

Mountain View VOICE

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**MOUNTAIN
VIEW** ART & WINE
FESTIVAL

EVENT PROGRAM INSIDE

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MOVIES | 20



MAGALI GAUTHIER

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, left, Rep. Anna Eshoo and NASA Director Jim Bridenstine greet the press at the Celebration of Women Leaders held at NASA Ames on Monday.

NASA women's leadership summit hosts Pelosi, Eshoo

DESPITE GAINS, WOMEN STILL FACE INEQUITY

By Mark Noack

It was a mix of corporate executives and political heavyweights, global thought leaders and scientific stars. And by no coincidence,

the hundreds squeezed in the room were almost all women.

The event held at the NASA Ames Research Park on Monday, Aug. 26, was the kickoff for a Celebration of Women Leaders. Held on Women's Equality

Day, the celebration marked the first in a yearlong series of events that will eventually culminate in the centennial anniversary of American women

► See **LEADERSHIP**, page 12

City relaunches cannabis business applications after major changes

NEW PROCESS GIVES PAST APPLICANTS FIRST DIBS ON OPENING POT SHOPS

By Kevin Forestieri

Mountain View is accepting applications to open up to three cannabis businesses in the city, resuscitating a permitting process that was put on ice following an overhaul of the city's regulations.

Cannabis businesses that previously applied to open in Mountain View earlier this

year — under completely different rules — will get the first chance to reapply starting Sept. 9, according to Associate Planner Clarissa Burke. If the city doesn't get enough applications or too few companies get a permit, there will be another opportunity to apply that's open to everyone.

It's essentially a do-over of a messy process that took place earlier this year. The city asked

for and received 10 applications in February, swiftly rejected more than half on grounds of incompleteness or clerical errors and then rewrote parts of the cannabis business ordinance, putting three more applicants out of the running. By the end, the city had nullified all but one of the cannabis businesses

► See **POT SHOPS**, page 11

Landlord attempting to oust tenants arrested for brazen break-in

KNIFE-WIELDING ACCOMPLICE ATTEMPTED TO BREAK DOWN DOOR, POLICE SAY

By Mark Noack

A Mountain View landlord and four accomplices were arrested Monday night for allegedly attempting to physically force a family with children out of their apartment. It's being described by police officials as an unprecedented move by a local apartment owner to intimidate a tenant into leaving a rent-controlled unit.

The landlord, identified as 50-year-old Reenu Saini of Sunnyvale, had become frustrated because the residents, including a married couple and their children, allegedly were behind on their rent, according to the Mountain View Police Department. On Monday evening, Aug. 26, she reportedly called on four associates to act as hired muscle by helping her to scare or force the tenants into leaving the property, located on the 2000 block of Rock Street.

What resulted was a standoff. Saini and her group demanded the family leave the property while the tenants refused to leave or open the door, according to police. Saini and her group reportedly shut off the power to the apartment unit and attempted to break open the door. At one point, one of the male accomplices tried to use a knife to force open the door, nearly cutting one of the tenants who was trying to hold it closed from the other side.

Not long afterward, police got a report of a burglary in progress. Officers arrived to find Saini and her group still on the front lawn of the property, and all five were detained.

The family living in the apartment had fled their home out the back door, and police found them

about a block away.

As they interviewed the involved parties, police officials say it became clear that Saini and her group repeatedly broke the law in their attempt to evict the tenants. Saini was arrested on suspicion of attempted robbery, burglary, conspiracy to commit a crime and unlawfully shutting off the power.

Three other suspects involved, identified as San Jose residents Lori Walston, 49, Brian Ross, 49, and Debra McNeil, 52, were each arrested on suspicion of attempted robbery, burglary and conspiracy charges. A fifth suspect, 53-year-old Steven Carling, was arrested on suspicion of the same charges plus assault with a deadly weapon for using a knife to force open the apartment door.

On Tuesday, the Rock Street apartment still showed signs of the attempted home invasion, and the front door was splintered in several places. Speaking from behind the closed door, the father of the family declined to answer questions, saying they had been overwhelmed by the media response. As he spoke, a broadcast news crew was finishing up an interview with a member of the Mountain View Tenants Coalition in front of the property.

"We don't want any more



Reenu Saini



Steven Carling

► See **LANDLORD**, page 8

INSIDE

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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.

If you could live abroad for a year, where would you go?



"I would go live on a coffee farm in Costa Rica. I love coffee and I want to know more about the production."

Sean McPherson, Mountain View



"Italy. I've been there and I love it there: (the) pizza, Venice, the culture, the scenery. It's gorgeous."

Holly Liberatore, Mountain View



"Somewhere like Indonesia, Cambodia, or some place where there's not much tourism."

Vinay Rao, Mountain View



"Japan. I have a large interest in Japanese culture."

Laurent Goujom, Mountain View



"I would probably go to Turkey. That's where my family is from and I haven't been back since I was 13 years old."

Mark Reynolds, Dallas, Texas

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Upcoming Petition Clinics (see new address!)

Friday, Sept. 6, 2019 | Friday, Sept. 20, 2019
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
298 Escuela Ave. Mountain View, CA 94040

Questions?

Walk-in Office Hours
Thursdays 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
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Front Conference Room

Phone: (650) 282-2514
Email: csfra@housing.org
Mountainview.gov/rentstabilization

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The City of Mountain View is accepting applications for appointments to the:

- Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (1 vacancy)
- Downtown Committee
 - Downtown Property and/or Business Owner (2 vacancies)
 - Business-at-Large (4 vacancies; 2 incumbents interested in reappointment)
 - Community-at-Large (1 vacancy; 1 incumbent interested in reappointment)
- Environmental Planning Commission (2 vacancies; 2 incumbents interested in reappointment)
- Human Relations Commission (1 vacancy)
- Library Board (1 vacancy; 1 incumbent interested in reappointment)
- Parks and Recreation Commission (2 vacancies; 1 incumbent interested in reappointment)
- Senior Advisory Committee (3 vacancies; 1 incumbent interested in reappointment)
- Visual Arts Committee (3 vacancies; 1 incumbent interested in reappointment)

Applications will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 27, 2019, in the City Clerk's Office at 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, CA 94041

Advisory Bodies are volunteer positions and serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council. Applications are available in the City Clerk's Office or online at www.mountainview.gov. Please contact the City Clerk's Office at 650-903-6304 for further information.

■ CRIME BRIEFS

ATTEMPTED SEXUAL ASSAULT

A man was arrested Wednesday for attempting to sexually assault a woman while she was taking a shower at the 24-Hour Fitness at San Antonio Shopping Center, Mountain View police reported.

Police officials say they were first alerted around 3:15 a.m. on Aug. 28. A woman at the gym said a man had walked into the women's locker room and tried to open the door to the shower stall that she was using. She warned him not to come in, and said he tried to change the pitch of his voice to sound more feminine, according to police.

The man allegedly opened the shower door and tried to touch her. The victim said she screamed and began to hit him, and he quickly left. A 24-Hour Fitness employee confronted him and called the police, but he left the scene.

As police arrived, they spotted the man walking through a parking lot in the shopping center, and arrested him.

Police identified him as 41-year-old Damon Quincy Jones, a transient, and arrested him on suspicion of intent to commit a sex crime, burglary and lewd conduct.

As officers investigated, they said they learned Jones was suspected of committing lewd acts earlier that same morning at another 24-Hour Fitness Super Sport gym located across the parking lot. That crime was not initially reported to police.

Police officials say they believe that Jones may have targeted other victims. They are asking anyone with information to contact Detective Robert Medina at robert.medina@mountainview.gov.

—Mark Noack

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 10

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

1500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 8/19
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 8/19
800 block E. El Camino Real, 8/20
700 block San Lucas Av., 8/21
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 8/21
1300 block Pear Av., 8/23
1000 block Grant Road, 8/24
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 8/26
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 8/26
1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 8/26
700 block Sylvan Av., 8/26
600 block Showers Dr., 8/26
1000 block Grant Rd., 8/26

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

400 block Fairchild Dr., 8/19
900 block Miramonte Av., 8/21

GRAND THEFT

1900 block Colony St., 8/19
1800 block W. El Camino Real, 8/22
500 block Showers Dr., 8/26

ROBBERY

1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 8/25

BATTERY

1900 block Grant Rd., 8/20
2400 block Grant Rd., 8/20
1900 block Grant Rd., 8/20
500 block Moorpark Way, 8/22
2500 block Grant Rd., 8/22
400 block Ravendale Dr., 8/23
1900 block Old Middlefield Way, 8/24

ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON

1 block of W. El Camino Real, 8/23

VANDALISM

1000 block El Monte Av., 8/19
100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 8/21

STOLEN VEHICLE

100 block Santa Rosa Av., 8/20

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

COUNTY WINS SANCTUARY FUNDING LAWSUIT

Santa Clara County and San Francisco won a final victory in a lawsuit Friday challenging President Donald Trump's threat to withhold federal funding for sanctuary cities and counties.

Trump issued the executive order on Jan. 25, 2017, shortly after being inaugurated. Santa Clara County stood to lose \$1.7 billion in federal funding due to its sanctuary county laws, which protect undocumented immigrants from raids by U.S. Immigration

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 13

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MAGALI GAUTHIER

St. Francis High School students **Sindhu Vajrала and Jamie Minden**, with Peri Platenberg (right) of Homestead High School in Cupertino have teamed up to create the Silicon Valley Youth Climate Strike group.

Local teens organize to combat climate change

By Nisha Malley

Last year, she was a solitary teen protesting on the steps of Sweden's Parliament House, but now Greta Thunberg is inspiring thousands to join the global youth movement calling for action on climate change.

Worldwide, "Fridays for Future" school walkouts in March brought together students from across 112 countries. Among them were St. Francis High School juniors Sindhu Vajrала and Jamie Minden, who co-founded the Silicon Valley Youth Climate

Strike the same month, putting together resources to organize walkouts in under four days.

The chapter, which has since expanded to 20 members and five co-leads, is readying for its next march, set for Friday, Sept. 20.

Minden said they are coordinating with 60 public high schools, as well as middle schools, community colleges and businesses to reach their goal of 10,000 attendees.

That includes arranging transportation for students, communicating with teachers unions to avoid testing

conflicts on the day of the march and petitioning districts not to reprimand students for participating, according to Minden.

"What's the point of learning for a future that we might not have?" Minden said.

The group also comes bearing a list of demands for local and federal governments, schools and tech companies.

The Silicon Valley Youth Climate Strike is calling for cities to declare a climate emergency and adopt more aggressive eco-friendly building and

► See **CLIMATE CHANGE**, page 14

NASA Ames' computer powerhouse gets a major upgrade

AITKEN SUPERCOMPUTER'S COOLING SYSTEM USES BAY BREEZES TO CUT ELECTRICITY, WATER DEMAND

By Mark Noack

To fuel a future mission to the moon and someday Mars, NASA is facing a near insatiable demand for more computing power.

On any given day, the NASA Ames's main supercomputer, with its 250,000 processors, is churning away at complex models to inspect a constellation of research. Its computer simulators test every inch of spaceship fuselage while also modeling global oceanic patterns and scanning distant star systems for signs of planets. As many as 1,500 separate research projects and simulations are running simultaneously through NASA supercomputing nervous system, and that demand for data is expected to continue rising at a rapid pace.

"High performance computing has become a powerful and indispensable tool for advancing many national priorities and missions," said NASA Ames Director Eugene Tu. "Supercomputing has been recognized at the highest levels of our government as vital to the nation's prosperity, national and economic security, industrial production, engineering and scientific advancement."

But like any large data center, keeping the lights on at NASA's supercomputing facility has been an ongoing challenge.

The cost to power and cool thousands of computer nodes is immense, today requiring about 5 million gallons of water a day and about 6 megawatts of electricity, roughly the equivalent of 6,000 households.

Now NASA officials say they've figured out a new way to dramatically reduce those costs. In a successful new prototype, space agency officials say they have found a way to build smaller "modular" supercomputing hubs that can harness the natural winds coming off the San Francisco Bay shoreline.

The move represents a break away from the traditional design of pooling ever-larger numbers of CPUs in tightly controlled facilities. NASA officials described the new modular processing units as being like "plug and play" add-ons that will easily allow them to scale up as technology advances and their needs for number-crunching increases.

"We're the first to push this concept at this scale," said Bill Thigpen, NASA Advanced Computer branch chief. "This gives us a huge amount of flexibility. If NASA needs more computational power, we can add it almost immediately."

On Thursday, Aug. 22, Thigpen led a pool of reporters on

► See **SUPERCOMPUTER**, page 14

City Manager Dan Rich announces retirement

By Mark Noack

In a huge shake-up for Mountain View, City Manager Dan Rich announced this week he is bringing his career to a close. After eight years with the city, Rich plans to retire by the end of the year, setting the stage for a significant change in leadership at City Hall.

Rich announced his retirement in a letter sent to City Council members on Tuesday, Aug. 27.

"When I accepted this position, I knew it was a great opportunity

for me, but I did not realize how special the city and organization I was joining was," Rich wrote. "I am proud of the many accomplishments that we have achieved together over the past eight years."

Over his tenure, Rich has been regarded as a steady, subdued and serious presence at City Hall and public meetings. He could swiftly transition between budget miscellanea, public works projects or ongoing development proposals. Perhaps most importantly, he wasn't afraid to keep

City Council members on task, prodding them consistently to give clear directions to staff.

Among his achievements, Rich said he was most proud of developing precise plans in North Bayshore and other neighborhoods, as well as taking on various transportation improvements. He is credited for helping to pass a 2018 business-license tax measure and negotiating a variety of partnerships with local schools and developers. Some of

► See **DAN RICH**, page 6



City Manager Dan Rich, who has led Mountain View city staff for the past eight years, plans to retire in December.

COURTESY OF CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Ex-Uber executive pleads not guilty to stealing Google's self-driving car secrets

By Bay City News Service

A former Uber executive credited with co-founding a self-driving car project for Google pleaded not guilty Tuesday, Aug. 27, in federal court in San Jose to 33 counts of alleged theft of trade secrets from the search giant.

Anthony Levandowski, 39, worked at Google from 2009 to 2016 creating fully autonomous vehicle technology for Project Chauffeur. The project ultimately became Waymo, operating under Google's parent company Alphabet Inc.

The indictment alleges that after Levandowski left Google, he stole and downloaded several repositories of trade secrets regarding self-driving technology.

While he was working on Project Chauffeur as head of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), he was also involved in LiDAR companies that marketed mapping and sensor technology to Uber and self-driving companies, the indictment says.

The theft is estimated to be valued at hundreds of millions of dollars, according to a civil suit



BAY CITY NEWS SERVICE

Miles Ehrlich, Anthony Levandowski's attorney, tells the press that the former Uber executive is innocent of criminal charges in a federal indictment alleging he stole secrets while working at Google.

settled between Waymo and Uber in 2018. Levandowski, who was at the center of the lawsuit, surrendered to law enforcement at the Robert F. Peckham Federal Building courthouse in San Jose on Tuesday morning.

Attorneys for Levandowski said Tuesday that the defendant was authorized to download the information while he was at the company, and that the indictment is "rehashing" claims discredited in the civil lawsuit, where Waymo accepted a \$245

million settlement from Uber.

"For more than a decade, Anthony Levandowski has been an industry-leading innovator in the field of self-driving car and truck technologies," Levandowski's attorney Miles Ehrlich said in front of the courthouse Tuesday, along with attorney Ismail Ramsey. "Anthony is innocent and we look forward to proving it in trial."

Levandowski appeared in a suit for his arraignment before U.S. Magistrate Judge Nathanael

Cousins in federal court Tuesday afternoon.

He was in custody and joined in the hearing room by his father, stepmother and close friend and business partner, who co-signed property in a \$2 million bond for his release. If convicted, he faces a statutory maximum sentence of 330 years in prison for 33 counts of theft.

"All of us have the right to change jobs, none of us has the right to fill our pockets on the way out the door," said David Anderson, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California.

Anderson did not comment on the civil suit between Waymo and Uber.

Ramsey emphasized that his client self surrendered upon learning of the impending indictment and has been cooperative over two years of ongoing investigations. Upon his release from custody, he will have to wear an ankle monitor and be restricted to travel within the U.S.

The case will return to court on Sept. 4 to determine the extended conditions of Levandowski's pretrial release.

DAN RICH

► Continued from page 5

his best accomplishments may have been lost on the public at large, he noted, such as creating separate IT departments, improving employee well-being and paying down the city's pension liability.

As the city's top employee, the city manager is arguably the most powerful position in Mountain View's government. The city manager has discretion to hire or fire any of the city's 600 employees, including all department heads, except for the city clerk and city attorney.

"Dan is a recognized leader who thinks strategically while also managing the day-to-day operations of the City. He has taken on tough issues facing the City in a thoughtful way and presented solutions to the City Council," Mountain View Mayor Lisa Matichak said in a statement. "While I wish Dan all the best in his future endeavors, he will be sorely missed."

The City Council is currently scheduled to begin discussions on a search for a new city manager at its Sept. 3 meeting. ▀

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

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Bay Area: One-cent sales tax for transit could be on 2020 ballot

By Bay City News Service

Bay Area voters may be asked to approve a one-cent sales tax in 2020 that would fund a wide array of transportation projects and improvements across the region.

The sales tax has been proposed by a coalition of policy advocacy groups, including the Bay Area Council, the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association, and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

The coalition has dubbed themselves FASTER Bay Area and presented their plan to the BART Board of Directors at a meeting in Oakland last Thursday. According to their presentation, they project the tax could raise up to \$100 billion over 40 years.

The funds would be dispersed to regional transit districts, including BART, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and others. The policy groups are primarily interested in “big, transformational projects that better connect jobs to housing through a more integrated transit

system,” according to a memo by BART general manager Robert Powers.

That could include regional rail improvements, including more exclusive right of way for BART and Caltrain, and more express freeway lanes. It would also emphasize closing gaps between transit systems, more fare integration and improvements to transit hubs and stations.

For BART, it could include funding for a new transbay rail crossing to complement the existing Transbay Tube, which is often overcrowded during peak hours. It could also include more mundane upgrades to BART’s existing infrastructure and earthquake safety improvements in the Caldecott Tunnel.

The FASTER advocates cited a 21% increase in commute times in Silicon Valley from 2010 to 2017 and said that was contributing to nearly half of residents responding to a recent Bay Area Council poll saying they were considering leaving the Bay Area.

FASTER has conducted polls that indicate voters are open to raising taxes for regional transportation improvements and that

differences in support between funding measures are slight.

But some BART directors had concerns about the use of a sales tax, which tends to impact low-income residents more and can fluctuate widely in the event of an economic downturn.

“I am really concerned about the one-cent sales tax,” said Director Janice Li, who represents portions of San Francisco, adding that she was disappointed the advocates didn’t present any alternatives.

“I think it would have been more appropriate if you said, ‘here is a list of things that can get us to 100 billion, we think a sales tax is the best way,’ but you didn’t come with that list,” Li said.

Director Rebecca Saltzman, who represents portions of Alameda and Contra Costa counties, agreed, and pointed out that the sales tax may require passage of statewide legislation first. California caps sales tax at 10.25% and Saltzman said some cities have already reached that maximum.

The sales tax could be on the ballot for all nine Bay Area counties in November 2020.

LANDLORD

► Continued from page 1

attention from this,” the father said.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that the family had moved out from North Carolina about a month ago for a job offer and initially stayed in a different Airbnb rental owned by Saini, who later set them up at the Rock Street apartment when the job fell through.

The family said they had a verbal agreement with Saini to pay \$3,900 a month in rent, but they later noticed that their lease actually stipulated \$10,000 per month, according to media reports. By last week, Saini reportedly began sending threatening messages warning they needed to immediately pay or leave.

Police officials could not immediately provide the *Voice* with additional details, saying that officers are still finishing their report.

According to her LinkedIn profile, Saini has been actively pursuing real estate investments for at least five years through her own company, Reesha Capital. Current listings for her company on her Zillow page show at least six properties available for rent at above-market prices, including

a three-bedroom apartment on Mountain View Avenue going for more than \$10,000 a month. A furnished two-bedroom unit at the Rock Street apartments where Saini was arrested is listed for \$7,250 a month. Many of Saini’s properties in Mountain View are also listed for bookings on short-term rental sites, which are supposed to be tightly restricted for investment properties under new city rules.

According to Mountain View’s apartment registry, Saini’s Rock Street apartment building is covered under the city’s rent control program. This means she would be prohibited from raising rents beyond the cost of inflation as long as her current tenants remained living there. City records show no indication that Saini had attempted to serve her tenants with a termination notice prior to Monday’s altercation.

“This was a deliberate attempt using scare tactics to evict a family from a home,” said police Lt. Armando Espitia in a statement. “There are civil procedures and remedies that landlords and tenants can pursue with regard to late rent payments, but unfortunately these individuals took extremely dangerous and unlawful steps that resulted in their arrest.” ▀



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School district shifts gears on paying off new school construction

WITH DEVELOPMENT SLOWING DOWN, MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN TO DIVERT MONEY FROM GENERAL FUND

By Kevin Forestieri

Mountain View Whisman School District officials are switching up how to pay off millions of dollars in construction debt, diverting more money away from the general fund to pay off a \$40 million loan used to build a new school and district office.

In a report to the school board Thursday, Aug. 22, the district announced it would no longer be using developer fees to pay off debt incurred by a \$40 million “certificate of participation” used to pay for late-stage construction projects after the 2012 Measure G bond ran out of money.

Instead, the district will be “banking” developer fees for future projects, and will pay off the \$2.64 million annual bill exclusively with lease revenue. While developer fees are restricted funds largely meant to offset enrollment growth, lease revenue flows into the general fund and can be put toward a wide range of academic uses.

In 2016, Mountain View Whisman school board members faced a conundrum, seeking to create a new school — the just-opened Jose Antonio Vargas

Elementary — without enough money to pay for it. Trustees voted in October 2016 to supplement the bond fund with a \$40 million certificate of participation, or COP, and use it to build Vargas and a new district office. Cost estimates from October 2018 pinned a \$25.8 million price tag on Vargas and \$8.4 million on the district office.

At the time, district staffers sought to use developer impact fees, which are sent to the district periodically from residential and commercial developers on a per-square-foot basis, since it was a way to pay off the costs while having a limited impact on the district’s budget.

The developer fees came pretty close to paying the bill at first — in the 2016-17 school year, the district received just shy of \$2.5 million. The rest was backfilled with revenue generated by leasing land and facilities to private schools and Google’s day care center on Gladys Avenue.

But construction appears to be slowing down in Mountain View, or at least fluctuating unpredictably. In the 2017-18 school year, developer fees dropped to \$1.7 million, and in 2018-19 they sank to just \$638,000.

“One thing that we’ve learned

in years past is that we can’t rely on revenue streams that are unpredictable,” district spokeswoman Shelly Hausman said in an email. “We’re taking a more conservative approach and will use lease revenue in the future to pay the COP.”

Unlike developer fees, lease revenue has grown quickly over the same period, and now constitutes a big portion of the district’s annual budget. For the 2019-20 year, the district is expected to rake in \$5.3 million, making it a far more reliable way to pay off the district’s debt obligation, said Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph.

Despite paying off the bills with money bound for the general fund, the budgetary pivot will not affect academic programs and school services, Rudolph said.

With developer fees now freed up, Rudolph told trustees at the Aug. 22 board meeting that the funding could be used to house the hundreds of students projected to enter the district following new housing construction in several areas of Mountain View, including North Bayshore and East Whisman. The district intends to pull together a facilities plan by Nov. 21.

“It’s our goal to come back with a 10-year master plan that takes into account the totality of all the future growth that’s going to be taking place, as opposed to just project-by-project,” Rudolph said. “So we’ll have a clear plan of action moving forward as well as a recommendation of which projects we should do first.”

All dried up

The 2019-20 school year signals the end of five straight years of construction in the Mountain View Whisman School District, with an ever-evolving scope of projects and a constant effort to control cost overruns.

The original \$198 million bond program has ballooned to \$262.4 million since 2012, drawing from 12 different sources of funding in order to keep up with escalating construction costs and school board-authorized changes that tacked on tens of millions of dollars over time. As the dust settled and classes began earlier this month, all of the money has officially been exhausted.

Some projects didn’t make the cut. When asked by board member Devon Conley about plans to revamp the front office

at Mistral Elementary — which were put out to bid and rejected in May for being too expensive — Rudolph said it was no longer an option.

“Based off of the cost overruns, we will deplete all the funds before we can do anything else,” Rudolph said. “We’ve actually been taking items off. Solar has come off, Mistral has come off, the kinder(garten) playground expansions have come off, shade structures have come off. We don’t have the funds to complete those types of projects at this time.”

The construction budget ran dry at an accelerated rate due to “cumulative overages” during many of the projects, as well as some unexpected costs. Vargas Elementary School has yet to be hooked up to the power grid due to a dispute between PG&E and a nearby homeowners association, forcing the district to spend \$35,000 a month on a gas generator. That money is coming out of the bond fund.

Soil conditions at the district office site also added last-minute costs to the construction budget. ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

CRIME BRIEFS

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RESTAURANT DISTURBANCE

Police are seeking an arrest warrant for a man who allegedly hit a parked car while fleeing police after he and another man caused a disturbance at a Mountain View restaurant last week.

Around 9:20 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 23, officers responded to Los Charros on the first block of West El Camino Real on reports of two men being aggressive

and yelling at bartenders for unknown reasons, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

At some point, one of the men threw a glass toward a customer, which hit the wall and shattered, Nelson said. The men left the restaurant as employees called police, but officers found two men matching their description inside a Honda just outside.

The Honda driver, a 21-year-old man, refused to cooperate with officers’ instructions to provide identification and sit on the ground. He got back in

the car and sped away, hitting a parked car in the process, Nelson said.

The passenger ran away on foot and was not found. No injuries were reported.

—Julia Brown

SELLING STOLEN TRUCK

A Mountain View man was arrested while trying to sell a pickup truck he allegedly stole two months ago in La Honda, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office.

The man, 68, was taken into custody on Thursday, Aug. 22, on suspicion of possessing a stolen vehicle.

Authorities said he arranged to meet the seller of a white 2003 Toyota Tacoma on June 2. The man took the pickup, valued at \$3,000, for a test drive and did not come back, the sheriff’s office said.

The pickup was spotted at 12:43 p.m. Thursday in the 8000 block of La Honda Road, in unincorporated San Mateo County. The Mountain View man was at the scene and apparently trying to sell it to an unsuspecting person, authorities said. He was arrested and booked into the San Mateo County Main Jail.

The stolen pickup was

returned to the owner, authorities said.

Anyone who has information regarding this incident or other crimes may call the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office Anonymous Tip Line at 1-800-547-2700.

—Bay City News Service

TRESPASSING ARREST AT MCKELVEY FIELD

A man previously arrested in Mountain View for robbing a man of cheeseburgers has been arrested again, this time for trespassing on a baseball field construction site trying to get to the concession stand.

The 26-year-old man, a transient, was spotted around 10:20 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 21, at the unopened baseball facility at McKelvey Park, which is still under construction and fenced off. He was reportedly seen trying to break into the concession stands at the ballpark, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

Officers found the man inside the fenced property near the concession stands and got varying reasons for why he was there. The man told police he had “heard something” in the area and went to investigate,

and later said he was in the area and wanted to use it as an opportunity to look around.

Police say the man ignored signs saying the area was currently off limits to the public. He was arrested on suspicion of burglary and trespassing, as well as drug charges. He was allegedly in possession of methamphetamine and a pipe.

The same man was arrested in Mountain View in July 2017 after he reportedly swiped five cheeseburgers from a man in the drive-thru of the In-N-Out Burger on El Camino Real. The victim at the time said the man grabbed the cheeseburgers as the server was handing them out the window. The man was later found in downtown Mountain View, where he appeared to be under the influence, and was arrested on robbery charges.

McKelvey Park’s baseball fields have been under construction since early 2017, and are expected to be completed in the coming months. The project is being done by the Santa Clara Valley Water District as part of a flood protection plan, which involves sinking the field into a basin that can fill up with rainwater in the event of a massive storm.

—Kevin Forestieri

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POT SHOPS

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seeking to open in Mountain View.

The revisions to the law, approved by the City Council in May, focused on restricting and reducing the presence of the budding cannabis retail industry in Mountain View. The original ordinance passed in October last year allowed for a total of four cannabis businesses, of which two could be storefront locations permitted to do walk-in sales. Zoning at the time also allowed dispensaries to open up shop in the downtown and San Antonio areas of Mountain View and numerous retail locations peppered throughout the city. There were no rules at the time explicitly barring marijuana retailers from being close to one another, either.

The City Council's revisions completely eliminate storefront retail uses, instead allowing up to three "non-storefront" businesses — essentially storage and delivery services for cannabis products. The San Antonio area is now off-limits as a location, and there must be a 600-foot buffer between cannabis businesses.

Allowing retail cannabis has been among the most contentious, hot-button issues in

Mountain View over the last year, drawing large crowds to meetings every time it's addressed by the City Council. In March, when the council announced its intent to revise the law, more than 130 people spoke at the lengthy meeting, with a majority demanding that the council adopt a blanket ban against all cannabis businesses.

The plan, according to city documents, is to let the one remaining non-storefront retail business from the first round of applications continue through the permitting process, Burke said, while the three storefront businesses that are no longer compliant will have a chance to submit a new, compliant application — for a non-storefront business.

Business owners interested in starting a cannabis company in Mountain View must go through a regulatory gauntlet, where "Phase 1" includes a background check with the Mountain View Police Department; evidence of a legal right to occupy the property or tenant space where the business will be located; and a written business description with hours of operation, security plans and type of products to be sold.

The only business to survive the first round of applications was MWKM Corporation — doing business under the company

name Grown. The application, though heavily redacted, shows the company plans to run a delivery business at 229 Polaris Ave. in Mountain View, located at the corner of Polaris and Wentworth Street, and anticipates primarily serving residents in Mountain View, Los Altos, Sunnyvale and Palo Alto.

Grown's application includes plans for odor management — even though the products will arrive prepackaged — and strategies for avoiding illegal redistribution or sale of cannabis. Employees will be subject to a strict screening process and rigorous inventory controls, and will be supervised when a new delivery of cannabis products arrives.

The application also includes a plan for managing and protecting money received from customers, as many of the transactions in the industry are done with cash.

The business owner, Matthew Mahaffey, said in his application that he has deep roots in Mountain View, moving to the city when he was 9 years old and meeting his wife and friends there. With the state essentially greenlighting marijuana delivery services regardless of local ordinances, he said now seems like the "ideal time" to open on the Peninsula where there are no

pot businesses.

Despite the tighter rules, Mountain View remains one of the few cities on the Peninsula to allow cannabis businesses at all. Palo Alto banned them in late 2017, while Menlo Park has a long-term moratorium on pot shops and outdoor cultivation.

Proponents lobbying in favor of cannabis businesses have long argued that the Adult Use of Marijuana Act, which legalized the recreational sale and use of pot in California, has been stifled by individual cities and counties who have done everything short of outlawing marijuana, with a mix of moratoriums and tight restrictions. Local restrictions, along with high tax rates and fees, are blamed for lower-than-anticipated revenue from the state's cannabis excise tax.

Last November, Mountain View residents approved Measure Q, a new tax on retail cannabis products, by a landslide. The tax was projected to raise about \$1 million in revenue annually.

A report last year by the state's Cannabis Advisory Committee found that early cannabis businesses are facing an uphill battle caused by regulatory burdens. A majority of local municipalities are either not issuing licenses at all, or being slow to write up a regulatory framework for

retail licenses. The city-by-city approach is also making it tough for businesses to navigate a patchwork of varying conditions and standards that aren't always consistent with state requirements, the report found.

The deadline for applications is Nov. 8. If there are more than three eligible applications, the city will hold a lottery to determine which companies will move forward. The lottery is tentatively scheduled for December 2019 or January 2020. ■

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LEADERSHIP

► Continued from page 1

winning the right to vote.

To date, the past century has ushered in a new era of women in enterprise, management and C-suite offices. But is this true equality?

For many, the answer is no; there are still plenty of barriers, overt or otherwise. While the gender wage gap has narrowed, it has mostly remained unchanged for the last 15 years. On average, women earn about 15% less than their male counterparts, according to a Pew Research Center study published in March.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, which organized the event, drew particular attention to the inequity holding back high-achieving women from recognition. Fewer than 20% of board seats at the world's largest companies are held by women. Out of 3,000 top companies, only 39 have gender parity on their corporate boards.

On Monday, the attention in the room was focused on the star power of the headline speakers, two of the most powerful women in the Bay Area and national politics, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Anna Eshoo, who walked onstage to an exultant crowd.

"We do not yield one grain of sand in terms of areas where women should weigh in," Pelosi said. "This is not a zero sum game; once the ball gets rolling we can recognize that when women succeed, America succeeds."

In a public conversation, the two congresswomen discussed the gains and shortfalls over the years. On her first White House visit when she was first nominated as House minority leader, Pelosi recalled feeling the weight of generations of women leaders who had fought for suffrage and empowerment.

"I could hear them say, 'At last, we have a seat at the table,'"



MAGALI GAUTHIER

Astronaut Megan McArthur and Speaker Nancy Pelosi share a look at the Celebration of Women Leaders at NASA Ames on Monday. NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine vowed that future missions to the moon and Mars will include female astronauts.

Pelosi said. "We owe them so much and we celebrate them, but we have even more responsibility to embrace the future in a way that would make them proud."

While there's yet to be a female president, the crowd gathered at NASA Ames highlighted a different aspiration. Under the space agency's revived lunar program, dubbed Artemis, a woman astronaut will someday walk on the moon. Or even Mars.

**'When women
succeed, America
succeeds.'**

REP. NANCY PELOSI,
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine assured the crowd that the astronaut crew for future space missions would represent all of America.

"When we go to the moon, we'll go with a diverse, highly qualified astronaut corps that includes women," he said. "Maybe, just maybe, the first person who walks on Mars will

be a woman."

At the event, political differences were subdued but ever present. Bridenstine, a Trump administration appointee and former Freedom Caucus congressman, touted the new direction being taken at NASA to privatize and commercialize more aspects of the space industry. Earlier this summer, he unveiled plans for a new docking port to be added to the International Space Station that could be used for private manufacturing, research or space tourism.

"The big value to commercial partnership is if we're not owning the hardware, and instead we're buying a service, we can move much faster with a lot less regulation," he said. "Our commercial partners are critically valuable, and we're going to take advantage of them, and they're going to take advantage of us."

In a separate discussion, Pelosi blasted the persistent antagonism that pundits and politicians have toward government and regulation. Earlier this year, NASA and hundreds of other federal agencies were brought to a standstill due to a five-week shutdown, the longest in U.S. history.

"When people say they want to privatize this or that, what they're really saying is, 'I don't want any responsibility for diversity or respect for the government role,'" Pelosi said. "There has to be a recognition for the importance for governance."

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com



MAGALI GAUTHIER

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine told the crowd, "Maybe, just maybe, the first person who walks on Mars will be a woman."

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

and Customs Enforcement, and restrict law enforcement cooperation with federal agencies.

The San Francisco federal court granted Santa Clara County and San Francisco a preliminary injunction in April 2017 protecting both regions from the order, which was later upheld by an appeals court in August 2018.

On Friday, Aug. 23, the court issued a final ruling creating permanent protections for the sanctuary counties.

“Santa Clara County taxpayers send their tax dollars to Washington and reasonably expect those federal funds will help deliver essential public health and safety services to our County residents and others across the nation, rather than being used as a bargaining chip on federal immigration policy,” Santa Clara County Board President Joe Simitian said in a statement.

BALLET STUDIO’S YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Does your child aspire to be a ballet dancer? The Mountain View-based Western Ballet has announced a series of new scholarships and financial aid to encourage local children to enroll in dance classes.

As a nonprofit, Western Ballet strives to make classical ballet available to the community, regardless of ability to pay for lessons. To that end, the studio is offering up to \$20,000 in

aid programs to help students who could no otherwise afford tuition.

Any students who are interested in the scholarships are asked come for an audition on Saturday, Aug. 31, starting at 1 p.m. The studio is located at 914 N. Rengstorff Ave.

The scholarships are primarily intended for boys or girls aged between 6 to 10. All who audition are asked to come wearing non-restrictive dance clothes. To be eligible, a parent or guardian will need to provide a copy of their 2018 tax return. More information is at westernballet.org.

—Mark Noack

SUPERVISORS DECLARE CLIMATE CRISIS

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors declared a climate crisis Tuesday, Aug. 27, joining dozens of Bay Area cities and counties that have pledged resources toward mitigating global warming.

Supervisor Dave Cortese introduced the resolution in tandem with the county’s ongoing environmental efforts to end greenhouse gas emissions and move to 100% renewable electric power. The supervisors approved the resolution unanimously, with one member absent.

“Our planet, our livelihoods and the livelihoods of generations to come are at stake,” Cortese said. “We are at an important junction in our history where folks from all walks of life are uniting behind a global

mission to restore the climate for future generations.”

San Francisco, Petaluma, Oakland, Richmond, Berkeley, Alameda, Hayward, Cupertino, and Santa Cruz are among 500 cities internationally that have declared climate crises. Their goal is to combat sea-level rise, protect coastal areas including the Bay Area and promote sustainable local economies that do not rely on fossil fuels.

FORECASTING PG&E POWER SHUT-OFFS

PG&E on Tuesday, Aug. 27, launched a new weather website with forecasts for possible power shut-offs.

The website at pge.com/ weather predicts the potential for the power shut-offs for the upcoming week in various regions of its service area.

Shut-off potential is ranked on the site according to four categories: Not Expected, Elevated, Public Safety Power Shut-off Watch, and Public Safety Power Shutoff Warning.

The website also displays detailed information about weather conditions in Northern and Central California, according to the utility.

PG&E announced earlier this year that it was starting the public safety power shut-off program as a precautionary measure during windy and dry conditions. The utility has faced harsh scrutiny for its role in the devastating wildfires in Northern California in the last two years.

—Bay City News Service

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SUPERCOMPUTER

► Continued from page 5

a tour of Aitken supercomputer, one of the first of these new modular powerhouses to be built at Ames. The facility is tucked in the rear of the NASA Ames Research Center, just down the road from the Pleiades supercomputer, which for years has been the flagship of the agency's computing division.

Thigpen led the visitors to a one-acre concrete lot that was completely empty except for a nondescript white building about the size of a studio apartment. It looked like a utility shed. That was Aitken, he said.

Walking over to the side of the building, Aitken demonstrated the cooling system, which blew air through a copper screen with water flowing

through it. It was basically a more advanced version of a radiator or a swamp cooler, he said, saying that its results were game-changing. By improving on this simple design, NASA engineers had cut energy and water usage by more than 90%, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars, he said.

A significant element of that savings was due to the dry coastal winds that could be easily chilled. The baylands are like "nirvana" for a supercomputing facility, Thigpen said.

Stepping inside the white Aitken building, Thigpen walked between the large server nodes, trying hard to talk over the roar of all the fans and equipment. Currently, the room contained just over 46,000 processors, but that capacity could soon grow.

Outside, about 12 large yellow boxes were painted on the



MAGALI GAUTHIER

William Thigpen, NASA Advanced Computer branch chief, talks to the press outside the Aitken supercomputer building on Aug. 22. Using what amounts to a swamp cooler harnessing Bay breezes, NASA researchers say they've dramatically reduced the huge amounts of electricity and water normally needed for supercomputers.

empty concrete parcel, indicating spots where future mini supercomputers like Aitken would eventually be built. As soon as NASA needs more processing power, Thigpen said his team could swiftly construct an identical facility for the

relatively low cost of about \$35 million.

"In just two months, I could double what we have here," he said. "By doing this one piece at a time, we're able to take advantage of the computing advances as well as any facility

improvements."

NASA officials said they were eager to share their lessons on building more efficient supercomputers with any private parties who were interested. ▀

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

CLIMATE CHANGE

► Continued from page 5

energy codes. It also advocates for schools to move toward zero-waste and corporations such as PG&E, Amazon and Facebook to reduce their carbon footprint.

"If you think about climate

change and the environmental movement, the government has been against the people on this every step only the way," Minden said. "Action has been through citizens ... kids like us lobbying people (for change)."

The group has formed a coalition between local youth-led environmental groups,

including Sunrise Movement, 350 Bay Area and Extinction Rebellion, to organize the event and is consulting with adult organizers from the Women's March, March for Science, and Mothers Out Front.

"We're not going to be able to solve climate change with youth alone," said Peri Plantenberg, co-lead and sophomore at Homestead High School in Cupertino.

Plantenberg said the organizers are prioritizing the involvement of people of color and underrepresented groups in the environmental movement.

"One of our main goals is to make sure that we combat environmental racism," Plantenberg said. "It's traditionally a very

whitewashed movement. We make it a priority to take a look at who is around us and make sure that we are including different ethnicities and different types of people."

Plantenberg pointed to the largely unrecognized advocacy efforts of Native Americans in protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline and Latin Americans' work to preserve the Amazon rainforest.

Beyond the march, Plantenberg said the group is taking other actions in the interest of fighting global warming.

The group plans to lobby the Los Altos City Council, with the hopes of it becoming the first city in the United States to adopt a carbon dividend act,

a revenue-neutral policy that would charge a fossil fuel fees to mines, pipelines and other producers, and redistribute the collected money to citizens.

On Aug. 22, members of the Youth Climate Strike, Sunrise Movement and other environmental organizations held a sit-in at the Democratic National Committee summer meeting in San Francisco to protest Chairman Tom Perez's past refusal to host a climate-specific presidential debate.

"Our lives shouldn't be political," Plantenberg said.

The three-day committee meeting, open to the press and public, drew 13 presidential candidates and nearly 350 delegates. At the event, the committee voted not to host a climate-specific debate.

Both Minden and Plantenberg said people and governments should focus on actionable solutions to solve the climate crisis.

Growing up during one of the most persistent droughts in California's history, Minden was repeatedly given "disheartening" feedback by adults, who said that the effects of global warming were unavoidable.

"It's hard to comprehend that we might not have a future," Plantenberg said. "I know that I'm going to regret it so much if I don't take action." ▀

■ INFORMATION

Participants in the Friday, Sept. 20, march should arrive at the San Jose Diridon Caltrain Station by 2:45 p.m. The group plans to begin marching at 3 p.m. to San Jose City Hall, where the event will conclude in a rally featuring speakers and live entertainment.

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement


DEA ALATA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: FBN658096
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Dea Alata, located at 1354 Dale Ave. #9, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: A General Partnership.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
JULIA VASILYEVA
4745 Torrey Pines Cir
San Jose, CA 95124
ANASTASIA NAMSARAEVA
1354 Dale Ave. #9
Mountain View, CA 94040
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on July 30, 2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on August 22, 2019.
(MVV Aug. 30; Sep. 6, 13, 20, 2019)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:
INGRID I. KOELBEL aka INGRID IDA KOELBEL
Case No.: 19PR186538
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of INGRID I. KOELBEL aka INGRID IDA KOELBEL.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by: CHRISTOPHER A. KOELBEL in the Superior Court of California, County of SANTA CLARA.
The Petition for Probate requests that: CHRISTOPHER A. KOELBEL 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 November 20, 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:
John P. Breckenridge, Esq.
2901 Moorpark Ave., Suite 175
San Jose, CA 95128
(408) 243-3242
(MVV Aug. 30; Sep. 6, 13, 2019)

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Arts & Events

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

'39 Steps,' one great show

HITCHCOCK SPOOF IS A THEATREWORKS TRIUMPH

By Karla Kane

Theater Review

Equal parts loving tribute to and gleeful spoof of the work of “master of suspense” and cinematic hero Alfred Hitchcock, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley’s “The 39 Steps” is a winner. It’s surely one of this year’s must-sees, especially for Hitchcock fans.

The show, adapted by British actor/writer Patrick Barlow, based on the 1935 film (which itself is loosely based on John Buchan’s 1915 novel), utilizes just four actors playing 100 or so characters, often in very rapid succession, as well as serving as the on-stage Foley artists, creating charmingly low-fi sound effects. The performers exist in a show-within-a-show universe as members of a 1930s theater troupe who must frantically pull their production together without any outside or technical assistance and with all the buffoonery and mishaps on full view.

The story, straight out of Hitchcock’s version, concerns Richard Hannay (Lance Gardner), ennui-struck and moping around his London flat. Hannay, looking for something “pointless” to kill time with, heads to the music hall for a performance by “Mr. Memory” (Cassidy Brown, in one of many roles), a man able to store vast amounts of trivia in his head. A mysterious foreign lady, Annabella (Annie Abrams), sits in the theater seat next to Hannay before abruptly stopping the show by firing a gun, asking Hannay for help, divulging that

she’s an agent working to thwart the smuggling of top-secret air defense plans out of the country and winding up stabbed in the back.

And we’re off and running, with Hannay on the lam and desperate to both clear his own name and complete Annabella’s mission. Along the way he meets classic cool Hitchcock blonde Pamela (Abrams again), Highland oddballs, villainous probable-Nazis and many more, and must endure all manner of hijinks — from hanging off a train bridge to impersonating a milkman — during his fugitive journey from London to Scotland and back again.

Little homages to some of Hitchcock’s trademarks, including references to other films, are sprinkled throughout. While the plot is both silly and suspensefully exciting, the real magic is in watching the cast (rounded out by Ron Campbell, also playing countless roles), do their zany, slapstick, screwball and oh-so-British, Scottish and occasionally Germanic stuff — switching characters, accents (kudos, dialect coach Janel Miley) and costumes seemingly at the speed of light. Some of my favorite bits include the frantic moving of a road-blocking flock of sheep, an exquisitely choreographed handcuffed chase-across-the-moors routine and every time Campbell and Brown raise their hats and thank each other in the music hall.

Director Leslie Martinson and



KEVIN BERNE/THEATREWORKS

Above: Mr. McGarrigle (Cassidy Brown) and Mrs. McGarrigle (Ron Campbell) offer Pamela (Annie Abrams) and Richard Hannay (Lance Gardner) a room at their hotel in TheatreWorks Silicon Valley’s production of “The 39 Steps,” a gleeful spoof of the Hitchcock film. **Below:** Richard Hannay tries to pry a map out of Annabella Schmidt’s lifeless hands.

team display expert timing, with great scenic design by David Lee Cuthbert, lovely costumes by Cathleen Edwards (an important feature of this quick-change show), lighting by Steven B. Mannshardt and sound by Cliff Caruthers. And all four actors are superb, with Gardner giving Hannay the posh voice and manner reminiscent of Matt Berry in “Toast of London,” and the three role switchers proving incredibly nimble. Period-and-place-appropriate music (think George Formby) helps set the scene further.

“The 39 Steps” really manages to capture the brilliance of Hitchcock’s style and spoof it in

a way that just plain works. It’s all much better experienced than read about, so my best advice is to catch a performance ASAP. And take a lesson from Hannay: You never know who the mysterious stranger sitting next to you in the theater may turn out to be. ▣

Email Karla Kane at kkane@paweeekly.com

■ INFORMATION

What: “The 39 Steps.”
Where: Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.
When: Through Sept. 15; show times vary.
Cost: \$35-\$95.
Info: theatreworks.org.



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LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

SHORELINE REVERSIBLE BUS LANE

On Tuesday, Sept. 3, our City Council will reconvene after the summer break and consider whether or not to give final approval to the Shoreline Boulevard reversible bus lane. The last time this was considered was three years ago, when a very different council approved (6-1) a conceptual plan with many details to be worked out. The detailed plan will probably not be released until the Thursday before the meeting, but there are several things the council should be prepared to scrutinize.

First, the number of transit vehicles which currently use Shoreline is low. A 2019 study found that only 16% of transit riders entered through the Shoreline gateway, and probably many of those vehicles used the freeways and not Shoreline. I personally counted only 44 transit vehicles headed north from Middlefield Road on a typical morning last year.

Second, a significant number of people must be convinced to ride the shuttles in order to reduce congestion from single occupancy vehicles. Google employees are well-served by their own buses, very few of which use Shoreline. A 2016 study found that one-third of North Bayshore employees lived less than 5 miles away so they were unlikely to take transit. A large number of single occupancy vehicles come from areas south of Mountain View, but these areas are poorly served by VTA and Caltrain that connect to the transit center, which the bus lane was aimed at. The reversible bus lane has been estimated to shave only about five minutes off of the Shoreline corridor commute, not likely to convince someone to take public transit.

Finally, the possible benefits of the bus lane must not be offset by making congestion worse, but the preemptive signal timing on Shoreline and the prohibition of right turns on red at the protected intersection planned for Middlefield are likely to do just that. In addition, the northbound Shoreline on-ramp to Highway 85 will be eliminated. All this for a project that will cost upwards of \$12 million, which can only possibly help with the morning commute. If detailed simulation and analysis shows that the reversible bus lane will help, then by all means the project should go forward. Otherwise, the problem should be studied further so that a better solution can be found.

Albert Jeans
San Lucas Avenue

A STEP BACKWARDS

Why does Caltrain refuse to listen to the thoroughly thought-through ideas of the people who are affected by their decision about bike cars — the bike commuters? And why is the Caltrain board willing to break its promise about the quantity of bike spaces? Electric trains will have only seven folding seats within view of 36 bike spaces and 72 bike spaces per train. Today's diesel trains have up to 34 fixed seats within view of 40 bike spaces and 77 bike spaces per train on average.

What a step backwards. Instead of designing a good layout for bike cars before they are built, Caltrain will be faced with expensive retrofit costs when the design fails in the field. I really do not understand Caltrain's logic.

We are Caltrain customers. Who benefits more from the designs Caltrain approved? We certainly do not.

Virginia Smedberg
Palo Alto

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Masterful Mediterranean

DESPITE SMYRNA'S LOW-KEY AMBIANCE, ITS CUISINE IS TOP-NOTCH

Story by Monica Schreiber | Photos by Veronica Weber

With its white tablecloths and Italian standards, Spalti had been a mainstay on Palo Alto's California Avenue for decades. In recent years, though, the restaurant started feeling stodgy and old school next to the avenue's more energetic newcomers like Terún and iTalo. Owner Ayhan Akgul shuttered Spalti earlier this year.

Now he's back in the same location with a new concept and a new business partner. Smyrna, which opened in May, is reminiscent of Spalti in its fine-dining ethos, but showcases cuisine closer to the heart of Akgul, a Turkish-born Kurd. Smyrna is named for the ancient Hellenic city now called Izmir, on the Aegean coast of Turkey.

Some of the upmarket Mediterranean fare will be familiar to patrons of Urfa in downtown Los Altos. Urfa owner Zubi Duygu, also Kurdish, is Akgul's old friend and new partner. They've brought to Smyrna some of Urfa's most popular dishes, including a succulent grilled Spanish octopus appetizer (\$16) and a whole, spinach-stuffed branzino (flown in that morning from the Mediterranean, \$33) that had me swooning.

With the exception of one slightly charred order of spanakopita (\$11), I was so taken with Smyrna's cuisine that I dined there several additional times in advance of this review. I worry, though, that despite Smyrna's center-of-the-action location on California Avenue, many might be overlooking this place. Visually and atmospherically, there is little to entice discerning diners to venture inside.

The rather generic décor, heavy on gray and beige, is ...

fine, dignified even, but lacks personality and energy. A pretty bar toward the back of the room lends a bit of liveliness, but I couldn't shake the feeling that the ghost of Spalti still haunts the place. Even the front patio, painted gray and black, feels serious and subdued. It doesn't help that the restaurant's signage — the design of which suggests a casual eatery, not upscale fare — is partially hidden behind a tree.

A restaurant's image isn't everything, certainly when the food is this good. But it does matter, especially on a street crowded with Michelin stars, hip bistros and animated sidewalk seating. During my four visits to Smyrna, I watched too many potential customers stop to read the menu, look around a little bit and then continue down the street.

That's too bad, because Smyrna's cuisine holds its own against swanky Mediterranean hotspots like Taverna and Evvia. So, let's focus on the food. Like that branzino. The Mediterranean sea bass was stuffed with spinach before being grilled to flaky, smoky perfection. Served with almond-studded couscous



Smyrna in Palo Alto serves whole branzino with roasted peppers, a currant-shallot vinaigrette and almond couscous.

► See **SMYRNA**, page 18

SMYRNA

► Continued from page 17

and delightfully zingy pickled onions, this mostly de-boned fish was beautifully plated and perfectly executed both times I ordered it.

A bowl of gazpacho (\$8), artistically drizzled with herbed olive oil, revealed heirloom tomato perfection — just the right balance of sweetness and acidity — with chunks of avocado and crunchy diced cucumbers providing texture. I could not remember having enjoyed

gazpacho as much as this version, even in Spain.

On one visit, our group of four made a fun, tapas-style meal from the starters section of the menu. The sautéed tiger prawns (\$15) were the tiniest bit chewy, but I cared little because the white wine and butter herb sauce, embellished with warm kalamata olives, cherry tomatoes and feta cheese, was bright with wine and garlic and the ideal immersion for Smyrna's housemade bread.

The spread sampler (\$12) was

► Continued on next page



Grilled Spanish octopus is served with grilled cucumber, cannellini beans and charroula sauce at Smyrna.

Lamb meatballs are nestled in a Spanish saffron sauce and spiced with za'atar.

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Above: Ayhan Akgul stands in the dining room at his new restaurant on California Avenue in Palo Alto. **Top:** Smyrna's menu focuses on Mediterranean cuisine and dishes close to the heart of Akgul, who is Kurdish and was born in Turkey.

► Continued from previous page

a generous plate showcasing three Mediterranean classics: a luxuriant tzatziki, eggplant purée and a Turkish roasted red pepper and walnut dip (muhammara). The lamb meatballs (\$12) were a little dense, but flavored nicely with za'atar and bathed in a saffron tomato sauce.

The Scottish salmon (\$31) was a masterpiece of intense flavor combinations atop another perfectly grilled piece of fish. A sauce made of sun-dried tomatoes, capers and white wine was an Italian-esque reminder

of Spalti's glory days. Grilled vegetables and rice with orzo rounded out the plate. The lamb shish kebab (\$26) provided two generous skewers of tender and savory leg of lamb, grilled medium rare and served with a cooling tzatziki.

Smyrna's poached pear dessert (\$11), made famous at Urfa, is a showy, Spanish-style way to finish your meal, served flush left on an oblong plate with a scoop of vanilla gelato. The cold, wine-soaked pear was surprisingly subtle in flavor. I would have preferred it served warm as a counterpoint to the ice cream.

DINING NOTES

Smyrna

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The real winner was the chocolate mousse (\$10), not too sweet, infused with Turkish coffee and whipped to a dreamy frothiness. Both desserts featured delicious candied orange peel and a sprinkling of pistachios.

Co-owner Akgul helped provide friendly, efficient service on all four visits. Pacing was on point and all our servers were considerate and friendly. There's a strong sense of restaurateurs working hard to deliver a top-notch dining experience. I hope that my quibbles about the ho-hum ambiance are taken in the spirit in which they are meant: to encourage prospective diners to give this excellent cuisine a try, even if the restaurant's vibe is a little subdued. ▀

Email Monica Schreiber at monicahayde@yahoo.com

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MOVIE OPENINGS

Homicidal hide-and-seek

HORROR COMEDY 'READY OR NOT' CAPITALIZES ON 1 PERCENT HATRED

★★ (Century 16&20, Icon)

The horror comedy "Ready or Not" revels in the deaths of America's wealthiest 1 percent.

The movie imagines a wealthy family protecting themselves and their gaming empire by superstitiously observing a potentially deadly ritual: When someone marries into the Le Domas family, the new family member must draw a card and play the game printed on it.

Parcheesi? Easy breezy. Chess? No mess. But pick the card reading "Ready or Not," and you've been unwittingly enlisted in a game of homicidal hide-and-seek.

After marrying Daniel Le Domas (Mark O'Brien), Grace (Samara Weaving) picks the wrong card and obligingly hides in the family mansion. Quickly, it becomes apparent to her that wher life is at stake, and that she'll need to kill her new family if she's to live to see another dawn. As the top-down thinking goes in the Le Domas family, slaying Grace is a necessary evil — the stance of parents, Tony and Becky (Henry Czerny and Andie MacDowell), and aunt Helene (scenery-chewing Nicky Guadagni) — although some among the younger generation, most notably Daniel's brother Alex (Adam Brody) and Daniel himself, doubt the necessity of the ritual.

Audience sympathies, of course, lie squarely with Grace, who must embrace her inner brute to kill or be killed. The film's best asset is Weaving expertly running the emotional gamut.

At 95 minutes, Matt Bettinelli-Olpin and Tyler Gillett's film aims to move fast enough to avoid allowing the audience much time to question the plotting. But that gambit also results in thin characters and thinner satire. Baked into the premise is a statement on amoral capitalism: It's a dog-eat-dog world; life a game to win or lose; and if innocents need to die while looking out for number one, their deaths qualify as unfortunate but necessary collateral damage.



FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

Samara Weaving plays a deadly game of hide-and-seek in "Ready or Not."

Call it the new populism, call it tasteless or call it the canary in the coal mine for the coming class war, but "Ready or Not" just isn't all that clever, and its entertainment value uncomfortably rests on bloodthirst for one's enemies. I suppose that's not very different from any other predator-prey horror splatterfest, but that's also part of the problem with Guy Busick and R. Christopher Murphy's screenplay, which despite the charge of family infighting, winds up feeling bloody impersonal in its blunt-force thrills. Then again, it's only a movie. Bettinelli-Olpin got his start as a punk rocker in the band Link 80: Maybe it's best to think of "Ready or Not" as gifting us a mosh pit for primal-scream therapy. *Rated R for violence, bloody images, language throughout, and some drug use. One hour, 35 minutes.*

— Peter Canavese



MOVIE REVIEWS

'WHERE'D YOU GO, BERNADETTE' ★★★1/2

In the opening moments of "Where'd You Go, Bernadette," we see where Bernadette went, then flashback to find out how and why she got there. It's a tactic guaranteed to tick off the majority of those who have read Maria Semple's bestselling novel for which the movie is based (although they know the ending anyway). But there's still much to appreciate in director Richard Linklater's take on the material. For starters, Linklater enlisted Cate Blanchett to star as Bernadette Fox, a celebrated architect weighed down by a two-decade slump. The retired Bernadette has more or less

succumbed to the very suburban ennui she sought to deconstruct through her art. When not troubleshooting her relationships with her husband, Elgin Branch (Billy Crudup), and daughter Bee (Emma Nelson), Bernadette tinkers with her ramshackle Seattle-area house, a fixer-upper project that seems destined to remain unfinished. Our manic, insomniac hero slips deeper into her own isolation until a sudden crisis prompts Elgin to stage an intervention and, one open bathroom window later, Bernadette's in the wind. Blanchett's humanization of Bernadette keeps the film relatable and us rooting for her to get back on track and figure it all out. *Rated PG-13 for some strong language and drug material. Two hours, 10 minutes.* — P.C.

'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.

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The Angry Birds Movie 2 (PG) Century

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

Blinded by the Light (PG-13)

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

The Dark Mirror (1946) (Not Rated)

Stanford Theatre: Friday

Don't Let Go (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

Dora and the Lost City of Gold (PG)

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

Good Boys (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

The Heiress (1949) (Not Rated)

Stanford Theatre: Friday

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

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Luce (R) ★★★1/2

Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

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

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

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

CineArts at Palo Alto Square: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

The Mask of Zorro (PG-13) ★★★

Stanford Theatre: Sat. & Sun.

Mission Mangal (Not Rated)

Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood (R) ★★★

Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

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

The Peanut Butter Falcon (PG-13)

Century 20: Fri. - Sun. **Palo Alto Square:** Fri. - Sun. **ShowPlace Icon:** Fri. - Sun.

Ready or Not (R) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Saaho (Not Rated) Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Scary Stories to tell in the Dark (PG-13)

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

Spider-Man: Far From Home (PG) ★★★

Century 16: Fri. - Sun.

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Tel Aviv on Fire (Not Rated)

Guild Theatre: Fri. - Sun.

Tod@s Caen (PG-13)

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

Toy Story 4 (G) ★★★1/2

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

ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Where'd You Go, Bernadette (PG-13) ★★★1/2

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.

Yesterday (PG-13) ★★★

Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

(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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BRE# 00978793



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YvonneandJeff@InteroRealEstate.com
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GoingsOn

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

‘AN IDEAL HUSBAND’

In this play directed by Jenny Hollingsworth, an ideal husband explores political corruption, public persona versus private virtue, and the inevitable disappointments that come with holding others to one’s own rigid ideals. Through Sept. 15; times vary. \$34; discount for students, seniors. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. thepear.org

THEATER

‘The 39 Steps’ TheatreWorks’ acclaimed comedy returns in a spoof of Alfred Hitchcock’s silver-screen classic, in which a London man fights to clear his name after stumbling upon a ring of spies. Through Sept. 15; times vary. \$25-\$60. Discounts available; pricing subject to change. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org

‘Admissions’ The Los Altos Stage Company presents “Admissions,” a new satire that takes a no-holds-barred look at privilege and power in liberal white America. Sept. 5-29; times vary. \$20-\$30. Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. losaltosstage.org

Broad Comedy Planned Parenthood Mar Monte’s Young Professionals Committee presents Broad Comedy, a snarky, provocative and lovable group of women producing comedy and musical satire for ages 18 and above. Sept. 5, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$53; discount for students. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. tickets.mvcpa.com/

CONCERTS

Concert on the Plaza: Haopinaka Hawaiian Group The Mountain View Community Services Department presents music by the Haopinaka Hawaiian Group as part of Concerts on the Plaza. In addition to the music, there will be a food truck, a “Pop Up Park” area for children and for adults, beer and wine. Sept. 6, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View City Hall, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Dierks Bentley: Burning Man 2019 Country music star Dierks Bentley performs along with guests Jon Pardi, Caylee Hammack and Hot Country Knights. Sept. 7, 7 p.m. \$31-\$209. Shoreline Amphitheatre, 1 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View. concerts1.livenation.com

Don Omar: El Puro Party The El Puro Party features reggaeton artist Don Omar with guests Zion Y Lennox, Jowell Y Randy, De La Ghetto, Alex Sensation, Sonora Dinamita, Oro Solido, Fulanito, Los Rakas, Victoria La Mala and more. Sept. 1, 4:30 p.m. \$23-\$209. Shoreline Amphitheatre, 1 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View. concerts1.livenation.com

KoRn & Alice In Chains KoRn & Alice In Chains perform live at Shoreline Amphitheatre. Sept. 4, 6:30 p.m. \$26-\$275. Shoreline Amphitheatre, 1 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View. concerts1.livenation.com

The Hot Baked Goods! Jazz band The Hot Baked Goods kicks off a new month of classes and dances. Sept. 4, 9:30-11:45 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

‘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.

Nelly, TLC and Flo Rida Hip-hop artists Flo Rida and Nelly will perform along with R&B singing group TLC. Aug. 30, 7 p.m. \$18-\$250. Shoreline Amphitheatre, 1 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View. concerts1.livenation.com

The Smashing Pumpkins & Noel Gallagher’s High Flying Birds Alternative rock band Smashing Pumpkins performs along with guests Noel Gallagher’s High Flying Birds and AFL. Aug. 31, 7 p.m.

\$22-\$350. Shoreline Amphitheatre, 1 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View. concerts1.livenation.com

The National Goldenvoice presents The National with Alvvays performing at the newly renovated Frost Amphitheater. Sept. 1, 5-10 p.m. \$59.50. Frost Amphitheater, 351 Lasuen St., Palo Alto. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

MUSIC

‘Along Came A Giant’ Folksinger, storyteller and autoharp virtuoso Adam Miller presents “Along Came a Giant,” a free singalong concert for all ages. Aug. 30, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Palo Alto Library, 270 Forest Ave., Palo Alto. folksinging.org

Karen Buck & Matthias Baumhof: ‘An Evening of German Vocal Music’ Soprano Karen Buck and pianist Matthias Baumhof present “An Evening of German Vocal Music,” featuring an array of musical genres in the German language. Art song selections will include German Lieder of Schubert, Mozart, Brahms and Richard Strauss. Aug. 31, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. arts4all.org

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/livemusic

FESTIVALS & FAIRS

48th Mountain View Art & Wine Festival The Mountain View Art & Wine Festival features live music, 500 professional artists, the Xfinity Pigskin Party Lounge, food and drink with premium wine and sangria, craft beer, cocktails, the “Mountain View’s Got Talent” Facebook Community Stage and an action-packed Kids’ Park. Sept. 7-8, 11 a.m. Free. Downtown Mountain View, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. bit.ly/mountain-view-art-and-wine-fest

Farmers Market The downtown Los Altos farmers 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

Tuolumne River Film Festival This year’s Tuolumne River Film Festival will feature short films from the Wild and Scenic Film Festival and the International Ocean Film Festival, live music, and more. Sept. 7, 6:30-9 p.m. \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. tuolumne.org

Los Altos First Friday Los Altos First Fridays are community-building events held during the evenings of the first Friday of the month in downtown Los Altos. First Fridays are meant to be a fun, social evening for residents of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and neighboring communities. Sept. 6, 6-8 p.m. Free. Downtown Los Altos. losaltoschamber.org

TALKS & LECTURES

Science Talk: Physics vs. Time Travel Using popular movies as a framework, Ken Wharton, physics professor at San Jose State University, will outline several categories of time-travel stories and discuss connections with physics. Sept. 4, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. mountainview.libcal.com

Adrienne Young and Shea Ernschaw Adrienne Young presents her new novel, “The Girl the Sea Gave Back,” and chats with New York Times bestselling author Shea Ernschaw at Kepler’s. Sept. 3, 7-8 p.m. Free. Kepler’s

Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

Katy Rose Pool Author Katy Rose Pool discusses her book, “There Will Come a Darkness,” an epic fantasy trilogy that explores everything from ancient history, to apocalyptic prophecies, to fraught sibling relationships. Sept. 6, 7-9 p.m. Free. Kepler’s Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. keplers.org

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

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

‘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

DANCE

Los Altos Hills Hoedown This year’s Hoedown will feature Capelo’s BBQ food truck, a dance caller, live bluegrass music by Sidesaddle & Co., old-fashioned arts and crafts, a community farmers market and more. Sept. 7, 3-7 p.m. Free. Westwind Community Barn, 27210 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills. losaltoshills.ca.gov

FOOD & DRINK

Eat, Drink & Be Techie The Computer History Museum hosts a tech-themed block party at the Cloud Bistro beer garden, with programming on select Fridays for visitors of all ages. Aug. 30, 5-9 p.m. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. computerhistory.org

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Birds and a Bee by Floy Zittin Viewpoints Gallery presents September’s featured artist, Floy Zittin. Sept. 3-28, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. viewpointsgallery.com

Welcoming Wildlife into Our Gardens In this class, students will learn how to create a habitat-friendly garden abuzz with life and color. Instructor and Gamble Garden Director Richard Hayden will lay out the steps to creating garden habitats where wildlife can find food, water and a place to raise their young. Sept. 7, 9:30-11 a.m. \$25 for Palo Alto residents; \$35 for nonresidents. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. gamblegarden.org

SPORTS

Palo Alto Senior Table Tennis: Free and Fun Exercise The Palo Alto Senior Table Tennis Club invites seniors, ages 55 and older, to bring a racket and pair of tennis shoes to play table tennis. Every Tuesday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free; suggested \$1 donation. Cubberley Community Center, Gym B, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

Semi-Annual Bicycle Sale Silicon Valley Bicycle Exchange hosts a sale of bikes in good condition starting at \$150 as well as parts, including wheels, bags, shoes, clothes, trainers, pedals, forks, bars, lights, bells, bottle cages, pumps, bar ends, racks, baskets and car racks. The sale does not include kids’ bikes. Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Silicon Valley

Bicycle Exchange, 3961 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. bikex.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. 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 call Lana at 650-282-5336. Meetings held the first Wednesday of each month at noon. Free. Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View. mtviewwomansclub.org/index.html

Employment

MULTIPLE POSITIONS

Pure Storage, Inc. has following job opps. in Mountain View, CA: Member of Technical Staff (Software Engineer) [Req. #ENG67]. Dvlp SW for proprietary flash memory storage devices. Software Engineer [Req. #HGB59]. Dsgn & dvlp SW for proprietary flash memory storage devices. Member of Technical Staff (Software Engineer) [Req. #SFT31]. Dsgn & dvlp SW for proprietary flash memory storage devices. Sr. Product Marketing Manager, FlashBlade [Req. #PMM28]. Drive co’s FlashBlade prdct technical marketing strategy. Mail resumes refernc’g Req. # to: S. Reid, 401 Castro St, 3rd Flr, Mountain View, CA 94041.

To advertise call 650.223.6582 or email digitalads@pawekly.com.

Marketplace

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