

Mountain View VOICE

NOVEMBER 15, 2019 VOLUME 27, NO. 42

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Making
a splash
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MAGALI GAUTHIER

Ruchi Jahagirdar sings a solo during a performance by Alphabeats, an a cappella group made up of Google employees, at a rehearsal for Techapella in Redwood City.

A noteworthy passion

TECH COMPANIES' A CAPPELLA GROUPS SPOTLIGHT CREATIVITY

By Magali Gauthier

Last month, employees from some of the largest local tech companies gathered at the Fox Theatre in Redwood City. But they weren't there to hear a keynote speech for the unveiling of a new AI product.

They were there to sing.

On Oct. 20, the concert series and nonprofit Techapella hosted the first show of its seventh season featuring in-house a cappella groups from the tech industry. Google's Googapella and Alphabeats, Facebook's The Vocal Network, LinkedIn's InTune, Apple's The Keynotes and the

mixed-company group Internote belted out their versions of catchy tunes like "Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego?" by Rockapella and Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk."

"I think there's a lot more overlap between tech and art

► See **TECHAPPELLA**, page 9

County supes ban e-cigarette sales, call on cities to help curb teen vaping

REPORT SHOWS MOUNTAIN VIEW TAKES A HANDS-OFF APPROACH TO SMOKING RESTRICTIONS

By Kevin Forestieri

Santa Clara County's Board of Supervisors sought to make a strong statement on the widespread teen vaping epidemic, voting unanimously last week to prohibit the sale of electronic cigarettes in unincorporated areas.

But the vote came shortly after

a new report showing many cities aren't on the same page, muting the strength of the county's message. Several cities, including Mountain View, haven't adopted smoking or tobacco-related restrictions in years, missing key restrictions that could curtail the number of underage smokers getting hooked on nicotine.

Countywide surveys last year

show that nearly 1 in 3 teens in 10th and 12th grade have tried electronic cigarettes at some point, and 13.9% have used e-cigarettes in the last 30 days. While the survey shows what would otherwise be positive trends — use of cigarettes, cigars and most other tobacco products are

► See **VAPING**, page 14

Council's rent control measure raises rent cap, boosts pass-through costs

WILL BE ON MARCH PRIMARY BALLOT

By Mark Noack

The Mountain View City Council on Tuesday night approved final language for a March 2020 ballot measure changing the city's rent control law to allow bigger rent increases and explicitly exclude mobile home parks.

The city-sponsored measure has been under development for nearly six months to revise the local rent control regulations known as the Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act (CSFRA) that voters approved in 2016. The Tuesday, Nov. 12, meeting was the most important discussion so far because city leaders filled in many integral details that could determine how voters respond at the ballot box.

Most crucial for landlords and tenants alike, the City Council agreed to a measure that would raise the city's annual cap on rent hikes to a flat rate of 4%. Under the current rules, the maximum rent increase fluctuates each year based on the regional inflation rate, a system similar to how most other California cities administer rent control laws. For 2019, that rent cap is set at 3.5% for Mountain View.

Setting the right amount for allowable rent increases has been the big question for months as city leaders deliberated the measure. Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga has insisted that the city needed to allow higher rent increases in order to prevent more apartments from being torn down and redeveloped. In past meetings, she advocated for a 5% increase, but she joined her colleagues in supporting 4% on Tuesday night.

"This is an attempt to incentivize housing providers to stay in

the market and not take them off," she said. "You don't always get what you want all the time, but I think this is an attempt to build a compromise."

To her point, Councilman Lucas Ramirez, who has repeatedly warned against putting higher rents on tenants, said he would support the 4% higher increase, describing it as a "reasonable compromise." The lone opponent was Councilwoman Alison Hicks, who described raising rents as a deal breaker that would kill the measure's chances at the ballot box.

It is debatable to what degree rent control has galvanized property owners to redevelop older, affordable apartments. While many elected leaders see a direct link between the two, tenant advocates say that the number of redevelopments has been no higher since rent control was enacted. Conversely, Assistant Community Development Director Wayne Chen told city leaders that there is no certainty that allowing higher rents would slow down redevelopment projects or the displacement of tenants.

"It's hard to say whether dialing this variable leads to a specific outcome," he said. "It's a difficult question to answer. You'll hear a variety of perspectives on what motivates a landlord to stay or exit the business."

Any attempt to fiddle with rent control touches on perhaps the most volatile and divisive issue in Mountain View politics. The 2016 rent control law, which covers about 15,000 apartments in the city, has become a policy as fiercely guarded by tenant advocates as it is loathed by landlords.

Prior to the city's interest in

► See **RENT CONTROL**, page 8

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The Loma Prieta earthquake's 30th anniversary inspired a new disaster preparedness exhibit at the Los Altos History Museum.

LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM SPOTLIGHTS DISASTER PREP

In honor of the 30th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake, the Los Altos History Museum is presenting the exhibition "Our Community Prepares: Acts of Nature, Then and Now," which educates visitors about the local aftermath of Loma Prieta and other disasters, the expansion of emergency-preparedness programs and ways to prepare for the future.

Museum curator Amy Ellison and Ann Hepenstal, the city of Los Altos emergency preparedness coordinator, jointly curated the exhibition to reflect the stories of those affected by disasters in the Bay Area and inspire visitors to plan for potential situations.

The first section of the exhibition describes the history of emergency preparedness and improvements made through local volunteer-run organizations, including block action teams, community emergency response teams and ham radio operators.

The effects of natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods and wildfires, are explored in the second section. Diagrams in this area illustrate where many fault lines are located throughout Northern California and explain why earthquakes happen. It also features stories from locals on how the Loma Prieta earthquake affected their lives.

Los Altos resident Linda Janus needed help getting her two stores, Cooks' Junction and Janus Fine China, cleaned up after the earthquake. Downtown Los Altos shop owners and city officials met at Heintzleman's Bookstore the day after to discuss rebuilding. Strangers became new friends when New Zealand resident Dave Green stepped up to assist Janus with the cleanup for the next

three days of his trip to the area. "We're so grateful that members of our community were willing to tell us about their experiences during Loma Prieta; it wasn't easy for them to relive those memories and it's not easy to hear about them either. However, it's important that we don't forget, that we remember both the damage that it caused, as well as how the community came together to recover and rebuild," Ellison said.

First responders are the focal point of the third section, which shows how the community relies on the work of firefighters, law enforcement, emergency medical services and backup support from the American Red Cross.

The fourth section demonstrates how visitors can take action and formulate an action plan for natural disasters. Information about how to build a home emergency kit and "go bag" for family and pets is included.

Ellison and Hepenstal hope that the exhibition will motivate visitors to take action and ready themselves for any emergency situation.

"By learning the stories of past disaster events in Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, visitors learn that the risks are real," Hepenstal said. "Seeing the local impact of disaster events is very powerful. I'm hoping that everyone who visits the exhibition leaves with at least one item they will do immediately — even simple steps like stopping at the store to buy more emergency supplies of water or sitting down with their family to review local maps and write up a family evacuation plan."

The exhibition runs through Jan. 19, 2020, at 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. The free museum is open Thursdays-Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. Workshop schedule and registration info is listed online. For more information, go to losaltoshistory.org/exhibits/ or be-prepared. — *Chrissi Angeles*

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■ CRIME BRIEFS

MAN FOUND WITH STOLEN POLICE GEAR

A San Francisco man was arrested outside of the Kohl's in Mountain View on Nov. 1 after he was found in possession of equipment reported stolen from a Bay Area police department.

Officers patrolling the San Antonio shopping center parking lot spotted a U-Haul van parked outside of the department store on Showers Drive shortly before 11 p.m. on Nov. 1, according to a statement released by Mountain View police Nov. 7. Shortly after, officers received reports from employees that there were people inside the store who had previously stolen things.

One of those people, a 35-year-old man, was stopped by officers outside and was later identified as the person who had rented the U-Haul. Officers searched the truck and found stolen license plates, drug paraphernalia and duffel bags full of police department equipment including handcuffs.

Police confirmed that the equipment was stolen from another department in the Bay Area, but declined to name the agency.

► See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 10

■ POLICE LOG

ASSAULT

1000 block Grant Rd., 11/7

AUTO BURGLARY

1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 11/4
 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 11/4
 2600 block Terminal Blvd., 11/4
 2500 block W. El Camino Real, 11/4
 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 11/4
 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 11/5
 100 block E. El Camino Real, 11/5
 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 11/5
 1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 11/5
 2400 block Charleston Rd., 11/6
 400 block Bryant St, 11/8
 1900 block Old Middlefield Way, 11/10
 1100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 11/10
 1900 block Leghorn St., 11/10
 700 block Continental Cir., 11/11

BATTERY

1000 block El Monte Av., 11/4
 3500 block Truman Av., 11/5
 1800 block California St., 11/8
 200 block Castro St., 11/10
 300 block Easy St., 11/11

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

500 block Ellis St., 11/5
 1 block Showers Dr., 11/5

1300 block W. El Camino Real, 11/10
 100 block E. El Camino Real, 11/10
 100 block E. El Camino Real, 11/10

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Jackson St. & Moffett Blvd., 11/4
 500 block Farley St., 11/4
 W. El Camino Real & S. Rengstorff Av., 11/9
 1900 block W. El Camino Real, 11/9
 Castro St. & W. Dana St., 11/10

GRAND THEFT

500 block Showers Dr., 11/9
 1800 block W. El Camino Real, 11/10
 600 block W. Evelyn Av., 11/11

RECKLESS DRIVER

2600 block Fayette Dr., 11/10

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

1000 block Castro St., 11/7
 600 block Chiquita Av., 11/11

STOLEN VEHICLE

200 block Tyrella Av., 11/8

VANDALISM

1800 block San Ramon Av., 11/4
 2600 block California St., 11/6
 200 block Castro St., 11/10

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITY TO UPDATE RESIDENTIAL ZONING

Mountain View is looking to revamp its residential zoning standards on more than 900 acres of city land, aimed at encouraging a diverse range of ownership and rental housing rather than single-family homes or massive apartment complexes.

The overhaul, expected to cost \$1.2 million and run into spring 2021, is aimed at rewriting key parts of the so-called R3 residential zones — multifamily housing zoning districts concentrated in numerous Mountain View neighborhoods primarily located north of El Camino Real. The initial scope of the plan was approved at the Nov. 12 City Council meeting.

► See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 10

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MAGALI GAUTHIER

PLOTTING AUTUMN'S BOUNTY

Yuezhong Liu trims sweet potato plants in her plot at the Latham Community Garden on Nov. 5. The city's newest shared garden at the corner of Latham Street and Shoreline Boulevard opened to the public in mid-August and is already bearing the fruits of participants' labor. Mountain View had a long waiting list for plots in community gardens, so the 84 spaces available at Latham Garden filled up quickly.

Council approves natural gas ban, electric car requirements

By Kevin Forestieri

Despite some last-minute reservations, the Mountain View City Council on Tuesday unanimously gave final approval to a broad set of new building codes that ban the use of natural gas in all types of new home construction.

The building codes, updated

as part of a routine three-year process, require that all housing — from single-family homes and duplexes to condos and apartment complexes — must be all-electric. Starting January 2020, the city will prohibit natural gas hookups for heating and cooling systems, water heaters, clothes dryers, stoves and fireplaces.

Prior to the final approval

this week, the council had voted 7-0 on Oct. 22 to back the strict new requirements, which several members argued are essential to battle climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. City staff had initially recommended that single-family homes and duplexes could continue to use

► See **GAS BANS**, page 6

State report: schools skimp on homeless reporting

INCONSISTENT TRACKING, POOR GUIDANCE LEAVES HOMELESS STUDENTS IN THE LURCH

By Mark Noack

Homeless students could be falling through the cracks at California's schools, ending up shut out of aid and services meant to put them on equal footing with their peers, according to a new report by the State Auditor's Office.

The new audit published this month found that schools across the state are taking inadequate steps to identify and assist homeless students. As a result, those children could be losing out on a variety of educational support services that are supposed to be mandatory, such as tutoring, free lunches, transportation and counseling.

The state auditor's report examined six school districts across the state, one located in the Bay Area (Vallejo City Unified) while the others were spread throughout the Central Valley and Southern California. Representatives of nearly all the school districts acknowledged they could be doing a better job at tracking down homeless students, but they lacked trained staff who were versed in the federal requirements.

Across all the schools that were investigated, the standards and practices for student homelessness were all over the map. Some school districts used

questionnaires to ask students about their housing situation; others had no consistent strategy. Many school administrators pointed out that families are often reluctant to identify themselves as homeless.

While many school officials acknowledged they were falling short of their obligations, they faced no repercussions and got little guidance from state officials, according to the auditor's report. The state Department of Education is supposed to monitor how schools track homeless students, but fewer than 1% of school districts actually receive state oversight.

Students who lack stable housing face a series of disadvantages at school, and statistically they are twice as likely to be absent, suspended or drop out of school. If students lack a consistent diet or sleep schedule, they are often unable to focus on their education and they are at higher risk of health complications.

Homeless student reporting gained new attention earlier this year as several state legislators called for an investigation after seeing hundreds of school districts reporting numbers that were suspiciously low. School districts are supposed to use a broad definition of

► See **HOMELESS**, page 6

Mountain View doctor and community activist Mike Fischetti dies at 76

By Kevin Forestieri

Dr. Mike Fischetti, an oncologist, impassioned health care advocate and community activist, died Oct. 29 due to health complications. He was 76.

A 30-year Mountain View resident, Fischetti was a constant presence advocating for the rights of needy and underserved residents, openly speaking his mind on the plight of poverty and homelessness. He served on the board of directors for two local nonprofits, MayView Community Health Center and Hope's Corner, as

well as the Santa Clara County Health Advisory Committee until his death.

Fischetti had a penchant for quickly connecting with people on a personal level, said Leslie Carmichael, director of Hope's Corner. The nonprofit runs a Saturday meal program for hungry residents, many of them homeless, and Fischetti would go out of his way to approach guests and assist them through "tough spots" in their lives, she said. He would help them sign up for services and get to doctors appointments.

"It was people who were kind of falling through the cracks,

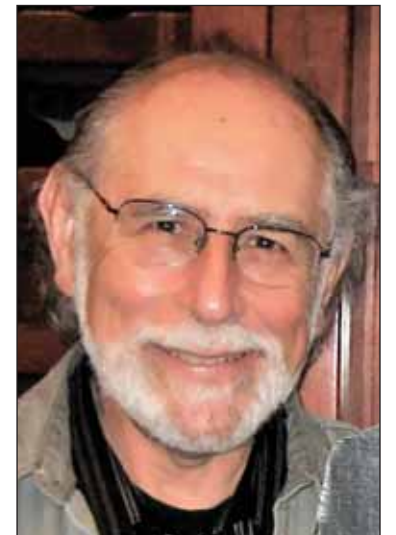
and he was able to befriend those people and help them when other people or agencies couldn't," Carmichael said.

She said Fischetti never lost sight of the systemic problems that caused people to end up desperate and in poverty, making him uniquely qualified to see how the right policies can help those in need.

"He was able to combine the personal connections and being involved on a personal level, helping our people in the community coming for showers and meals — that sort of grassroots community-building — while also working on the policy

side and helping us to find our place. Where we could do our best to serve the community," she said.

Born in the Bronx neighborhood of New York City in 1943, Fischetti grew up a second-generation southern Italian immigrant with his mother, who was widowed at an early age; many of the men on Fischetti's side of the family died young. Though his family members had a strong sense of social justice, Fischetti stuck out for his extraordinary empathy, said his wife, Dr. Marilyn Winkleby.



Dr. Mike Fischetti

► See **FISCHETTI**, page 11

GAS BANS

► Continued from page 5

gas for cooking appliances and fireplaces.

Councilman John McAlister said he was concerned that the council was potentially overstepping and “intruding on peoples’ lives” by banning gas for cooking appliances. What’s more, he said, he worried about the “unintended consequences” of what the council was on the cusp of adopting, and that some reports he had read showed all-electric homes may not lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

“There’s more information that’s coming out about the implications of what we’re doing, and we need to just be following those and review our policies as more data comes out,” he said.

Councilman Chris Clark suggested the possibility of delayed implementation for people who are right on the edge of submitting

plans to the city’s building department. Although considered by the council in October and approved this week, anyone seeking to submit plans that include gas hookups will have to do so by the end of next month.

A built-in delay would amount to a “material change” to the item, which would not be permissible during a second reading, said City Attorney Krishan Chopra. The idea was ultimately dropped.

Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga, a strong proponent of the gas ban, said she has heard the concerns of residents about the new building codes. She said she believes that the city should do more work educating the community on energy efficiency and sustainability efforts and how fact from fiction.

“There’s a lot of data, there’s a lot of outdated data,” Abe-Koga said. “Frankly I’m not up on the most up-to-date technology, but

I think what I’ve gathered is, to quell the concerns we just need to be more diligent about educating the community.”

Despite the comprehensive ban on nearly all uses of natural gas, exemptions will be available for commercial kitchens that prepare dishes that cannot be cooked using electric alternatives.

The approved building codes also introduce new requirements for parking lots that accommodate electric vehicles. For multi-unit housing and commercial development, 15% of the spaces must have a “Level 2” charging station capable of charging a car for up to 180 miles over the course of eight hours. The codes also require 100% of the spaces to be “EV Ready,” meaning new development will have to build the electrical infrastructure for charging at every parking space. ▣

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com

HOMELESS

► Continued from page 5

homelessness, which counts students who are couch surfing, doubling up in bedrooms, or living out of vehicles. Last year, about one in 25 California school districts claimed they had no homeless students at any point in the school year.

Locally, the Mountain View Whisman School District reports no homeless students attend Huff or Stevenson elementary schools. Palo Alto Unified lists no homeless students at half of its 16 elementary and middle school campuses. The Los Altos School District reports no homeless students at any of its seven elementary schools.

These low school numbers fly in the face of other data showing more people living on the streets than any time in recent memory. A county-by-county

street count conducted earlier this year showed large spikes in homelessness across the Bay Area over the last two years, including increases of 31% in Santa Clara, 30% in San Francisco, 45% in Alameda and 21% in San Mateo counties. Even Los Altos showed skyrocketing homeless numbers, jumping from two people in 2017 up to 76 this year.

It should come as no surprise that schools have done a poor job of tracking student homelessness, said San Francisco Assemblyman David Chiu. To anyone who examined the data, it was clear that many schools were ignoring this duty, he said.

“Student homelessness is not an issue that will simply go away if we pretend it isn’t happening,” Chiu said. “If students experiencing homelessness are not being identified, they are not getting access to the services they need to be successful.”

On the plus side, Chiu pointed out that there are some relatively easy fixes to solve this problem. The state auditor’s report urges lawmakers to make it mandatory to distribute annual questionnaires to student to learn about their housing situation. Schools were admonished to do a better job training their staff about homelessness, and similar information should be posted throughout schools and on their websites.

Meanwhile, the auditor’s report suggests the state Department of Education must provide stronger guidance and monitoring for schools. State officials should be able to use the available data to determine schools that are neglecting homeless students or following outdated policies.

Those recommendations will likely be taken up by state lawmakers in the upcoming legislative year, according to Chiu’s office. ▣

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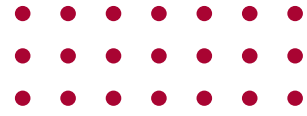
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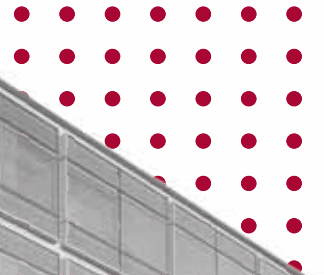


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RENT CONTROL

► Continued from page 1

reforming CSFRA, another ballot measure to reform rent control was already well underway. Last year, a coalition of landlords and their advocates collected thousands of signatures for a measure known as the “Mountain View Homeowner Renter and Taxpayer Protection Initiative.” In most circumstances, that measure would essentially neutralize rent control in Mountain View.

That voter-initiated measure is still in play, and city officials were obligated on Tuesday night to decide when both measures would be brought before voters next year. In the end, the City Council agreed to split up the two measures, bringing the city-sponsored measure to voters in the March 3 primary election while the landlord-backed measure will be postponed until the Nov. 3 presidential election.

By staggering the two measures, the city will have leverage to convince landlords to withdraw their initiative, said Councilman Chris

Clark. If the city’s measure passes in March, he expressed confidence that apartment owners’ opposition to rent control would be mollified.

“It’s possible that we’ll have some means to approach them and say, ‘Is this really worth it?’” he said. “The compromise we’re talking about is that this is better for property owners than the (CSFRA), so it might be enough that it’s not worth fighting the battle this year.”

In response, Ramirez questioned the logic of spreading out the ballot measures over two separate elections. It is highly unlikely that landlords would drop their measure, and instead this would mean the community would face two grueling fights over rent control, he warned.

“By any metric, their measure is better for property owners,” he said. “And it’s already qualified, so why wouldn’t they go for it?”

When asked by the *Voice*, Joshua Howard of the California Apartment Association said this was the first instance he had heard of city leaders seeking a

withdrawal of his group’s measure. At this point, there is no interest in withdrawing it, he said.

“Over 15% of Mountain View’s voters signed the petition to reform Measure V to ensure that rent control does not disproportionately benefit wealthy, high income renters at the expense of the low and middle income renters who need housing assistance the most,” Howard said in a statement. “We believe the voters should have a chance to weigh in on this measure.”

Another important amendment added to the city’s measure dealt with capital costs on apartments that could be passed through to tenants as rent increases. Under the current rules, landlords seeking a higher rent increase must file a petition and provide extensive documentation to show any capital improvements are necessary.

This process has been criticized for being too slow and onerous, and City Council members have sought a streamlined system to quickly give apartment owners compensation for important upgrades, such as seismic retrofits

or safety improvements. As part of this criteria, elected leaders also included environmental improvements, such as solar panels or electric car charging stations. On Tuesday night, a majority of the City Council agreed to make it so these expenses could also be passed through as rent increases even if there is no cost benefit for tenants.

The expedited process to pass through costs to tenants was blasted by public speakers, who said the criteria had become too broad. It was just one more example of how tenants had little reason to support the measure, said former Councilman Lenny Siegel, now representing the Housing Justice Coalition.

“People know what’s going on in this city; they know who dominates the City Council, who dominates the Rental Housing Committee,” he said. “They don’t trust any little loophole will stay a little loophole. It will become so big you can drive an apartment redevelopment through it.”

In another move that irked tenant advocates, the City Council

agreed the measure would allow apartment owners and property managers who don’t reside in Mountain View to serve on the city’s Rental Housing Committee, which administers the city’s rent control policies.

The City Council also decided in a last-minute amendment to explicitly exclude mobile homes from the city’s rental protections. For years, a coalition of mobile home residents has been urging city leaders to do something to restrict rampant rent increases by their mobile home park ownership. But it has remained unclear whether mobile homes should be covered under the city’s rent control law, despite multiple lawsuits. City leaders have promised they will take up the issue at a study session in January.

The final language for the council’s ballot measure to revise the local rent control laws was approved by the City Council in a 5-2 vote, with Hicks and Ramirez opposed. If the measure is passed by voters in March, the law will take effect in September, or even sooner with council approval. ▣

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PHOTOS BY MAGALI GAUTHIER

Clockwise from left: Carolyn Wu sings with Facebook's The Vocal Network during a rehearsal for Techapella on Oct. 20; Joseph Wang of LinkedIn's InTune sings a solo at the Fox Theatre in Redwood City; Alphabeat's Zack Marin performs "Somebody to Love" by Queen at Techapella on Oct. 20.

TECHAPPELLA

► Continued from page 1

than people see at the surface," said Divya Mouli, a member of Googapella since 2016 and a software engineer for Google Books since 2015. "Ultimately, a lot of tech is innovation and creativity."

Jameela Huq, a software engineer for LinkedIn's Germany team and the musical director of InTune, said that her coworkers encourage her to merge the skills she uses at work and those as a leader of the singing group.

A total of 18 groups performed over the four events this season — one on Oct. 20 and three on Nov. 10. Some of those groups include Pinterest's Pintunes, Dropbox's Syncopation, Twitter's The Songbirds, Airbnb's Airbnbeats, and 23andMe's Chromotones.

Lindsay Graham, the executive director of Techapella and a Googapella singer, helped found the nonprofit seven years ago when Googapella, then two years old, and the brand new The Vocal Network decided to host a holiday concert at the end of 2013.

Graham says they are expecting the network to increase to more than 30 groups next year. The

expected growth in participation and ticket sales is what pushed Techapella to seek nonprofit status, which it reached this past September.

The organization was already donating 100% of proceeds to charity partners Music for Minors and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, said Graham, and being a nonprofit allows it to do this more effectively.

"We want to donate to organizations that donate to the arts," she said. "We are bringing arts to tech, so want to bring that to all lives."

Sonja Wohlgemuth, the executive director of the Peninsula-based Music for Minors, estimates that after this season, Techapella will have donated about \$30,000 to \$40,000 to the nonprofit, which sponsors music lessons in elementary schools.

"Money is good, but music and music education is wonderful," said Wohlgemuth. "Groups that are part of Techapella don't just want to perform and have a good time, they actually want to serve communities."

Two years ago, Graham reached out to Wohlgemuth about deepening their

organizations' partnership. They sent members of Googapella out to a local school to teach songs to about 25 students. Googapella and the students then performed at Music for Minors' annual gala.

Moving forward, Wohlgemuth would like to see students performing with in-house a cappella groups on tech campuses. Taking kids to tech companies would let them see themselves doing that kind of work, she said.

"We just want music to be a part of their lives and to benefit them," she said. "To have a relationship with a community adult in the same endeavor brings validity to what they are doing. They recognize that what we are doing is going to have an impact on them."

Huq, who used to be a science teacher, said that she wants kids to be exposed to these companies so that they can see what opportunities they have in the area.

"Tech can seem like this sort of unattainable or secluded portion of society, and we do have a lot of influence," Mouli said. "So the ability to use our platform to raise passion around the arts is important. None of us would be in tech without art. Some of the

best folks in tech are creatives and innovators thinking outside the box."

Graham says that Techapella is just starting to figure out what the next few years will bring. In the short term, it will continue to donate to music education. Further down the road, Graham said she would like to explore the possibility of developing community spaces for the arts.

Until then, Techapella

encourages performance groups, such as choirs, improv teams and orchestras, across industries in the Bay Area to reach out to the organization to see how they can get involved.

"And if you're looking to bring a creative hobby to your company, we want to talk to you and help you do that," Graham said. ▣

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

City staffers are seeking to update the R3 zoning code to encourage a mix of medium-density housing and less common building types, including duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, courtyard housing and smaller condominiums and apartment structures. These types of housing projects are often easier to fit on smaller properties, and the hope is that these “less common housing types” may be more naturally affordable, according to a city staff report.

The scope of the city’s rewrite puts a particular focus on “stacked flats,” a type of construction that multiple council members have favored in recent years as a desirable building design worth prioritizing even if it means additional density.

On the whole, however, council members shied away from the idea of imposing a minimum density ordinance as part of the new zoning standards, arguing it could create less desirable projects in a market where developers are often already looking to maximize the number of units to make projects pencil out financially.

—Kevin Forestieri

AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE SESSIONS ON SATURDAY

To ensure more people are covered with health insurance, Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian and Valley Health Plan will host three information

sessions this Saturday, Nov. 16, about low-cost insurance options and how to apply for them.

The sessions will allow attendees to ask questions during the open enrollment period for Covered California insurance that opened Oct. 15 and closes on Jan. 30.

It’s the only time of the year that people can elect to receive health coverage through the Affordable Health Care Act. Outside of the open enrollment period, people can qualify for affordable health insurance if they experience a life event such as the birth of a child or the loss of a work-based plan. And because California recently made more people eligible for aid in paying premiums, those who did not qualify in the past may now be eligible.

The sessions will take place in Palo Alto from 10-11 a.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St.; in Mountain View from noon-1 p.m. at Community Services Agency’s offices, 204 Stierlin Road; and in Los Altos from 2-3 p.m. at the Los Altos Youth Center, 1 N. San Antonio Road.

—Jonathan Guillen

THEATREWORKS SILICON VALLEY NAMES NEXT ARTISTIC LEADER

Tim Bond has been appointed the next artistic director of TheatreWorks Silicon Valley, the arts organization announced Tuesday. Bond will take over for founder Robert Kelley, who will step down in June after 50 years

with the Tony Award-winning regional theater company.

“We are delighted Tim Bond has accepted this position,” TheatreWorks board of trustees Chairman Roy Johnson said in a press release. “With his stellar national career at major regional theatres as both an award-winning director and administrator, his tireless promotion of new works, and his extensive commitment to diversity and inclusion, Tim brings an extraordinary blend of experience and expertise. We are confident he will honor the profound legacy of Robert Kelley, ensuring TheatreWorks continues the work Kelley began 50 years ago of presenting art that serves our community and contributes to the national theatre narrative.”

Bond, who holds a bachelor’s degree in dramatic arts from Howard University and a master’s degree in directing from the University of Washington, is one of the world’s leading interpreters of the works of August Wilson and, over a three-decade career, has worked as artistic director of Seattle Group Theatre, associate artistic director of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and producing artistic director at Syracuse Stage. He was also a professor at the Syracuse University Department of Drama and University of Washington’s School of Drama, heading its actor training program.

“Our three-year search process involved our Board, staff, and members of the community. Out of the over 100 candidates who initially expressed interest in the position, I can’t think

of a better individual to carry forward the values of artistic excellence, community, diversity, and a respect for New Work and the role of music in theatre than Tim Bond,” TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Executive Director Phil Santora said in the press release. “He brings an international scope of experience with a commitment to our home community. He is the perfect artistic director for our 51st season and beyond.”

Bond has also served on

the national boards of trustees for Theatre Communications Group and the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young Audiences (ASSITEJ), according to the press statement.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to continue Robert Kelley’s great work, and to lead this spirited company into its next exciting phase,” Bond said.

More information is available at theatreworks.org.

—Karla Kane

CRIME BRIEFS

► Continued from page 4

Police say the vehicle also contained “paperwork” belonging to an unnamed state agency.

The man was arrested on suspicion of burglary and possession of stolen property.

During the U-Haul search, officers also spoke to a woman at the Kohl’s and found out that she knew the man under investigation. Police searched the 28-year-old Livermore resident and found she had a bag containing stolen items from Kohl’s.

The woman was staying with the man at Hotel Avante in Mountain View. She was cited for petty theft.

Police say that a third suspect, a man, was present at the scene and was walking with the man who was confronted and eventually arrested by officers. The department is still working to identify the man and apprehend him, according to the statement.

LAPTOP SWIPED AT TARGET

A man working at a coffee shop inside a Target in Mountain View told police that a thief grabbed his laptop and fled, making a getaway in a vehicle.

The victim said he was working in the Starbucks cafe area of the department store on Saturday, Nov. 9, when the theft occurred. He was looking down at his phone around 8:40 p.m. when a man came up behind him, grabbed his laptop and left the store, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

The victim told officers he trailed the thief outside and saw him get in a white sedan and drive away. The suspect is described as a man of unknown ethnicity, wearing a gray hoodie and gray pants.

—Kevin Forestieri

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FISCHETTI

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The couple met while students at UC Berkeley's School of Public Health. As a student at Columbia University in his 20s, Winkleby said Fischetti volunteered to help the blind and accompanied rape victims to an abortion clinic. After moving to the Bay Area, the couple volunteered together in the 1980s at Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen in San Jose. He practiced internal medicine and was an internist and oncologist at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara before taking the role of preventive medicine chief at the site and establishing its hospice program.

Learning about the people coming to Hope's Corner wasn't an easy task, which made Fischetti's inroads all the more admirable. Winkleby said many of the hundreds of people who show up each weekend would reluctantly watch volunteers for six months to a year before speaking a word. When he was able to connect, it was clear that many of the people visiting Hope's Corner are the working poor: Otherwise successful people struggling because of an unexpected medical emergency or bill that couldn't be paid. One frequent visitor had a doctoral degree and held six patents, while another held a master's degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and did programming.

Fischetti was humble but gregarious, she said, getting involved with the clientele almost to a fault.

"Mike could really just relate to people from a lot of walks of life," Winkleby said. "People really liked him because he's a funny, clever guy."

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian told the *Voice* that Fischetti was purposeful, persistent and an "absolutely lovely human being," serving as an important advocate for Hope's Corner and MayView over the years. During an event in May celebrating \$2 million in upgrades to the kitchen at Hope's Corner, Simitian teased Fischetti for relentlessly bugging him to attend the Saturday meal service and see it firsthand.

Around three years ago, when Simitian showed up at Hope's Corner, he said it was clear Fischetti was looking for county funding to upgrade the woefully inadequate kitchen. The effort led to a cross-agency partnership transforming the sanctuary space of Trinity United Methodist Church in Mountain View into a cold

weather shelter for women and families with children.

"Beneath that very low-key, seemingly mellow, laid-back style that he had was a guy with a very steely resolve in the best of ways," Simitian said. "He just knew if he could get me down there he could gauge me, and he was right. And all sorts of good things came out of that."

In news stories and letters to the editor in the *Voice*, Fischetti's progressive stance is evident, from standing against the war in Iraq and serving as a local delegate for the Green Party to backing efforts to raise the minimum wage, questioning El Camino Hospital's high executive salaries and raising concerns about the city's recently passed RV ban.

In March 2016, Fischetti made a broad appeal to Mountain View's City Council to find ways to reduce youth homelessness in the city, citing numbers that took some council members by surprise. At the time, he cited data showing 135 students were homeless across the Mountain View Whisman and Mountain View-Los Altos High School districts.

"The number of homeless students in the U.S. has doubled following the great recession. And this number has remained high, likely sustained by stagnant wages and skyrocketing rents. Greed can be considered one of the underlying factors," Fischetti wrote in a letter shortly after the meeting. "If this does not bother us deeply, then we are not paying attention, do not care, or accept the fantasy that if we leave it to the market it will all work out."

Social justice was top of mind for both of them, Winkleby said, simply because it was impossible for them to ignore injustice and the need for action on a local level.

"We got the point when schools were calling us on Friday afternoon about their homeless families showing up saying they don't have enough diapers to make to Monday when the schools would open again," she said. "We'd get to know these families who were living along Cuesta Park and they had no food and diapers — you cannot work with people and learn about their situation and not be involved."

Fischetti and Winkleby served together on the board for Hope's Corner since its inception — Fischetti called it a stroke of good luck to have a soup kitchen right around the corner from his house — and joined the MayView Community Health Center's board of directors in 2017 at a time when

the small network of community clinics was floundering. The board at the time had no medical expertise and was facing major financial troubles, but has since gone through a complete overhaul and leadership change.

Ken Graham, MayView's executive director and former El Camino Hospital CEO, said Fischetti was committed to finding improvements for treating patients at the MayView clinic, which meant knowing the patients and the staff alike on a personal level. His ideas and recommendations were rooted in a career-long interest in helping low-income people find support for a healthier life, Graham said.

"He was determined to help by listening to other people, attend meetings, provide solutions to problems, and put himself deeply into the work and service to others. He was positive even when he became ill himself," Graham said.

Fischetti and Winkleby often took on advocacy work together, joining boards and progressive groups, and often jointly signing letters. Winkleby said she intends to stay involved in the community.

Fischetti attended Fordham Preparatory School and Columbia University, where he majored in philosophy and played football. He earned his medical degree from Albany Medical College, where he was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, and did an internal medicine residency at Boston University Medical Center. He served as a physician in the U.S. Army in the 1970s in the Korean DMZ, then completed a fellowship in oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Besides Winkleby, his wife of 31 years, Fischetti is survived by his children, Diana Fischetti and Desirae Moison, both of Bend, Oregon, and Chris Yoshida of Santa Clara; and his two grandchildren, Logan and Olivia.

A memorial service for Fischetti will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Ave. in Los Altos. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Access to Achievement Education Foundation, a local organization that supports the educational needs of low-income students. Donations can be brought to the service or mailed to Colonial Mortuary, 96 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 95050. ■

Email Kevin Forestieri at kforestieri@mv-voice.com



2019 ANNUAL FLUSHING PROGRAM

The City of Mountain View will begin its annual water system flushing program beginning October 30, 2019. Flushing will be complete by approximately March 2020.

The City understands the importance of saving water, but flushing the system is a critical component of maintaining water quality. Water main flushing is a process used to clear water lines of sand and sediment that may have accumulated during the last year. Signs and barricades will be posted in neighborhoods the day before flushing is to take place to alert residents.

If you would like more information about the City's water main flushing program, or have questions or concerns while City personnel are in your neighborhood flushing water mains, please contact the City's Public Services Division at 650-903-6329, or visit our website at www.mountainview.gov.

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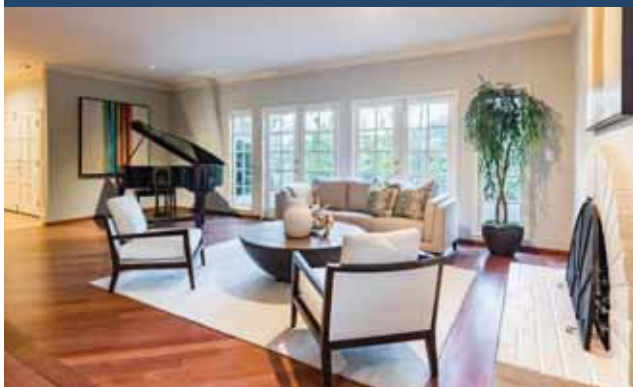
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VAPING

► Continued from page 1

down — e-cigarette usage has spiked in recent years.

“The bad news is that we are seeing one of the most rapid increases in youth use of nicotine-containing products in the country’s history,” said Nicole Cox, program manager for the county’s tobacco-free communities program.

Availability is at least part of the problem, according to the survey. Almost half of the teen respondents said they bought their own e-cigarettes, most commonly from vape shops, and more than two-thirds of those said it was “very easy” or “somewhat easy” to get their hands on an e-cigarette or vape pen.

The most pressing health issue leading to the county’s ban on Nov. 5 is the sudden spike in vaping-related illnesses and deaths. More than 2,000 people have

reportedly suffered lung injuries related to the use of e-cigarettes across the country, and 39 people have died, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

What precise compound or ingredient is making people sick is still under investigation, and the agency is recommending in the meantime that the public not use any vaping products that were obtained from illicit sources, and avoid using any vaping products that contain THC — the psychoactive component of marijuana and a common link between the illnesses.

“Smoking certainly kills, everyone knows that, but I do not recall ever hearing about smokers in their teens or 20s ending up in the emergency room or in the morgue,” said Palo Alto resident Erwin Morton at the meeting. “This is new, and this is worse.”

Palo Alto PTA Council President Jade Chao urged supervisors to pass the ban, adding that it

could be coupled with stringent tobacco control policies that keep smoking out of schools, libraries, sports centers and other public areas. Parent Diana Pang said immediate action is needed to stop the prevalence of e-cigarette usage among students, which she believes are directly marketed to kids with appealing flavors and easily concealed designs.

The 5-0 vote at the meeting prohibits the sale and distribution of all e-cigarette products in unincorporated Santa Clara County, as well as eliminates exemptions that allowed retailers to sell mint and menthol-flavored tobacco products. Supervisor Cindy Chavez conceded in a guest opinion last week that it was the strongest action the county could take, yet it seemed “depressingly inadequate given the growing evidence of the product’s harmfulness,” particularly for youth.

At the meeting, Chavez instead turned her focus to what cities can do to curb the epidemic, asking staff to come back with a work plan to assist cities in adopting restrictions on the sale of tobacco products and stronger smoking prohibitions. A county report at the meeting showed that some cities have already approved strong regulations on where people can smoke and where tobacco can be sold, particularly Los Gatos, Palo Alto and Saratoga.

The report put Mountain View at the bottom, with no smoking restrictions at parks, public trails, multi-unit housing or “service areas” — shorthand for places that include bus stops, ATMs and ticket lines. The city also has a dearth of restrictions limiting the sale of tobacco products near schools and in pharmacies, and does not restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products.

Chavez said the county could consider offering grant funds to help cities research and draft ordinances with stronger smoking and e-cigarette restrictions, which she described as an opportunity to fill in the gaps among agencies lagging in the fight against the

youth vaping epidemic. She also floated the idea of school districts adopting more stringent policies for curtailing e-cigarette use on campus, particularly detection devices in restrooms.

The county’s report shows that the last substantive restrictions on smoking in Mountain View came in 2012, when the city adopted restrictions on smoking near outdoor dining areas and entryways, including a 25-foot buffer from workplaces, restaurants and public buildings where smoking is already prohibited. The outdoor dining and buffer zones won approval by a 4-3 margin by the council at the time.

‘We are seeing one of the most rapid increases in youth use of nicotine-containing products in the country’s history.’

NICOLE COX

Councilwoman Margaret Abe-Koga, who cast a vote in favor of the prohibitions in 2012, told the *Voice* she would be interested in revisiting the topic. She said it’s concerning to hear how much teen use of e-cigarettes has gone up in recent years, and that more jurisdictions are responding with a mix of smoking restrictions and either partial or full bans on the sale of the devices.

Abe-Koga said her children have been forthcoming about their firsthand accounts on the prevalence of teen vaping, which indicate that it happens frequently and openly at school.

“I’m concerned when I hear stories about how kids bring their vape pens and charge them in class and no one says anything,” Abe-Koga said. “There definitely seems to be concerns among parents and even some teens at the high schools.”

It’s a major problem affecting middle school and high school students in the area, said Suzy

Heltzel, a member of the Los Altos Mountain View PTA Council. The trend seems to be skewing younger, to the point where older elementary school students are experimenting with vaping.

“This topic is more important than many realize,” she said.

In order to get the word out, Heltzel’s group scheduled a speaker series event with Dr. Bonnie Halpern-Felsher, a professor of pediatrics at Stanford University, at Los Altos High School on Thursday, Nov. 14. The group planned to delve into the epidemic, why adolescents are drawn to e-cigarettes and vaping products, and what can be done by parents and teachers to prevent exposure to addictive nicotine or THC products.

Abe-Koga said she wasn’t aware of how many tobacco retailers were in Mountain View, but she said residents have raised concerns in recent months about e-cigarette manufacturer Juul Labs and its presence in the city. Earlier this year, the company shifted some of its operations into Mountain View amid heightened scrutiny in San Francisco, where the company is headquartered. Media reports from earlier this year say that the company now leases about 30,000 square feet for research and development at 420 N. Bernardo Ave. in the East Whisman area of Mountain View.

Juul, which has been deeply criticized for designing and advertising products with an eye toward hooking youth, announced a series of voluntary changes last month aimed at bringing down teen vaping. Juul CEO K.C. Crosthwaite said in an Oct. 17 statement that the company would be suspending its broadcast, print and digital advertisements in the U.S., as well as suspending the sale of certain flavored products pending an FDA review — mango, creme, fruit and cucumber.

Crosthwaite’s statement also formally announced that the company was no longer supporting Proposition C in San Francisco, a failed ballot measure that sought to overturn an e-cigarette ban similar to the one passed in Santa Clara County earlier this month.

Though the studies into what causes lung injuries in e-cigarette users are still ongoing, the most recent discovery by CDC researchers on Nov. 8 indicates that vitamin E acetate is at least partly to blame. The oil is an additive in some THC products, and has been directly linked with lung injuries in 29 out of 29 fluid samples submitted across 10 states. Health officials told the Washington Post last week that the oil is normally innocuous, but could interfere with lung function when heated and inhaled. ▣

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Arts & Events

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

Palo Alto Players tells 'A Christmas Story'

MUSICAL INSPIRED BY THE NEO-CLASSIC COMEDY IS NOSTALGIC FUN

By Karla Kane

The leg lamp; the tongue frozen to a flagpole; the fuzzy pink bunny suit; “fra-gee-lay.” All of the most beloved gags from the holiday film favorite “A Christmas Story” are preserved in its recent musical adaptation (book by Joseph Robinette; music and lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul), currently a jolly production by Palo Alto Players.

A Christmas show already? Yes, this production opened in early November. Look, I’m a Scorpio. I want to revel in autumn, not usher winter in early. Around the Lucie Stern Theatre this weekend, homes were still bearing Halloween decorations. I loathe the commercialized creeping in of “the holidays” before December, much less Thanksgiving. All that autumnal grinchiness is to say, despite it being too early, I still left the show with a smile on my face and a cozy holiday feeling in my heart.

“A Christmas Story: The Musical!” follows the plot and structure of the film fairly faithfully, framed by a narrator (Shawn Bender) reminiscing about one Christmas back in 1940, when he was “wimpy” 9-year-old Ralphie Parker (Joshua Parecki). Ralphie lives with his little brother Randy (Antonio Elias), his frustrated but hopeful father (Michael Rhone) and his patient, practical mother (Gwyneth Price Panos) in snowy Hohman, Indiana. This Christmas, Ralphie is desperately wishing for a Red Ryder BB gun (times were simpler then), only to be told repeatedly by the adults around him that he’ll shoot his eye out. Ralphie embarks on a variety of schemes to make sure everyone is aware of his wish, including trying to impress his weary teacher, Miss Shields (Juliet Green), begging a disgruntled department-store Santa Claus (Joey McDaniel) and fantasizing about what a hero he’d be if only he had that coveted air rifle.

Meanwhile, his Old Man, worn out from his constant battles with the hounds next door and his frequently breaking-down furnace and Oldsmobile, gets the thrill of this life when he receives a “major award” from a puzzle contest: a plastic lamp shaped like a woman’s leg in a high heel and fishnet stocking. His long-suffering wife is less than thrilled when he puts it in place of honor



COURTESY OF JOYCE GOLDSCHMID

Ralphie (Joshua Parecki) opens an unwelcome gift in “A Christmas Story, The Musical” by Palo Alto Players.

in the living-room window.

These and other comedic anecdotes make up a “A Christmas Story,” which serves as a slightly twisted Normal Rockwell painting come to life; a nostalgia-filled ode to Midwestern, middle-American childhood back before the baby boom.

Director Janie Scott guides the kid-friendly production with high energy and high spirits. Scenic design by Patrick Klein is nicely evocative of small-town 1940s America, as are the beautiful, colorful costumes by Naomi Arnst — I coveted all of the winter wear. A few missed microphone cues

did distract at a recent matinee, but nothing major.

Pasek and Paul — a now-superstar team responsible for stage and screen musical hits including “Dear Evan Hansen,” “La La Land” and “The Greatest Showman” — have provided an enjoyable, period-appropriate score full of jazz-tinged and old-fashioned showtunes. Palo Alto Players’ orchestra, led by Amanda Ku, sounds full and offers musical sound effects to set off the many humorous moments.

Bender is pitch perfect as the droll adult Ralphie and Parecki is great as his younger self (he’s one of a number of talented local kids in the 27-person cast). Rhone is a standout in the role of The Old Man, gleefully hamming, crooning and dancing in numbers such as “The Genius of Cleveland Street” and “A Major Award.” It’s hard to imagine Ralphie and Randy ever being afraid of such a loveably buffoonish father. Unfortunately, Panos seemed to be on the verge of losing her pretty voice at the end of opening weekend, but she valiantly fought through

the hoarseness to hit her notes. Her Mother is the loving heart of the production. Green gets her well-earned moment in the spotlight with the vampy “You’ll Shoot Your Eye Out,” accompanied by some jaunty tap dancing. Superfluous? Some may say so but to me, there’s never such a thing as too much tap.

If you’re eager to usher in the holiday season (or even, like me, reluctant), Palo Alto Players’ “A Christmas Story: The Musical!” is a wholesome, silly treat for all ages. Bundle up the kids (not too tightly, mom) and head on down to Lucie Stern. ■

Email Karla Kane at kkane@paweekly.com

■ INFORMATION

What: “A Christmas Story: The Musical!”

Where: Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

When: Through Nov. 24.

Cost: \$34-\$49.

Info: paplayers.org.



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995 Fictitious Name Statement

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Natural gas ban is important step for climate protection

By IdaRose Sylvester

Guest Opinion

I'd like to thank our City Council for adopting an all-electric building code for new construction. I'm proud of our city's leadership, not just for their dedication to climate protection, but for protecting the health, safety, and economic well-being of our residents. Like the leaders of Palo Alto, Morgan Hill, and San Jose, they realize that fossil fuels are an anachronism of another time, and are taking measures to protect our cities by embracing the future.

Let me emphasize that the code applies only to brand-new buildings that receive their building permit after the new code goes into effect. It does not apply when an existing building is being remodeled, or to new buildings that have already received a building permit.

Climate change is undeniable here in the Bay Area, with a record number of 100 degree days and wildfire smoke filling our skies every fall. This is not the world we want to be living in, nor should it be. Because 97% of Mountain View residents are served by Silicon Valley Clean Energy, which provides 100% carbon-free

electricity, all-electric buildings in Mountain View will be inherently carbon-free, a big win for the climate.

Natural gas is not the answer to lowering our carbon footprint. In California, most natural gas comes from fracking, which has widespread negative impacts on ecosystems. Once considered a better option than oil and coal, natural gas, aka methane, is now understood to be an environmental disaster because of leakage. Leaked natural gas harms the climate more than the carbon dioxide created by burning it. A recent NASA survey shows that oil and gas facilities cause 26% of the methane emissions in our state.

Environmental protection is not the only reason why it's time to start moving away from fossil fuels. For example:

■ The cost of natural gas is skyrocketing, with PG&E asking for a 24% rate increase by 2021.

■ Natural gas in the home is a leading cause of fires, burns, carbon monoxide poisoning, and most post-earthquake fires. Natural gas pipeline explosions, like the one in San Bruno a few

years ago, cause \$300 million a year in property damage in the U.S.

■ Indoor combustion is hazardous. Gas cooktops release dangerous levels of fine particulate matter, smog precursors, and formaldehyde. These are known to exacerbate, and even cause, asthma and other lung ailments, according to the California Air Resources Board.

■ All-electric homes are at least \$3,300 cheaper to construct. New electric appliances are remarkably efficient, and generally cheaper to operate. For example, my new heat pump water heater costs me 25% of what my relatively new gas water heater costs to operate. A heat pump furnace is typically over 400% more efficient than a new gas furnace, and operating costs are the same if not less for the heat pump — definitely less if you have solar.

People have argued we need gas as a backup, despite the damage it does to the climate, particularly in light of PG&E's recent shutoffs. However, new gas appliances require electricity to work. And gas goes out in earthquakes and other emergencies, either by shutoff or explosion. When PG&E shut off electricity and gas in Sonoma

County due to the fires, electric service was restored several days before gas service. Why? Because each home's gas service had to be restored by a technician making a house call, while electricity could be restored by PG&E flipping a switch for a large area after checking the lines.

With the adoption of the new building code, Mountain View's City Council is making our homes cleaner, safer, and more efficient, while protecting our climate today and for generations to come.

IdaRose Sylvester is a Carbon Free Mountain View board member and resident of Mountain View.

What's on your mind?

We're seeking a guest opinion from someone opposed to the city's natural gas ban. Send yours to letters@mv-voice.com by Monday, Nov. 18, for consideration for our Nov. 22 issue.

■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

TERRA BELLA VISION OR NIGHTMARE?

Next Monday, Nov. 18, the Mountain View City Council will be asked to approve the Terra Bella Vision Plan, the result of a project which began a year and a half ago with the first public workshop.

The plan will serve as a guide for future development in the Terra Bella area, a 110-acre light industrial park which straddles N. Shoreline Boulevard just south of Highway 101. Unlike other areas targeted for redevelopment, such as North Bayshore or East Whisman, the Terra Bella area butts directly up against single-family homes along its southern and northwestern borders without even a street as a buffer. In recognition of this fact and after much public input, the vision plan frequently refers to the need to do context sensitive transitions and to provide adequate buffers so as to preserve the character of

the adjacent neighborhoods.

However, in the actual specification of the transitions on p. 29, a very different picture is painted. Based on the numbers there, a 35-foot-tall building such as a three-story rowhouse would be permitted as close as 40 feet from an existing home's property line (with the third story stepped back just 10 feet), and a seven-story apartment building could start just 90 feet from the property line. To put this in perspective, a typical residential lot is about 100 feet deep. This would be like putting a seven-story building on your back neighbor's driveway. The loss of privacy and visual impact would be overwhelming, and the quality of life for at least 40 households would be significantly degraded.

We all know there is a need for more housing, but let's not compromise the quality of life of established neighborhoods to get there. A couple of simple modifications to the setback distances

(e.g. 70 feet for three-story buildings and 220 feet for buildings five stories or more) would go a long way toward mitigating the impacts of high-density development on surrounding neighborhoods. I urge the council to consider making the necessary modifications to the vision plan.

*Albert Jeans
San Lucas Avenue*

MIKE FISCHETTI

My friend Mike Fischetti passed away this last week. I am sad and yet so grateful for Mike. You'll undoubtedly hear of the many ways Mike has served our community through Hope's Corner, MayView Clinic, and by his tireless advocacy for students and those struggling to make it here in Silicon Valley.

Mike has been a sort of mentor for me. Mike taught me to love individuals and to advocate for those in need or crisis. I remember years ago being with Mike

when someone returned to him a small amount of money. It has always stuck in mind that when Mike accepted the payment, he told us that he would be saving that money to pass on to someone else in need. It's a small memory, but one that has guided my actions as money and gift cards have passed through my hands.

Mike taught me to honor and include those I don't agree with. Mike taught me the value of making friends with those who think differently than I do. When I find myself in conflict, I often recall sitting with Mike in his backyard or on his living room couch working together to figure out the best way to advocate for those we care about. Invariably, I learned from him to lead and serve with love.

Mike, I'm so grateful that you have been my friend.

*Dave Arnone
West Middlefield Road*

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW



MAKING A *Splash*

MOUNTAIN VIEW'S STYLISH LE PLONC RAISES A GLASS TO UNIQUE, AFFORDABLE WINES

Story by Edward Gerard Fike
Photos by Sammy Dallal

In an age when business casual is the new formal, wine bars have been given a mandate: pair sophistication and approachability as nimbly as champagne and caviar. Le Plonc, the 18-month-old wine bar on Castro Street in Mountain View, has heeded this call, creating a stylish space and accessible menu that attracts both casual sippers and discerning oenophiles.

The name is the first hint that Le Plonc aims for inclusiveness. According to the bar's Instagram, the term "plonc" originated during World War I, when Australian soldiers stationed in France

had difficulty pronouncing "vin blanc" (white wine). The term eventually morphed into an Aussie slang term for cheap wine. Le Plonc's owners, who set affordability as a founding principle, adopted the word as the official business moniker and put a cheeky French spin on it.

Le Plonc's design integrates contemporary furnishings — think clear acrylic bar stools and black z-shaped chairs — with lived-in elements like the comfy couches that dot the rectangular room. Large-scale abstract paintings by actor/artist Gregory Scott Bedford add vivid strokes of color to the walls, while a front-facing outdoor

► See **LE PLONC**, page 18



Above: Le Plonc wine bar's arugula salad with strawberries, red onion, feta cheese and walnuts. **Top:** The cheese board at Le Plonc on Castro Street recently included chèvre, comté and brillat savarin, accompanied by artisan crackers, grapes, fig jam and a wedge of honeycomb.



Roasted fingerling potatoes sprinkled with sea salt and chives at Le Plonc in Mountain View, served with a glass of sauvignon blanc from New Zealand.

LE PLONC

► Continued from page 17

seating area fills up this time of year, despite the fall chill.

Just because Le Plonc's wines are reasonably priced — most glasses run between \$10 and \$12 and several bottles in the \$40 range are featured — does not mean that the wine list plays it safe. The “wines by the glass” menu bypasses popular labels in favor of intriguing, lesser known vintages. During my initial visit, I searched in vain for a bold — and predictable — cabernet sauvignon. I was instead offered a choice between a dense, tannic 2015 petite syrah from Vinum Cellars (\$12) or a full-bodied 2018 Merlot blend from Veneto's Gran Passione Rosso (\$12). I savored the spicy blend and was glad to have ventured outside of my California comfort zone.

My companions filled their glasses with a bright, fruity 2018 Aereña rosé (\$14), an herbaceous 2017 Tohu sauvignon blanc from New Zealand (\$10) and a crisp, grainy Rebel pilsner from the Czech Republic (\$8), one of five beers on the menu. A handful of cocktails made from low-alcohol gin or vermouth — approved for beer and wine licensees — are also offered. The gin and jasmine spritz (\$12) was light, bubbly and refreshing.

Though the bar veers from the everyday for its wine offerings, there's a more populist approach to food. Recognizing that few culinary experiences are as satisfying as the luscious pairing of fermented grape juice with salty, fatty meats and cheeses, Le Plonc highlights charcuterie and cheese boards.

My dining companions and I indulged in the charcuterie daily selection (\$24) which contained copious amounts of prosciutto, peppery saucisson sec and soppressata, an Italian dry sausage. The meats were accompanied by chewy levain bread, marcona almonds and a dollop of Dijon mustard. The sumptuous cheese daily selection (\$24) showcased rich servings of velvety chèvre, nutty comté and brillat savarin, a French triple cream cheese. Artisan crackers, grapes, fig jam and a piece of honeycomb rounded out the board. (Gluten-free crackers are available upon request, a nice touch.)

The menu lists only a handful of individual plates, including the buttery, tender petit filet mignon (\$25) and the roasted duck à l'orange (\$23), a faithful rendering of the classic recipe featuring a tart, rich citrus glaze tweaked with an appropriate modicum of sweetness. While the items are flavorful and well-executed, the portions are small. I suggest

augmenting these orders with a side or salad.

Don't be fooled by the seeming simplicity of the roasted fingerling potatoes with sea salt and chives (\$7). They were my favorite item on the menu. Arriving at the table piping hot and fresh from the oven, an extra virgin olive oil infusion softened the lightly crisped skins and gave the potatoes a splendid silkiness.

The arugula salad (\$14) tantalized with a combination of fresh greens, strawberries, red onion, feta and walnuts, while the avocado tartine (\$15) made a more middling impression. The bright green slivers of avocado were alluringly presented on slices of crusty fresh bread, but the burrata cheese topping was lumpy and lacked the desired creamy, lustrous texture.

Dessert options include an affogato of espresso and Frangelico liquor poured over gelato (\$9), bread pudding (\$11) and a flourless chocolate torte (\$13). Our server touted the yuzu cheesecake topped with strawberry puree (\$11).

It's imperative for a wine bar to have knowledgeable staff on hand to educate patrons and make thoughtful recommendations. Le Plonc's servers deftly met this challenge, asking astute questions to help pinpoint the ideal selection for each guest. Interactions were



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genuine and unhurried, even as the crowd approached capacity.

One detail played an outsized — and annoying — role during both of my dinner visits. Dishes and glassware for a party of two could not fit on the miniature cocktail tables lining the interior walls. Consequently, servers were forced to engage the table in an awkward choreography, requiring us to rearrange plates and consolidate orders on the tiny rounds. If purchasing larger tables did not fit the bar's budget or aesthetic, designating these areas as "beverage only" would be an easy fix.

Le Plonc's success at the Mountain View location has led to a curious growth trajectory. A smaller Sunnyvale site opened this past spring, followed soon after by a luxe, full-service operation nearly 8,000 miles away in Melbourne, Australia.

From Silicon Valley to Down Under in just over a year. That calls for a toast with a glass of really great plonk. ▣



Outdoor tables and cozy indoor seating are offered at Le Plonc in downtown Mountain View, a wine bar that offers affordable and unexpected wines by the glass.

■ DINING NOTES

Le Plonc

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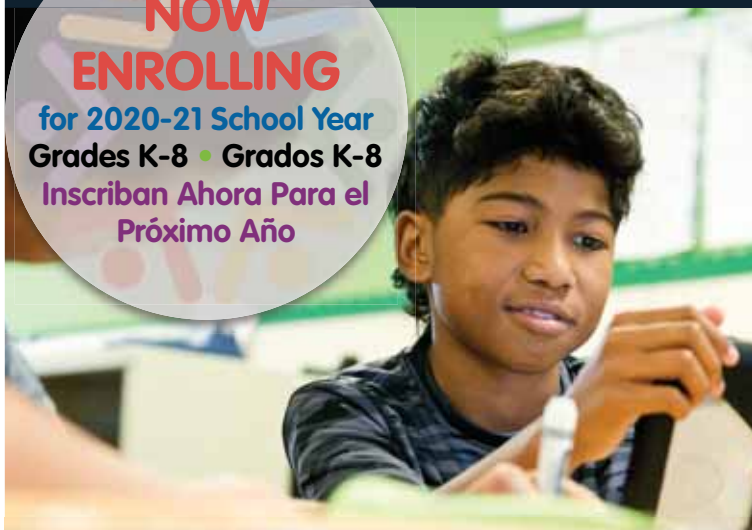
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MOVIE OPENINGS



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

Ian McKellen and Helen Mirren star in "The Good Liar."

The con is on

LACKLUSTER THRILLER 'THE GOOD LIAR' PAIRS MIRREN, MCKELLEN

★★★1/2 (Century 16, Icon)

At one point in the new thriller "The Good Liar," a character sees a pond and remarks, with a slight, smug smile, "Be careful. It's deeper than it looks." The line is meant as a commentary on character and also a literary self-congratulation. And that would be all well and good if the film had a well-crafted plot with fascinating characters and surprising twists. Instead, it has Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen, and for those of us who'd watch them read the phone book, "The Good Liar" comes uncomfortably close.

I'm being hard on "The Good Liar" because its pedigree promises more than the film can deliver. Along with its storied stars, Oscar-winner Bill Condon (director

of "Kinsey," "Dreamgirls" and "Gods and Monsters," which starred McKellen) directs a script by playwright and screenwriter Jeffrey Hatcher ("Stage Beauty" and the McKellen-Condon collaboration "Mr. Holmes"). Unfortunately, the Nicholas Searle novel Hatcher adapts features a shopworn story with easily anticipated plot twists, resulting in a soggy and largely pointless exercise that gets by on its consummate cast and some witty dialogue.

The first signal that we're in for shenanigans comes from the setting: 2009 London. Condon gets off to an amusing start as Roy Courtney (McKellen) and Betty McLeish (Mirren) white-lie to each other on a dating website, followed by an ostensibly charming first date that cashes in on the

film's star power. We're immediately privy to Roy's true nature as a con artist. Working with his partner Vincent (Jim Carter of "Downton Abbey"), Roy takes easy-mark investors to the cleaners with shady schemes. Working over widows like Betty amounts to a side hustle for Roy, although a potentially lucrative one.

Betty presents as a near-perfect patsy. She's wealthy, with a medical condition guaranteed to shorten her life and a weakness for Roy's charms and false humility. There's just one thing: her wary son Steven (Russell Tovey of "Looking"), who refuses to trust Roy and deplores how quickly his mother lets the stranger into her life. By faking a bum knee, Roy swiftly scores an invite to live in Betty's spare room, and before long, he's insinuated himself as her life partner, joining bank accounts in an offshore investment scheme abetted by Vincent and accompanying her on a holiday to Berlin.

"The Good Liar" proves watchable mostly for McKellen, who relishes the role with the most opportunities to play. Mirren's reliably good, but she must bide her time along with the plot, until the tickety-boom detonation of the film's implausible rug-puller. In the end, the story's self-described "depth" amounts to pulp paperback hooey that pays mere lip service to actual depths of psychology and emotion, but Condon's film at least includes exactly what it says on the tin: lots of McKellen and Mirren, two legends sharing the screen together for the first time.

Rated R for some strong violence, and for language and brief nudity. One hour, 49 minutes.

— Peter Canavese



MOVIE REVIEWS

'DOCTOR SLEEP'★★★★

Memories, like ghosts, have a way of haunting people with their psychic

energy. It's a notion that powers Stephen King's 2013 novel "Doctor Sleep," a story of reckoning with the long-ago trauma depicted in his 1977 novel "The Shining." Cinematic memories can be almost as indelible as real experiences, which brings us to the film "Doctor Sleep," adapted, directed and edited by Mike Flanagan

as not only a film of the sequel novel but a sequel to Stanley Kubrick's 1980 film of "The Shining." Flanagan tries and largely succeeds at reconciling the work of King and Kubrick for a continuation that makes for a moody and unsettling horror fantasy. Flanagan fully embraces the visual and aural imagery of his Kubrick's horror masterpiece, at times recreating moments from that film. *Rated R for disturbing and violent content, some bloody images, language, nudity and drug use. Two hours, 33 minutes.* — P.C.

'PARASITE'★★★★1/2

Few filmmakers working today display the combination of storytelling command, visual and editorial craft and perverse edge that distinguishes Bong Joon-ho. The writer-director of "The Host" returns with "Parasite," an income-inequality comedy that's also a tinderbox ever threatening to ignite. The screenplay by Bong and co-writer Han Jin-won begins by introducing the Kims, a family living hand to mouth in a South Korean slum. Although theirs is a constantly trying existence, the Kims have each other. The family catches a break when a friend of Ki-woo Kim, a university student about to study abroad, more or less hands off his job of tutoring rich girl Park Da-hye. After smoothly maneuvering himself into the family, Ki-woo lands the job and entry into the Parks' lavish and literally above-it-all modern manse. The ostensible "Parasite" of the title, the Kim family begins

pondering how to make the most of their new access to the good life. *Rated R for language, some violence and sexual content. Two hours, 12 minutes.* — P.C.

'THE CURRENT WAR: DIRECTOR'S CUT'★★★★1/2

What does it take to get a big idea from concept to execution? In a real sense, it takes a village, from laboratory laborers to inglorious investors, but nothing happens without first the spark of inspiration. Even as Alfonso Gomez-Rejon's "The Current War: Director's Cut" turns the complicated story of American electricity into a digestible drama, its commentary reminds us of the slipperiness of history in assigning credit for monumental innovation. Inspired by True Events, "The Current War" spans from roughly 1880 — and the launch of the light bulb — to 1893, with the Chicago World's Fair as the testing ground and showcase for an electrical grid able to power a city. In between, entrepreneurial inventor Thomas Edison (Benedict Cumberbatch) and shrewd industrialist George Westinghouse (Michael Shannon) battle — or, perhaps more accurately, race — to establish the electrical-current standard: Edison backing the inefficient direct current and Westinghouse the smarter, cheaper alternating current endorsed by then-anonymous inventor Nikola Tesla (Nicholas Hoult). Though less than the sum of its parts, "The Current War" proves anecdotally fascinating, enough to hold dramatic interest.

Rated PG-13 for some disturbing/violent images, and thematic elements. One hour, 47 minutes. — P.C.

NOW SHOWING

- Abominable (PG)** Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
- The Addams Family (2019) (PG)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
- Bala (Not Rated)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun.
- Better Days (Not Rated)** ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Charlie's Angels (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- The Current War: Director's Cut (PG-13)** ★★1/2 Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
- Doctor Sleep (R) ★★★** Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Downton Abbey (PG) ★★** Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
- Ford V Ferrari (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Frankie (PG-13)** Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.
- The Good Liar (R)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Harriet (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
- JoJo Rabbit (PG-13)** Century 20: Fri. - Sun. Palo Alto Square: Fri. - Sun.
- Joker (R) ★★1/2** Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Last Christmas (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Maleficent: Mistress of Evil (PG) ★1/2** Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
- Midway (PG-13)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Motherless Brooklyn (R)** Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
- Never Say Die (1939) (Not Rated)** Stanford Theatre: Friday
- Pain and Glory (R)** Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun.
- Parasite (R) ★★★1/2** Aquarius Theatre: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Playing with Fire (PG)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.
- The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle (1939) (Not Rated)** Stanford Theatre: Friday
- Terminator: Dark Fate (R)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun. ShowPlace Icon: Fri. - Sun.
- Zombieland: Double Tap (R)** Century 16: Fri. - Sun. Century 20: Fri. - Sun.

- ★ 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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MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

HIGHLIGHT

'A CHRISTMAS STORY'

Based on the motion picture, Janie Scott's "A Christmas Story" musical chronicles the young and bespectacled Ralphie Parker as he schemes his way toward the holiday gift of his dreams. Nov. 14-24; times vary. \$27-\$57; discounts available. Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. paplayers.org

THEATER

3D Cabaret Three veteran South Bay performers, David Mister, David Murphy and Dave Leon, return to the Pear Flambé Cabaret with "3D Cabaret Part 2." Nov. 22-23, 8 p.m. \$20. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. thepear.org

'Peter Pan' Peninsula Youth Theatre performs the classic fairy tale about the boy who won't grow up, featuring an updated script but with all the original songs. Nov. 15-17; times vary. \$28. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. tickets.mvcpa.com

'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' Palo Alto Children's Theatre presents "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" in the 2019-2020 Playhouse season. With very simple sets and costumes, the storyteller-style theater caters to younger audience members, from 2 to 6 years old. Nov. 16-17; times vary. \$12-\$14. Palo Alto Children's Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. cityofpaloalto.org

'Hell on Earth' Produced by The Young Actors' Theatre Camp, "Hell on Earth" is a coming-of-age tale about seven best friends trying to survive the last four days of middle school. Nov. 15-17; times vary. \$28-\$38. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. tickets.mvcpa.com

'Miracle on 34th Street' The heartwarming holiday classic, "Miracle on 34th Street," is retold in the tradition of a live 1940s era radio broadcast. Nov. 21-Dec. 22; times vary. \$20-\$38; discount for students. Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. losaltosstage.org

'The Nutcracker' This sensory-friendly performance of just Act 2 of "The Nutcracker" offers guests and families living with autism or other special needs an opportunity to enjoy the show in an inclusive environment. Nov. 24, 1-2 p.m. \$15. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. tickets.mvcpa.com

'Shrek: The Musical Jr.' Crittenden Middle School takes on the Oscar-winning twisted fairy tale about an irreverent ogre and a wise-cracking donkey in "Shrek the Musical Jr." Nov. 15-17; times vary. \$10 adults; \$8 students and children under 12. Crittenden Middle School, 1701 Rock St., Mountain View. sites.google.com

CONCERTS

The Polyphony Quartet The Polyphony Quartet brings together violinists Yamen Saadi and Edi Kotlyar, violist Yoav Yatzkin and cellist Mahdi Saadi for a performance of western classical music, as well as Jewish and Middle Eastern folk tunes. Nov. 18, 7:30-9 p.m. \$10-\$15; student discounts available. Albert and Janet Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. paloaltojcc.org

Alicia Olatuja Singer Alicia Olatuja performs songs from her sophomore album, "Intuition: Songs from the Minds of Women." Nov. 16; times vary. \$10-\$40; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

Organ Recital Music director Rodney Gehrke leads weekly organ recitals on the two Flentrop organs. Each recital includes at least one work by J.S. Bach. Tuesdays, Nov. 19-May 26, 2020, 12:15-12:45 p.m. Free. All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. asaints.org

Harlem 100 Hosted by Michael Mwenso, Harlem 100 is a multimedia variety show created in collaboration with Harlem's National Jazz Museum that recreates the Harlem Renaissance's spirit, sights, and sounds. Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. \$15-\$75; discount for Stanford students. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

New Esterhazy Quartet Featuring Paul Max Tipton (baritone) and Kristin Zoernig (string bass), the New Esterhazy Quartet performs Schubert: Die Schöne Müllerin. Nov. 24, 4-6:30 p.m. \$10-\$30; discounts available. All Saints Episcopal, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. mychurchevents.com

MUSIC

Boom Tic Boom New York City-based drummer/composer Allison Miller performs with her band, Boom Tic Boom, their fifth critically-acclaimed album, "Glitter Wolf." Nov. 15, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. \$10-\$35; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. facebook.com

Collage Vocal Ensemble For their ninth season, Collage Vocal Ensemble takes inspiration from music by Kirke Mechem, Charles Wood, Ross Lee Finney and Harry Belafonte, among others. Nov. 24, 4-6 p.m. Free; donations suggested. St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. stbedesmenlopark.org

Debut Orchestra Debut Orchestra's season opener features a collection of string orchestra repertoire, including one of 12 brilliant string symphonies composed by

Mendelssohn when he was between 12 and 14 years old. Guest conductor Scott Krijnen leads the young musicians of Debut Orchestra. Nov. 17, 3 p.m. Free. First Lutheran Church, 600 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. pacomusic.org

Musica Nuda Italian duo Musica Nuda fuses jazz, rock, punk and classical music, defying boundaries of genre. Their 11th album, "Leggera," is out now. Nov. 17, 7 p.m. \$40; \$10 for students. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. live.stanford.edu

Open Mic at 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. Nov. 18, 7 p.m. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. redrockcoffee.org

Peninsula Symphony and Stanford Symphonic Chorus Peninsula Symphony partners with the Stanford Symphonic Chorus for a celebration of Jewish music and composers. Featuring Peninsula Symphony's own concertmaster Debra Fong and her husband Christopher Costanza, cellist with the St. Lawrence String Quartet. Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m., \$10-\$20; discounts available. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. peninsulasymphony.org

Röntgen Piano Trio Violinist Antoine van Dongen, pianist Mark Anderson and cellist Eric Gaenslen present works by Mozart, Haydn, Schumann, and Julius Röntgen. Nov. 23, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. arts4all.org

FESTIVALS & FAIRS

Catch the Spirit "Catch the Spirit" celebrates the holiday season with live music featuring Carole Cameron and the Schola Cantorum Silicon Valley choir, home-baked treats and gift boutiques for shoppers. Nov. 20, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org

Miniature Pie Sculpting Sculpt miniature pies out of air-dry clay to decorate the fridge at home. All supplies are provided. Nov. 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. scl.evanced.info

TALKS & LECTURES

Clifford Thompson Cliff Thompson, a 2013 Whiting Award-winning author, talks with author Julie Lythcott-Haims about his new memoir, "What It Is: Race, Family, and One Thinking Black Man's Blues." Nov. 18, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$7 general; \$25 with book. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. eventbrite.com

Susannah Cahalan Susannah Cahalan is joined by Dr. Shaili Jain, a psychiatrist, researcher, author and PTSD specialist to talk about her new book, "The Great Pretender." Nov. 20, 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$15 students; \$23 general; \$45 includes book. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. eventbrite.com

Labor and Capital Market Policy Panelists discuss how ideas about the roles of government and private enterprise have changed, how good ideas stressing economic freedom can be advanced into action and the influence of globalization on the ability of governments to apply good ideas to capital flows and immigration. Nov. 19, 4:30-6 p.m. Free. Hauck Auditorium, David & Joan Trailtel Building, 435 Lasuen St., Stanford. eventbrite.com

USGS lecture on sea level rise USGS research oceanographer Sean Vitousek talks about the unprecedented civil engineering challenge of rising sea levels. Nov. 21, 7-8 p.m. Free. USGS Menlo Park, 345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. usgs.gov

FAMILY

AlligatorZone AlligatorZone is an event for kids to meet startups and speak with entrepreneurs. Children and youth can meet and talk to startup founders in a community gathering that celebrates entrepreneurship. Nov. 16, 3:30-4:45 p.m. Free. Rinconada Library, 1213 Newell Road, Palo Alto. eventbrite.com

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

Cointraptions: Classic Coin-Operated Machines "Cointraptions: Classic Coin-Operated Machines" explores what life was like before the era of credit cards with classic coin-operated machines, including gambling devices, a mutoscope, vending machines and more. Through Feb. 16, 2020, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. The Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. moah.org

Edward Weston and Ansel Adams This exhibit features landscapes, still lifes, nudes and portraits created by Edward Weston in Mexico and Ansel Adams in the American southwest. Sept. 26-Jan. 6, 2020. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed

Tuesdays. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu/exhibitions/west-x-southwest-edward-weston-and-ansel-adams

Kahlil Joseph: 'BLKNWS' Kahlil Joseph, a visiting artist in the new Presidential Residences 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/exhibitions/kahlil-joseph-blknws

DANCE

'The Little Prince' and 'The Nutcracker Suite' HaoExpression presents a double program, youth theater and adult ballet, "The Little Prince" and "The Nutcracker Suite." Nov. 17, 2-3:30 p.m. \$10-\$30. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Suite A, Mountain View. eventbrite.com

29th Annual Nutcracker Pacific Ballet Academy hosts its 29th annual "Nutcracker" production. Nov. 22-24; times vary. \$30 adults, \$28 groups of 15+, \$27 senior/student, \$26 kids. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St, Mountain View. tickets.mvcpa.com

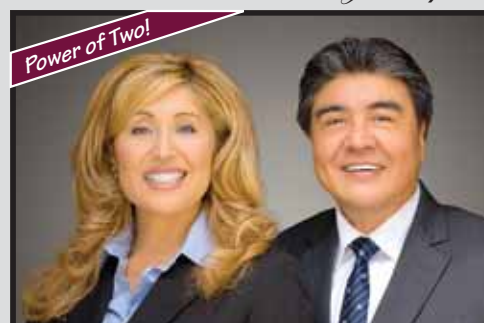
Hands Four Gender Free Contra Dance Contra dancing is a called set dance, similar to square dancing, Irish ceili and other traditional folk dances. All dances are taught, and no partner or experience is needed. Nov. 22. Free lesson at 7; dancing from 7:30-10:30 p.m. \$10; discount available. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. eventbrite.com

FILM

Bangla Hosted by the 3rd i SF International South Asian Film Festival, the film "Bangla" follows Bangla Phaim Bhuiyan as he falls in love with a spirited woman and has to reconcile his love with his life full of rules. Nov. 16, 4:45 p.m. \$11-\$13. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. facebook.com

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