on track for a 16% decline in new housing this year, raising questions over whether the state can meet its goal of adding millions of new homes by 2025.

“It underlines the need for a deeper understanding of housing markets and what, if any, action can be taken at state and local levels to move the needle,” according to the report.

Part of the problem is that the price to build is through the roof, and residential projects that used to pencil out are no longer feasible, said Leslye Corsiglia, executive director of the nonprofit SV@Home. Despite the regional housing crisis and the need to build more homes, she said market forces are working against residential projects. High costs are causing some developers to revoke proposals, while projects that have already been approved are sitting inactive because of rising costs.

“What we’ve seen in San Jose in particular is they have about 7,000 units right now in the pipeline, but most are stalled,” Corsiglia said, adding that a grand total of 1,400 units have been completely withdrawn from the city’s planning process.

Housing developers in Mountain View have also cited the high cost of construction over the last year. A representative from FortBay, the developer that won approval for a massive 716-unit apartment project at 777 W. Middlefield Road last year, told Mountain View City

Council members in October that the viability of the project was thrown in jeopardy after per-square-foot costs ballooned from \$250 to \$400 since it was originally proposed.

FortBay later agreed to partner with the Mountain View Whisman School District to share in the costs in exchange for units reserved for teacher housing — a deal that was cited in a city staff report as the primary reason the project remained financially feasible for the developer.

An April report on international construction costs by the management and consulting firm Turner & Townsend found that the San Francisco Bay Area is, in fact, the most expensive place to build in the world, costing an average of \$417 per square foot, followed by New York at \$368. The report found a shortage of skilled labor, high hourly wages and U.S.-imposed tariffs on steel imports are all contributing to the sky-high costs, which are expected to increase by another 6% in 2019.

Commercial development, particularly tech offices, typically has a greater return on investment and appears to be unaffected by the high cost of construction, Corsiglia said, which could explain the consistent job growth numbers reported in the Bay Area through the first half of 2019. Data released last month by California’s Economic Development Department shows that the South Bay metropolitan area — defined as Santa Clara County and San Benito County — added 27,500 jobs since June 2018, bringing employment up to more than 1,160,000 as of last month. That amounts to roughly 3.8 new jobs for every housing

permit issued in the two counties during the same period.

The tight construction market doesn’t appear to be having much of an effect on Mountain View’s housing growth, however. Data on the HUD website shows the city is still building far more housing than neighboring suburban cities in Santa Clara County, issuing permits for 589 housing units in the first half of 2019. Though preliminary and still subject to change, the early count places the city second only to San Jose, which issued permits for 1,239 units over the same period, meaning Mountain View had the highest growth of any individual city in the county when adjusted for population.

As of March, Mountain View had 1,832 new residential units under construction, 1,626 units recently approved by the City Council and nearly 3,000 units under review by planning staff. Assistant Community Development Director Wayne Chen said Mountain View has issued more permits this year than in all of 2018 — when the city added 330 net new units — and is still doing “quite well.” He said he was hesitant to call the dip in regional permits a cause for concern.

“Although there needs to be housing production, this could be a year-over-year change. It doesn’t necessarily mean a trend,” Chen said. “So whether that maintains throughout the year or whether that’s a longer-term thing, we would have to see.”

Mountain View’s internal permit numbers are different than what HUD has, Chen said, and last year indicates the federal agency’s survey may be an undercount for the number of new

housing units authorized. While city staff has heard concerns from developers and should be cognizant of how much it costs to build, Chen said, trends in housing growth are hard to pin on any one factor.

“It’s probably objectively true that things are more expensive, but whether that translates into projects being able to pencil out can be a little murky,” he said.

While factors like federal trade policy are completely out of the hands of local policymakers, there are steps that cities can take to ease the burden on residential developers, Corsiglia said. Cities can peel back barriers by reducing fees, streamlining the development process and ease zoning restrictions. Reduction of parking requirements and allowing higher density on a property can also help in making a housing project feasible, she said.

“Construction is slowing at a time when we need (housing) now more than ever, and we need to figure out ways to help developers move forward and deal with these challenges,” Corsiglia said. “And I think that’s through some streamlining and ways that cities themselves can help reduce costs.”

City-imposed fees have been a sticking point in plans to build thousands of homes in the city’s North Bayshore office park, which was recently rezoned to allow up to 9,850 housing units. Property owners in the area — namely Google and Sobrato — warned last year that the requirement to set aside 15% to 20% of the units as affordable housing, on top of escalating park and schools fees imposed on residential development, could threaten the financial viability of the housing-heavy vision for the area. Municipal fees were likely to exceed \$100,000 per unit, according to a city staff report, pushing the total building cost to \$645,000 per unit.

Giving up those fees may be a hard sell. Representatives from the two school districts serving North Bayshore, the Mountain View Whisman School District and the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District, have long argued that there simply isn’t enough money to build classrooms for the students who will live in the area. Mountain View Whisman school board members in particular have asked for dedicated land for a school site and funding to construct school facilities, which is one of the primary reasons for the escalating fees. The board has shown no support for a bond measure to pay for the anticipated influx of students, insisting that the developers — not the taxpayers — should foot the bill. □

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'Village People' prepare to close up shop

By Elisabeth Westermann

Village Stationers, a family-owned stationery store with locations in Menlo Park and Los Altos, will be closing its doors on Aug. 17 after 53 years in business. The owner, Kerry Hoctor, is retiring and was unable to find a buyer to take over the business.

"The finances weren't there to support a sale, so we decided to call it a day," he said.

The closure of the store at comes at a time when small retail businesses across the country are finding it increasingly difficult to compete with lower prices and convenience offered by large online vendors such as Amazon. For small business owners on the Peninsula, this challenge is exacerbated by the increasing cost of living and high rents.

"The cost of doing business in the Bay Area has become unbearable ... When you add that on to the competition we get from the internet and Amazon, it's a death sentence," Hoctor said.

Hoctor's parents started the store in 1966 at Town and Country Village in Palo Alto, and moved it to Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park in 1976. In 1996, the Menlo Park shop relocated to

its current location at 719 Santa Cruz Ave. The family also ran a location on University Avenue in Palo Alto starting in 1988, before moving it to California Avenue in 2002. It closed in 2016.

In 2012, Hoctor opened a location at 222 Main St. in Los Altos. His daughter, Shannon Klein, who runs the Los Altos store, plans to go into teaching.

Hoctor grew up working in the store with his parents and has fond memories of the experience. "I got to spend a lot of time with my dad. ... We worked together so we had a really nice bond," he said.

When his parents gave him the chance to take over the business in 1981 so that they could retire, he said that choice was a no-brainer because it would give him the chance to make a career out of something he enjoyed.

Since taking over the business, Hoctor has raised a family, and his kids grew up working in the store as well. He treasures "being able to have that special connection" with his children that came from working together, and he was recently able to introduce another generation to the family business by bringing his young granddaughter to the store.

"Here she is at 4 years old, and

she got to see grandpa's store," he said. "So there were four generations involved in the store, which was kind of cool. Unfortunately, we can't keep that up, but it thrilled me nonetheless that my little granddaughter was running around and helping me price things."

The business also created close relationships among the other employees, who call themselves the "Village People."

"I just know I will miss it a lot. I will miss the work. I will miss the team ... It's like a family here," said Annegret Wiedmar, who has worked in the Menlo Park store for 18 years.

Kathy Barrons, who has also worked at Village Stationers for 18 years, said she will particularly miss working with Hoctor.

"He's just been an absolute pleasure to work for," she said. "I'm going to be missing a great boss and a good friend."

The small scale of the business and long-term employees have led the staff to forge especially strong bonds with customers, Hoctor said. "When my customers come in, they're very familiar with the staff," he said. "Our strength was interaction with our customers... (For example,) we had a pen bar and people would come in and



SADIE STINSON

Kerry Hoctor, owner of Village Stationers, poses in his Menlo Park store on Aug. 1. The business will close its doors on Aug. 17.

sample all the pens and I let the kids come in and write notes, and you just can't replace that."

Barrons has fond memories of retired Village Stationers employee Doris Fredrick playing hide-and-seek in the aisles with the child of a regular customer.

"It was so fun to see them running around ... It's a cute, cute memory," she said.

The closing of Village Stationers will not only be a loss to the Peninsula, but to the Bay Area at large. As stationers have closed around the Peninsula, Hoctor has noticed his Menlo Park location drawing customers from Burlingame, San Mateo and San Jose.

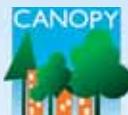
Hoctor is proud that he has been able to keep the business going

until his retirement, but says he owes his success to his customers, some of whom have been coming into the store since it opened in Menlo Park 43 years ago.

"We've had such a great customer base of amazing people over the years that's kept us in business," he said.

For Hoctor, the stores' closing has been bittersweet.

"It's rewarding because people really want me to stay," he said. "I'm grateful to have this time since we announced we're closing to thank all my customers. I'm saying 'Thank you' and they're saying 'Thank you.' They're saying 'I'm going to miss you,' I'm saying 'We're going to miss you.' It's awesome." ▣



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DEPUTY CHIEF

► Continued from page 5

force behind the department's public transparency efforts and use of social media during the early years of Twitter.

"He was really an innovator for putting Mountain View on the map for transparency and communication," she said. "I could not pick a better work partner or leader."

Hsiung conceded that the desk job isn't as interesting as being in a patrol car, but the newly created deputy chief position puts him in the driver seat of an important initiative: making sure rookie officers have the leadership skills they need to be future sergeants, lieutenants and captains in a police department where high-ranking officers are hitting retirement age.

"As we look at our police force in the two, five and seven-year forecast, there's going to be a lot of attrition and retirements down

the road," Hsiung said. "We want to be prepared to have people who will be qualified and assume new positions of leadership in the coming years."

As of this year, 17% of the department's officers are eligible for retirement. In five years, that number grows to 43%, and many of those officers are holding top positions. Hsiung, Nowaski and Police Chief Max Bosel were all hired in 1995, and several lieutenants were hired in the 1990s as well.

Given the department's preference to hire in-house, Hsiung said he plans to oversee a combination of formal training and leadership development courses alongside more casual events like coffees, breakfasts and lunches aimed at instilling soft skills. It's one thing to know the technical aspects of the job, he said, but there's an emotional intelligence side to leadership that needs to come with it.

"You need to match it with



FEDERICA ARMSTRONG

Deputy Chief Chris Hsiung strolled around talking to people at the National Night Out event held in Rengstorff Park on Aug. 6.

the soft skills of being a good communicator and having the emotional intelligence to know how you're being heard," he said.

Nowaski said law enforcement as a profession has evolved over the last five to 10 years, with changes in technology, politics and society that make policing more complex than ever. While it helps to have technical experience, she said it will be more valuable to reinforce those soft skills and critical thinking in the department's future leaders.

"There's only so much 'training' we can give folks to go out and perform the jobs of a police officer," she said. "What we need to do is instill those critical thinking skills, empathy and compassion."

Over the last decade, Hsiung said his goal has been to change the culture of law enforcement and get away from the idea that police shouldn't say anything to anyone, residents and media alike. While some of that comes from harnessing social media and engaging the public with information on serious crimes — counterbalanced by public service announcements and jovial memes — it also means appraising officers on anything that gets released.

Officers are constantly briefed and updated on outgoing communication to the public, with a goal of ensuring nobody in the department is caught off guard when talking to the public. Hsiung said his nightmare scenario is putting out a press release and a resident strikes up a conversation about it with an officer who has no idea about it.

Many of the social media responsibilities are now handled by the department's public information officer, Katie Nelson, who said Hsiung deserves credit for leading the way on public communication and encouraging other police departments to follow suit. The Mountain View Police Department got an early jump on Twitter in 2008, followed by Facebook in 2010, but it wasn't until Hsiung took the initiative that they became

an integral part of the department's community engagement strategy.

"We existed on those platforms but we didn't communicate and didn't engage the way we do now," Nelson said. "That's where Chris took off and ran with it."

The department's leadership team is still figuring out what precise responsibilities will be handled by the deputy chief, which operates out of the office of the police chief, but generally speaking Hsiung will be managing the department's more than 50 officers and what they're doing each day, Nelson said. He will also be entrenched in investigative decisions, ensuring the dispatch center operates smoothly and deciding what needs to be done to backfill positions or hire more people.

The new high-ranking position comes at a critical time for the Mountain View Police Department. Alongside plans to renovate or completely rebuild the department's headquarters at 1000 Villa St., the department is conducting a staffing study to figure out what structural changes and new hires might be needed to protect a growing city with crimes that are getting more difficult to investigate.

One example is the department's Cyber Crime Unit, which was recently added to meet the growing need to police illicit online behavior and handle digital evidence in-house rather than by using an outside forensic examiner. The department needs to stay on its toes and improve the ways it serves Mountain View, Nowaski said.

"We have an appreciation of how we incorporate innovative approaches to delivering police services to a community with a reasonable amount of change," she said. "Not just sitting back, putting it down into third gear and say 'That's how we've always done it.' That's not good enough for us." ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

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FALL MOUNTAINVIEWVOICE Class Guide

With kids heading back to school, you may find yourself with a little extra time on your hands this fall. So, why not take a class? Our latest class guide features an assortment of classes and activities in the arts, career prep, culinary and more. Schools, community organizations, fitness centers and dance studios throughout the Midpeninsula are offering plenty

of opportunities to learn together as a family as well as extracurricular activities for kids of all ages. Whether you're looking to expand your mind, move your body or discover an untapped talent, this guide has something for everyone.

The Class Guide is published quarterly by the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac and the Mountain View Voice.

ballet method. Adult classes are also offered, for beginning and intermediate dancers.

WESTERN BALLET

914 N. Rengstorff Ave. #B, Mountain View. 650-968-4455 / westernballet.org

Western Ballet holds ballet classes that draw from the Russian Vaganova method and the newer more "open" classical method. Classes are available for children, teens and adults and for both newcomers and those pursuing professional careers.

HEALTH & FITNESS

BALD EAGLE SPORTS CAMPS

201 Almond Ave., Los Altos. 888-505-2253 / team@baldeaglecamps.com / baldeaglecamps.com

Bald Eagle Sports Camps offer programs in every season, including a unique multi-sport camp that incorporates a variety of team-centered, non-traditional games designed for all athletes to feel included, engaged, appropriately challenged and highly active. It's a Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) partner-based program that offers a growing number of camps and leadership experiences for youth in grades K-12. Sign up for programs online.

BARRE3

4758 W. El Camino Real, Los Altos. 650-481-8139 / losaltos.com

barre3.com / barre3.com/locations/los-altos/

Classes at this studio combine ballet barre exercises with elements of yoga and Pilates, aiming to help students develop flexibility, strength and improved posture.

MOUNTAIN VIEW TENNIS

Cuesta Tennis Center, 685 Cuesta Drive, Mountain View. 650-967-5955 / info@mountainviewtennis.net / mountainviewtennis.net

Taught by expert coaches, Mountain View Tennis' affordable programs for youth and adult tennis players of all abilities are held at Cuesta, Rengstorff, Whisman and Cooper tennis courts.

THE LITTLE GYM

1910 W. El Camino Real Unit F, Mountain View. 650-961-8100 / tlgmtviewca@thelittlegym.com / tlgmtviewca.com

The Little Gym offers a range of classes for children from four months to 12 years of age with a mission to facilitate holistic skill development through movement, music, learning and laughter.

YOGA BELLY

455 Castro St., Mountain View. 650-862-3976 / info@yogabellystudio.com / yogabellystudio.com

Yoga Belly offers yoga classes in heated and non-heated rooms,

► See **CLASS GUIDE**, page 16

ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

FLEX COLLEGE PREP

4600 El Camino Real, Suite 201, Los Altos. 650-947-7742 / info@flexcollegeprep.com / flexcollegeprep.com

Flex College Prep assists high school students with college applications and essays and preparing for SAT, ACT and AP tests. It also offers tutorial sessions for high school subjects, as well as some programs for middle school students.

DANCE

ALBERTO'S SALSA STUDIO & ULTRA LOUNGE

736 W. Dana St., Mountain View. 408-460-0448 / clubalbertos@gmail.com / albertos.com

Alberto's holds lessons throughout the week for salsa (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays), bachata (Wednesdays) and tango (Sundays) styles of dancing for beginners and those with more experience.

BAYER BALLET ACADEMY

2028 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View. 650-988-9971 / info@bayerballetacademy.com / bayerballetacademy.com

Bayer Ballet Academy is a school of Russian ballet that teaches the Vaganova method beginning with children at age 3. The academy offers a variety of classes to prepare students for the professional level, as well as a new program specifically for boys.

LIVELY FOUNDATION

Mountain View Masonic Center, 890 Church St., Mountain View. 650-969-4110 / livelyfoundation@sbcglobal.net / livelyfoundation.org

The Lively School offers private and small group classes for adults in all levels of contemporary dance, ballet, yoga and meditation, as well as classes in ballet and creative movement and storytelling for youngsters.

HAOEXPRESSION

740 Sierra Vista Ave., Unit G, Mountain View. 408-636-3123 / haoexpression.com

HaoExpression is a collective of dance and performance artists who teach ballet, creative dance, movement acting and other disciplines to youth and adults year-round.

MAMBONOVA DANCE COMPANY

223 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View. 925-250-9552 / mambonova17@gmail.com / mambonova.net

Mambonova Dance Company offers group lessons in salsa and bachata. Private dance classes are also offered for individuals and couples.

PACIFIC BALLET ACADEMY

295 Polaris Ave., Mountain View. 650-969-4614 / director@pacificballet.org / pacificballet.org

The Pacific Ballet Academy instructs students ranging in age from 3 1/2 to 18 in the Russian

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CLASS GUIDE

► Continued from page 15

more physical YBX classes and Yoga Tune Up sessions, which combine yoga, corrective exercise and self-massage.

YOGA IS YOUTHFULNESS

1954 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View. 650-964-5277 / info@yogaisyouth.com / yogaisyouth.com

Yoga is Youthfulness offers classes for students of all levels in ashtanga, iyengar and hatha styles of yoga, as well as other subjects like prenatal yoga and meditation. Classes are offered everyday. View upcoming workshops online.

FOR SENIORS

MOUNTAIN VIEW SENIOR CENTER

266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. 650-903-6330 / senior.center@mountainview.gov

mountainview.gov/seniors

The Mountain View Senior Center organizes a wide array of classes exploring topics and activities such as art, music, dance, languages, computer use and exercise including Feldenkrais and pickleball, a low-impact game played with a paddle.

AVENIDAS ROSE KLEINER CENTER

270 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. 650-289-5400 / avenidas.org

The Rose Kleiner Center is an adult day health program that offers a plethora of activities, including arts & crafts, bingo, brain-fitness games and singalongs for less-independent older adults as well as support for seniors living with a chronic disease, dementia or a disability. Information about costs and activity descriptions are available online.

MUSIC AND ARTS

COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS

Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. 650-917-6800 / info@arts4all.org / arts4all.org

The Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) offers classes year-round in music, visual and digital arts, with courses suited for adults and children as young as preschool-age.

CUSTOM HANDWEAVERS

2263 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View. 650-967-0831 / webemit@sbcglobal.net / customhandweavers.com

Ongoing classes — both day and evening sessions — are offered in weaving for all experience levels. Workshops on different weaving techniques (Navajo, tapestry and Temari) are held periodically. Classes offered Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

PENINSULA YOUTH THEATRE

2500 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View. 650-988-8798 / info@pytnet.org / pytnet.org

Peninsula Youth Theatre (PYT) offers drama classes in acting, musical theater and other skills to children of various abilities and ages.

TUMASOV FINE ART STUDIO

823 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View. 415-490-8925 / tumasovfineartstudio@gmail.com / tumasovfineart.com

The studio offers workshops and classes in painting, drawing, ceramics, piano and more, as well as an after-school art program for kids.

VEKSLER ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Mountain View Campus: 1710 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View. 650-254-0777 /

veksleracademy.com

This school program teaches ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical and hip hop dance classes for youth ages 3 and up. Group music programs and private music lessons are also available. Register online.

WEST VALLEY MUSIC

262 Castro St., Mountain View. 650-961-1566 / info@westvalleymusic.com / westvalleymusic.com

West Valley Music helps students further their music skills or try their hand at different instruments. Group lessons are held for instruments such as piano, guitar, ukulele and violin, as well as band and orchestra. Private lessons are also offered.

SCHOOL DAYS

ACTION DAY PRIMARY PLUS

333 Eunice Ave., Mountain View. 650-967-3780 / mtnview.actiondayprimaryplus.com / actiondayprimaryplus.com

Action Day Primary Plus in Mountain View serves infants and children in preschool and kindergarten. The school offers enrichment activities and extended day care, and its facilities are spacious.

BUILDING KIDZ

250 E. Dana St., Mountain View. 650-967-8000 / info@buildingkidz.com / Buildingkidzschool.com

Building Kidz School provides infant, toddler, preschool, kindergarten and school age care that encourages a lifelong interest in learning through academics and performing arts. Before- and after-school programs are also offered.

GERMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF SILICON VALLEY

310 Easy St., Mountain View. 650-254-0748 / office@gissv.org / gissv.org/gissv-home-english

The German International School of Silicon Valley is a private school providing preschool to high school students with a bilingual education. The school also offers German language courses for all ages on Saturdays.

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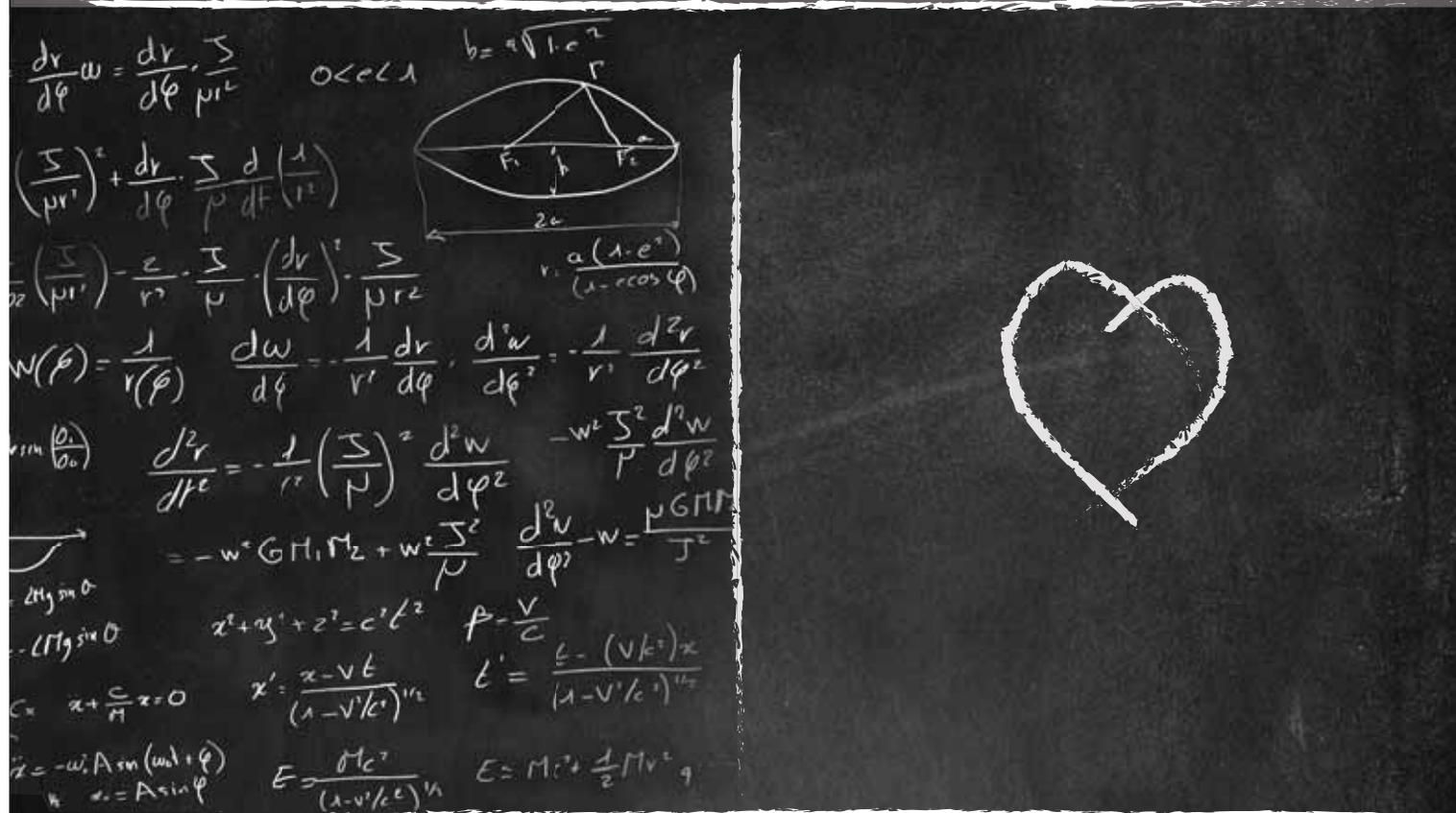
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ClassGuide

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ST. SIMON PARISH SCHOOL

1840 Grant Road, Los Altos. 650-968-9952 / tclark@stsimon.org / school.stsimon.org

St. Simon Parish School educates children from preschool through eighth grade, combining academic rigor with Catholic values and providing an emphasis on social justice and service. It also supplies a range of enrichment and athletic opportunities.

WALDORF SCHOOL OF THE PENINSULA

Mountain View Campus: 180 N. Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. 650-417-7600 / Los Altos Campus: 11311 Mora Drive, Los Altos. 650-209-9400 / admissions@waldorfpeninsula.org / waldorfpeninsula.org

Waldorf School of the Peninsula serves children from nursery up through high school. Areas of focus include fostering self-discipline, critical thinking, independence and cooperation,

creative expression and a love of learning.

YEW CHUNG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF SILICON VALLEY (YCIS)

310 Easy St., Mountain View. 650-903-0986 / admissions@sv.ycef.com / ycis-sv.com

YCIS provides a multicultural and bilingual (English and Mandarin Chinese) education to children from preschool to middle school. Teachers facilitate student's academic, personal and social development and emphasize a global perspective.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

MOUNTAIN VIEW-LOS ALTOS ADULT EDUCATION

333 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View. 650-940-1333 / mvla.net/ MVLA_Adult_Education/

The adult school offers courses in arts and crafts, computer skills, vocational skills, English as a second language, music, dance, needlework, family education, physical fitness and more. The school also has high school diploma and GED preparation programs. Registration for the Fall session begins Friday, Aug. 9.

PARENT EDUCATION

EL CAMINO HOSPITAL CHILDBIRTH AND PARENTING CLASSES

Mountain View Campus, 2500 Grant Road, Mountain View. 650-940-7000 / elcaminohospital.org/services/mother-baby-care

El Camino Hospital holds ongoing classes specifically for expecting mothers, mothers, their spouses and children. Subjects include childbirth preparation, breastfeeding preparation and infant safety. Support groups are also organized. Register online.

Class Guides are published quarterly in the Palo Alto Weekly, Mountain View Voice and the Almanac. Descriptions of classes offered in Palo Alto, Stanford, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Atherton, East Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Portola Valley and Woodside are provided. Listings are free and subject to editing. Due to space constraints, classes held in the above cities are given priority.

To inquire about submitting a listing for the next Class Guide, email Editorial Assistant Cierra Bailey at cbailey@paweeekly.com or call 650-223-6526. To place a paid advertisement in the Class Guide, call the display advertising department at 650-326-8210.



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FOOD FEATURE

Super sweet



Stanford student, YouTuber behind Kawaii Sweet World, releases her first cookbook.



Rachel Fong measures out dry ingredients and mixes up chocolate cake batter as she shoots a how-to baking video for her YouTube channel Kawaii Sweet World on Aug. 2.

Story by Maya Homan
Photos by Magali Gauthier

For Rachel Fong, baking isn't just a fun pastime but a form of artistic expression. Fong, a rising junior at

Stanford University, has been experimenting with baking for the past nine years on her YouTube channel, Kawaii Sweet World, and has formulated hundreds of new recipes and techniques for desserts that are both visually appealing and easy to make.

Now, at 20, she is releasing her first book, "Kawaii Sweet World Cookbook: 75 Yummy Recipes for Baking That's (Almost) Too Cute To Eat."

Fong's creations are not just meant to be aesthetically pleasing. Her recipes are

often whimsical and incorporate a variety of colors, animals and the occasional pop culture reference.

"Kawaii" is just the Japanese word for 'cute,' and it describes the style of things like Hello Kitty, Totoro, Pikachu,



characters like that,” Fong said. “The crafts, DIYs and desserts I make on my channel are all in that ‘kawaii’ style.”

Fong started her channel in 2010 to enter a contest that required a video entry. She didn’t win, but discovered how much she enjoyed making videos and decided to keep creating them.

“I built a small community that I really loved,” she said. “Things just snowballed from there into making more videos, growing my audience and eventually building it out to where it is today.”

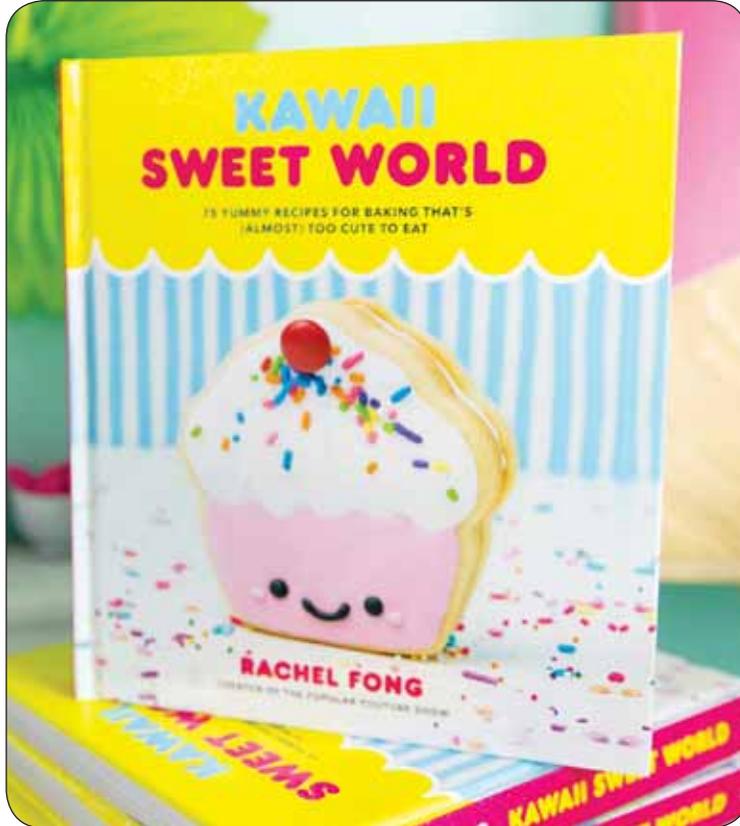
The process of making her videos is arduous. She first has to settle on an idea and develop a recipe that will look and taste good. Once she’s satisfied with the recipe, she’ll spend anywhere from six to 10 hours filming at her studio in the basement of her family’s house in Piedmont. She spends another five hours condensing the footage into an eight-minute video.

“It’s a lot more work than most people think it is, but (it’s) still fun for me and still worth it in the end,” she said.

Going away to college made it much harder to find time to devote to the video channel.

“It was already difficult in high school to balance my time between YouTube and schoolwork, but then when I got to college it was even more difficult,” she said. “Living away from my studio definitely put a strain on my time, and just trying to adapt to college in general while balancing my YouTube channel and writing the cookbook was challenging.”

She is currently trying to choose between majoring in



From top: Vanilla cupcakes decorated like barnyard animals; Rachel Fong’s new cookbook features 75 of her recipes.

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► See **SWEET WORLD** page 19

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Rachel Fong looks up at the camera as she frames a shot of herself moving filled cake tins while making a new video for her Kawaii Sweet World channel.

SWEET WORLD

► Continued from page 20

mechanical engineering and product design, an interdisciplinary program that incorporates mechanical engineering and design. She said she tries to incorporate aesthetics into both her baking videos and academic pursuits.

“When it comes to desserts, when it comes to products, even when it comes to something you’re going to mechanically engineer, visual design is something that I think I’ll always be interested in,” Fong said.

It wasn’t until recently that she seriously considered publishing her recipes.

“It’s always been a dream of mine to write a cookbook and I didn’t think it was possible until my manager said we could just go for it,” she said. “I think you’d be surprised how much you can accomplish just going for your dreams and your goals.”

Fong’s cookbook, which was released on July 30, contains 75 new recipes of her own design, including emoji lemon cookies, narwhal cake pops and unicorn cupcakes. Information about it, and her YouTube channel, can be found at kawaiisweetworld.com. ■

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BY ELENA KADVANY

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MOVIE OPENINGS



COURTESY OF ALISON COHEN ROSA/WARNER BROS.

Elisabeth Moss, Tiffany Haddish and Melissa McCarthy star in "The Kitchen."

Standing the heat

THREE WOMEN STAY IN HELL'S 'KITCHEN' TO EMBRACE A LIFE OF CRIME

★★★1/2 (Century 16 & 20, Icon)

Screenwriter Andrea Berloff makes her directorial debut with "The Kitchen," which proceeds from a crackerjack premise: When three Irish mob lieutenants (Brian d'Arcy James, James Badge Dale and Jeremy Bobb) from Hell's Kitchen get sent up the river, their respective wives Kathy Brennan (Melissa McCarthy), Ruby O'Carroll (Tiffany Haddish) and Claire Walsh (Elisabeth Moss) have little choice but to take over their rackets. Kathy has no poker face — the mother of two small children wears a stricken expression for most of the film — but she "Irishes" up her coffee and gets down to business all the same.

"You're the smart one," Ruby tells Kathy. Of the three women, Ruby starts out with the thickest skin from facing sexism and racism as a black wife in an Irish crime family. Claire feels the weakest but has the most fiery motivation to build her strength after years of domestic

abuse, saying, "I am not getting knocked around ever again." For most of the film, the women are defined by their singular character trait and their shared mission: to remind the men (and a sour matriarch played by Margo Martindale) "what family means" and prove that, if the men won't look out for them, women can do it for themselves.

Perhaps because culture has acclimated to top-notch long-form drama on television, "The Kitchen" feels too sketchy in its plotting and character development. The raw materials are here for an interesting look at male-female power dynamics, but what's pieced together from them rarely connects with the audience in any meaningful way. This story could have something interesting to say about what it means to rise up in a man's world. Does it mean behaving like men? Proving there's a better way? Declaring independence from men or declaring

truces? Yes, yes, yes and yes. To the extent that the film answers these questions, it does so in a fashion more muddy than complex. When the script does get pointed, it also gets stupidly blunt ("I've never felt stronger," Kathy tells her dad. "You're a criminal, Kathy," he replies).

What begins as a seemingly kinder, gentler neighborhood protection racket becomes better living through guns and a vaulting ambition to expand beyond Hell's Kitchen. Because of its hurried pacing, the film doesn't quite make us feel the potentially Shakespearean sweep of this arc, either, and the leading performances feel similarly hemmed in by the script's limitations. These women are both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth to themselves and each other, which could be fascinating stuff.

Rated R for violence, language throughout and some sexual content. One hour, 42 minutes.

— Peter Canavese



MOVIE REVIEWS

'THE FAREWELL' ★★★1/2

When a 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." "The Farewell" taps a rich vein of gentle humor concerning the idiosyncrasies and foibles within family dynamics and generational differences. In the story, Billi (Awkwafina) is a first-generation Chinese American immigrant living in Brooklyn and struggling to make ends meet as a writer when her 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. *Rated PG for thematic material, brief language and some smoking. One hour, 40 minutes.* — P.C.

'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. *Rated R for language throughout, some strong graphic violence, drug use, and sexual references. Two hours, 41 minutes.* — P.C.

NOW SHOWING

- The Art of Dancing in the Rain (PG)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
 - The Bravest (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun.
 - Brian Banks (PG-13)** Century 20: Fri.-Sun. Guild Theatre: Fri.-Sun.
 - Cabin in the Sky (1943) (Not Rated)** Stanford Theatre: Friday
 - David Crosby: Remember My Name (R)** Palo Alto Square: Fri.-Sun.
 - Dora and the Lost City of Gold (PG)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
 - The Farewell (PG) ★★★1/2** Aquarius Theatre: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
 - The Fast & Furious: Hobbs & Shaw (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
 - The Kitchen (R) ★★★1/2** Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri.-Sun.
 - 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.
 - Lust for Life (Not Rated)** Stanford Theatre: Friday
 - 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.
 - Picnic (Not Rated)** Stanford Theatre: Sat. & Sun.
 - Scary Stories to tell in the Dark (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri.-Sun. Century 20: Fri.-Sun. ShowPlace Icon: 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.
 - Sunset Boulevard (1950) (Not Rated)** Stanford Theatre: Sat. & Sun.
 - 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
- Century Cinema 16:** 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View tinyurl.com/Century16
- Century 20 Downtown:** 825 Middlefield Rd, Redwood City tinyurl.com/Century20
- CineArts at Palo Alto Square:** 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (For information: 493-0128) tinyurl.com/Pasquare
- Guild:** 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (For recorded listings: 566-8367) tinyurl.com/Guildmp
- ShowPlace Icon:** 2575 California St. #601, Mountain View tinyurl.com/iconMountainView
- Stanford Theatre:** 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (For recorded listings: 324-3700) Stanfordtheatre.org

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

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



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HIGHLIGHT

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

THEATER

New Works Festival: 'Iron John' An Irish housemaid falls for an African American blacksmith. A century later a rebellious white debutante befriends a mixed-race neighbor. Weaving past and present, this poignant new musical explores a haunting legacy of racism buried but not forgotten. Aug. 11, 15, 18; times vary. \$20 single tickets; \$65 festival passes. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

New Works Festival: 'Nan, and the Lower Body' In this frank and feminist play, good-humored Dr. Pap has great mysteries to unravel and a bright assistant with dark secrets to hide. Aug. 11, 3 p.m. and Aug. 17, 8 p.m. \$20 single tickets; \$65 festival passes. Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

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

New Works Festival: 'The Imperialists' This broad, madcap farce follows a daughter desperate to rescue her addled dad from his colonial memories. Aug. 13, 8 p.m. and Aug. 17, 4 p.m. \$20 single tickets; \$65 festival passes. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

'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 Nitery Theater, 514 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. events.stanford.edu

New Works Festival: 'Father/Daughter' In this play about lovers, fathers, daughters and the fragile bonds

between them, two actors play very different generations in the same family. Aug. 16, 8 p.m. and Aug. 18, 3 p.m. \$20 single tickets; \$65 festival passes. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

Pale Fire Theater's 'Hamlet' Pale Fire Theater, a student-led space for Palo Alto thespians to engage with Shakespeare, presents "Hamlet." Aug. 9, 16, 17; 7-10 p.m. \$5. First Presbyterian Church Palo Alto, 1140 Cowper St., Palo Alto. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

CONCERTS

Mary J. Blige & Nas R&B artist Mary J. Blige and hip-hop artist Nas co-headline "The Royalty Tour," each performing their chart-topping hits. Aug. 14, 8 p.m. \$31-\$200. Shoreline Amphitheatre, 1 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View. concerts1.livenation.com

'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

Aurora Mandolin Ensemble Performance Members of the Aurora Mandolin Orchestra will play a selection of songs from around the world. Aug. 17, 2-3 p.m. Free. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainview.libcal.com

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. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. redrockcoffee.org

FESTIVALS & FAIRS

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

Chris Cander Kepler's Books presents writer Chris Cander, who will discuss her new book, "The Weight of a Piano." Aug. 16, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$7; \$32 with book. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Eating Your Values Panel Discussion The Los Altos History Museum will host a panel discussion with local experts on how food choices can positively affect social concerns. Aug. 15, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org

Master Gardener Talk on Cool Season Vegetable Gardening UC master gardener Louise Christy will speak on cool season vegetable gardening and the vegetables that do well in the area, as well as integrated pest management. Aug. 15, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Rinconada Library, 1213 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Stacey Lee Author Stacey Lee celebrates the launch of her new novel, "The Downstairs Girl," about family, community and the importance of writing your own history. Aug. 13, 7-8 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Mary Pearson New York Times-bestselling author Mary Pearson celebrates the release of her new novel, "Vow of Thieves." Aug. 9, 7-9 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

FAMILY

Movie Night: 'Ratatouille' The Los Altos History Museum presents an outdoor showing of the Disney film, "Ratatouille," keeping with the food theme of the museum's current exhibition, "Silicon Valley Eats: A Taste for Innovation." Aug. 14, 8:30-10:30 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org

West Bay Model Railroad Association Open House Trains will run on a scenic two-level layout while club members answer guests' questions. Aug. 10, 1-4 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Caltrain station, 1090 Merrill St., Menlo Park. business.menloparkchamber.com

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

'Gadgets Galore! Transforming the American Household' Los Altos History Museum presents "Gadgets Galore! Transforming the American Household," an exhibit that looks at gadgets and where they originated, on display at the J. Gilbert Smith House. Thursday-Sunday through Nov. 10, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org

COMEDY

Mr. Horsefeathers Comedy & Juggling Linden Tree Books presents Steve Koehler, who will perform his special blend of magic, juggling and comedy for kids of all ages.

Aug. 14, 10:30-11 a.m. Free; suggested donation of one new book. Linden Tree Children's Books, 265 State St., Los Altos. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

FILM

Los Altos Movie Night: 'Ocean's Eleven' 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 PG-13 film, "Ocean's Eleven." Aug. 17, 8:30-10:20 p.m. Free. 150 3rd St., Los Altos. losaltoschamber.org

FOOD & DRINK

Summer Ice Cream Socials The Mountain View Senior Center is hosting ice cream social events this summer for residents ages 55 and older. Aug. 14 and Sept. 11, 1-2 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

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

Audubon Bird Watching 'Drop In' by the Bay Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society invites the public to observe and learn about the hundreds of bird species that visit local wetlands every year. Aug. 10, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Free. Charleston Slough/Coast Casey Forebay; end of San Antonio Road, Mountain View. scvas.org/

SPORTS

Los Altos Hills vs. Los Altos Softball Game Los Altos Hills goes head-to-head with Los Altos in their second annual rivalry softball game. Aug. 17, 1-3 p.m. Free. Rosita Park, 401 Rosita Ave., Los Altos. losaltoshills.ca.gov

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. 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

VOLUNTEERS

Silicon Valley Bicycle Exchange The Silicon Valley Bicycle Exchange invites volunteers to help fix bikes. Aug. 16, Sept. 18 and Oct. 18, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Silicon Valley Bicycle Exchange, 3961 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. bikex.org

Silicon Valley Volunteer Fair Over 15 of the environmental organizations in Silicon Valley will present activities and share how they are making an impact in the Bay Area and the volunteer opportunities they have available. Aug. 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Palo Alto Baylands Duck Pond, 2560 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Search eventbrite.com for more info.



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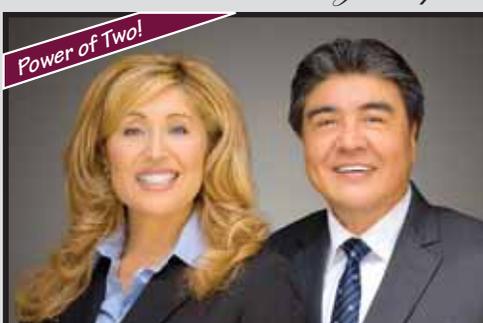


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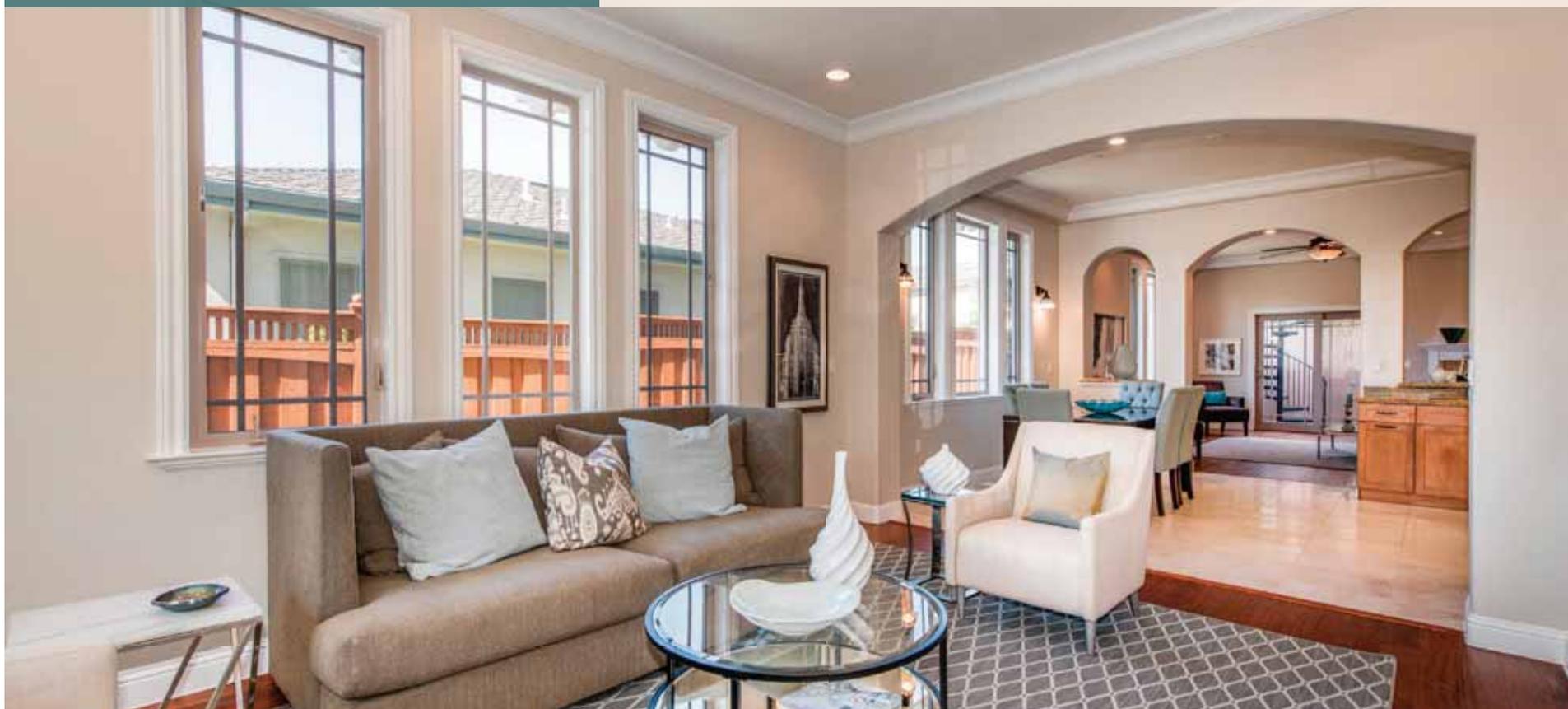
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