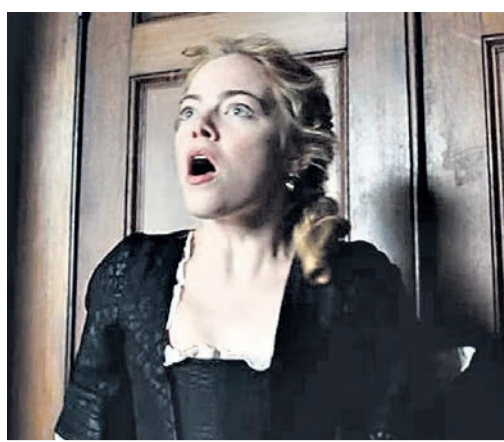


# Film 'Favourites'

■ From stop-motion dogs to 'A Star is Born,' a look back at the year in movies. **B3**

**Sonoma List: Hip to be square**  
5 things you forgot were on the Plaza. **A3**

**Business: 'Thank You' section**  
Chamber wishes you a happy 2019. **INSIDE**



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Friday, December 28, 2018

# The Sonoma Index-Tribune

OUR 137TH YEAR SERVING SONOMA VALLEY

Sonoma Valley, California ■ SonomaNews.com

An edition of The Press Democrat

## Top stories of the year

The big trials, big elections and other big developments of 2018

By **CHRISTIAN KALLEN**  
INDEX-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

The best news about 2018 is that it wasn't 2017, at least not in Sonoma Valley.

This year it was Butte County that was swept by wildfire, and those residents' suffering made Sonomans all the more aware that however bad the Tubbs and Nuns fires were last year in the Valley, it could have been worse.

But there was still plenty of news, trends and themes that gave 2018 in Sonoma its own memorable character. These are the stories that caught our readers' attention – and ours – in the year about to end.

### Farewell SDC

One story has been years in the making, the slow-motion

shutdown of the Sonoma Developmental Center. The anchor of Eldridge opened its doors in the 19th century, but on Dec. 17 of this year, the last of what were at one time over 2,000 developmentally challenged residents found another home. Some staff will stay on to manage the "soft closing" of the facility, while the state

See Stories, A4



Story poles went up this fall at the site of the proposed Gateway Project on Broadway. The mixed-use development narrowly won approval from the city.

### ■ OUTDOORS ■

## Bike maker pops a retro wheelie



ROBBI PENGELLY/INDEX-TRIBUNE

Erik Ran hopes his trendy two-wheeler will inspire kids to get out and about.

Erik Ran is making the banana seat cool again

By **KATE WILLIAMS**  
INDEX-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

A generation ago, kids lived outdoors. On broad summer days, with instructions to be back for dinner the only constraint, they would

scour their neighborhoods in search of pint-sized adventure.

Negotiating the wide world of possibilities made kids flexible and brave,

See Bikes, A2

## Sonoma health center eyes optometry clinic

A pilot medical-assisting school is also in the works for 2019

By **JANIS MARA**  
INDEX-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

A new optometry clinic, a pilot medical assisting school and bilingual cooking classes are all in the works for the Sonoma Community Health Center in the coming year.

The center on Sonoma Highway treated 6,883 people in 2017, offering a wide variety of services in its 18,671-square-foot facility. A dental clinic with six chairs, gynecology, podiatry, mental health counseling and nutritional counseling are just a few of them.

CEO Cheryl Johnson said the 26-year-old center's 93 employees are gearing up for a busy year.

"I told my staff to rest up because 2019 is going to be really something," Johnson said. "We have a lot of plans for growth."

Johnson said she anticipates that the center will see around 7,200 patients in 2019 and slightly more patient visits than this year. Final numbers weren't available for this year, but there were around 34,000 visits in 2017. The nonprofit's annual operating budget is \$10 million.

Community health centers are playing an increasingly important role in California, especially as access to health care diminishes for many rural communities. There are more than 1,300 such centers serving 6.5 million patients in California, according to Carmela Casellano-Garcia, CEO of the California Primary Care Association.

The centers primarily treat people living below the poverty line, but they are federally mandated to treat anyone who shows up asking for treatment. Fees are charged on a sliding scale.

See Clinic, A8



PHOTOS BY JANIS MARA/INDEX-TRIBUNE  
Noa Weiswasser, 7, and her father Ari Weiswasser

## Peace, love and understanding: Sonoma's wish lists for 2019

Residents voice their hopes for a better year

By **JANIS MARA**  
INDEX-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Sonoma residents' wishes for the New Year couldn't be clearer: Peace on earth and

greater understanding, according to folks questioned by the *Index-Tribune* in downtown Sonoma Thursday.

Of the nine people who commented, six said what they would like to see in the New Year involved harmony and communication.

"Ideally, there would be peace in 2019, and that would be accomplished by people getting to know each other," said Linda States of Glen Ellen. "We need to drop the 'us versus them'"

See Wishes, A4

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### WEATHER

#### REPORTED CONDITIONS

Date	High	Low	Rainfall
Tues., 12/25	60	42	0.05
Wed., 12/26	59	35	0 in.
Thur., 12/27	55	43	0 in.

#### FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
60°/33°	58°/38°	61°/34°	60°/30°

#### RAINFALL HISTORY

Year-to-date: 7.84 in.  
Last-year-to-date: 3.48 in.  
Rainfall year calculated from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

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