

Pizarro: Nanci Williams leaving San Jose PR firm she co-founded

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Orloff/Williams, the ubiquitous downtown San Jose marketing agency, received an award from CreaTV on Saturday night for a video it made for Republic Solar Highways, and agency founder and CEO Nanci Williams was on hand to accept.

It turns out that it was Williams' last official appearance in that capacity. The company celebrates 20 years in business this year, and Williams has said from day one that she would draw the line at two decades.

Dan Orloff, Williams' business partner and former husband, will continue operating the agency, along with longtime creative director Mike Bohrer. He plans to focus more on cause marketing and helping clients with PR, branding and navigating the social media landscape.

Williams, who will remain "of counsel" to the agency for a while, plans to take time off to finish the book she started writing last year before embarking on her own next chapter, which is as yet unwritten.

The book, by the way, is a humorous novel set in downtown San Jose about a woman who owns an advertising agency and embarks on an adventure to relaunch her adult life shortly after her 50th birthday. Sounds familiar.

SAINT MIKE TURNS FIVE: The musicians of the Saint Michael Trio -- violinist Daniel Cher, cellist Michel Flexer and pianist Russell Hancock -- shouldn't let it go to their heads, but they're a pretty big deal this week.

The group

celebrated its fifth anniversary Saturday night at a sold-out concert at the Mountain View Center for the

Performing Arts, playing an eclectic program that ranged from Beethoven to Led Zeppelin.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Liz Kniss made the group's day by proclaiming onstage that this would be Saint Michael Trio Week throughout the county. To top it off, Saint Mike -- as the trio is known -- released its third album, "French Fusion: The Crossover Jazz of Claude Bolling," which includes a written intro by jazz pianist David Benoit.

HE DOES PIZZA, TOO: San Jose's all-world eater Joey Chestnut on Friday night brought some friends to Tony & Alba's Pizza and Pasta on Stevens Creek Boulevard to take the "Coliseum Challenge."

The four guys -- Chestnut, competitive eater Matt Stonie and San Jose State football players Doug Blacksill and Christian Hill -- had 45 minutes to polish off a 30-inch square Tony Special, loaded with pepperoni, salami, beef, sausage, linguica, onions, bell peppers and mushrooms.

Tony & Alba's owner Al Vallorz reports that they devoured the pizza with 10 minutes to spare.

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