Hangar One may house new airship

NASA’S AMBITIOUS PLAN COULD SOLVE ISSUE OF NEW SIDING ONCE AND FOR ALL

By Daniel DeBolt

NASA Ames deputy director Lew Braxton told a crowd last Thursday that the agency was hard at work on a plan to restore Hangar One within the next 18 months in order to return it to “its original purpose.”

“There is a possibility we will have another [airship] out here,” Braxton said as he talked about NASA’s plan for Hangar One.

The announcement was a revelation to those at the Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board meeting, some of whom said they’d heard rumors, but no confirmation, that NASA wanted to once more park a huge airship inside the iconic structure. Among other things, it would mean that NASA plans to re-skin the hangar after the Navy strips off its toxic siding.

Earlier that day, the Navy made official its plan to strip the siding off Hangar One and leave the bare skeleton. NASA, however, said that NASA Ames is talking to two prospective tenants to find out who will share the $15 million cost of re-siding Hangar One.

Both companies are in the aeronautics industry, and one is

Parents cry foul on enrollment

MV WHISMAN USES LOTTERY TO DECIDE WHO GETS INTO SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

By Casey Weiss

It may be up to Lady Luck this year whether some incoming kindergarteners get into their neighborhood schools or special choice programs.

The Mountain View Whisman Elementary School District is enacting an enrollment lottery for the first time as families prepare to register with the district in February. The change in policy comes after the student population suddenly grew, reaching numbers not expected until 2011. Administrators said the lottery will give each family the fairest chance of getting into their preferred schools and programs.

“Everyone should have equal access,” said Stephanie Totter, director of administrative services.

Each school, as well as the parent participation program PACT and the Dual Immersion Spanish program, has a

The need for Kleenspeed

MOFFETT-BASED COMPANY SAYS ITS ELECTRIC RACE CARS ARE THE FUTURE OF MOTOR SPORTS

By Daniel DeBolt

A company called Kleenspeed Technologies has quietly established itself in a large building at Moffett Field, operating with a simple goal in mind: beat gasoline-powered race cars at their own game.

With the help of venture capital and sponsorships, the company already has three different electric race cars up and running and under development in its shop near Moffett’s Hangar One. Their most ambitious goal is to enter an electric race car in the 24 Hours of Le Mans — the world famous endurance race in France.

“I think most people will be pulling for it,” said Jerry Kroll, CEO of Kleenspeed and a former agent for professional race car drivers.

The goal of the business side is to develop and patent software and hardware on the racetrack that will improve the efficiency of hybrid or electric cars built by companies like Tesla, Toyota and GM.

“The sooner we can invent this stuff the better it is for the world,” Kroll said.

Kroll predicts that someday “the recreational burning of fossil fuels will probably be legislated out of existence.”

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AROUND TOWN

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Kelly Truong.

What do you think Obama’s first action should be upon taking office?

“Health care.”
Lamont Dilwood, Mountain View

“Easing the public’s economic woes.”
David Brown, Sunnyvale

“I’d like to see him work toward a peaceful solution in Israel. It’s difficult because Hamas isn’t really open to that right now, but I’d like to see him work with the UN and find a peaceful solution.”
Stephanie Hoffman, Palo Alto

“Putting into motion a gradual withdrawal in Iraq, and also addressing Israel’s military assault in Gaza.”
Soo-Rae Hong, Chicago

“I don’t think there’s one answer to that question. Take a big deep breath and start fixing every thing, because there are a lot of problems, a lot of issues. He [needs] to just stay true to what America needs.”
Tatiana Norman, Mountain View

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

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Looking for a match

By Don Frances

KATIE BEERS, wife of Dr. Dan Beers of Peninsula Laser Eye Medical Group on Castro Street, contacted the Voice with a heartfelt request. “A friend of mine is dying of leukemia. (She is only 40 and has three kids.) I’ve been desperately helping her to find a bone marrow donor.”

Beers’ friend, Monique Larson, was diagnosed in December 2007. After a year of chemotherapy, doctors have determined that only a bone marrow transplant will save her. But finding a donor has been hard due to Larson’s unique bloodline, which includes Native American and German heritage.

To find a match, a “bone marrow drive” is being held next weekend at the American Italian Deli in Los Altos. Participants can find out whether they have the ability to save Larson’s life. Also, proceeds from that day’s sales go to the Larson family. A flier states: “If you or anyone you know is Native American and German please consider being tested for Monique. The test is free and consists of a swab inside your mouth.”

CLEAR OUT:

A natural gas leak on Rengstorff Avenue — caused after a landscaping contractor accidentally punctured a gas line — prompted the evacuation of several businesses at a shopping center there Monday afternoon, fire officials said.

The shopping center at 580 N. Rengstorff Ave. was undergoing renovation when the leak occurred around 2:40 p.m. Firefighters arrived and evacuated nearby businesses, then shut down Middlefield Road from Rengstorff to Independence avenues while PG&E crews repaired the line. Middlefield was reopened at about 4 p.m.

Binkley gets a break: not guilty by reason of insanity

By Daniel DeBolt

A jury concluded Tuesday morning that Sargent Binkley was legally insane during his armed robbery of a Mountain View Walgreens in 2006, a verdict that will keep him from serving a mandatory 12-year prison sentence.

The same jury had found Binkley guilty of the crime late last month, but changed its verdict in the sanity phase of the trial.

Binkley was facing the state's mandatory 12-year prison sentence for armed robbery — a sentence he still faces in separate San Mateo County proceedings for a similar robbery in San Carlos.

Defense attorney Chuck Smith said Binkley will be evaluated by the county mental health department as to whether he needs to be hospitalized. If not, he could be set free and receive only outpatient treatment. His treatment will be announced in court on Thursday, Jan. 15.

“He will not spend a day in prison, which is just spectacular,” Smith said.

According to testimony from psychiatrists, Binkley suffers from post traumatic stress disorder and addiction to opiates. The trial was watched closely by the Armed Forces community, with some — “Positive activities for youth” — the idea was to provide a place for underserved teens in the Rengstorff neighborhood while the city works on building a permanent, after-school teen center.

“It’s a pilot program, let’s give it a try,” said council member Ronit Bryant. “If it doesn’t, then we say it wasn’t a good idea — how sad.”

High school student and teen center advocate Eduardo Olmos said he had a feeling of satisfaction from his work in advocating for youth because the council was considering the plan. The council was finally “taking a step forward,” he said.

However, several seniors did not approve. “Why are you pursuing the teen center? I don’t understand it,” said Rose Ehrmane, who gave her age as “almost 90.”

Oscar Garcia named Chamber CEO

Oscar Garcia, known locally as the president of Mesa de la Comunidad, has left his day job in technology marketing to become the CEO of Mountain View’s Chamber of Commerce. He started the job last Monday.

“So far the only thing I know is where the restrooms are,” he joked.

Before joining the chamber, Garcia managed the inside sales team at a division of Seagate Technology. In 2005 he helped found Mesa de la Comunidad, a local nonprofit that advocates for the Latino community.

Garcia replaces interim CEO Valerie Boyle, who took over when Alison Nelson left last October.

— Daniel DeBolt

See COUNCIL, page 8

Senior Center still just for seniors

COUNCIL REJECTS PROPOSAL TO SHARE FACILITY WITH TEENS

By Daniel DeBolt

A plan to use the Mountain View Senior Center for evening teen activities pitted old against young Tuesday night and split the council down the middle in an emotionally charged meeting.

“We’re just making a huge mistake by doing this,” said council member Jac Siegel, who opposed the idea along with members John Inks and Laura Macias. Member Mike Kasperzak was absent, leaving the council deadlocked 3-3 and effectively killing the proposal.

Members Tom Means, Margaret Abe-Koga and Ronit Bryant supported the temporary six month program, which would have opened the doors of the Senior Center to teens for classes and activities after 6:30 p.m. on weeknights at a cost of $36,000. In an attempt to fulfill the council’s top goal last year — “Positive activities for youth” — the idea was to provide a place for underserved teens in the Rengstorff neighborhood while the city works on building a permanent, after-school teen center.

“It’s a pilot program, let’s give it a try,” said council member Ronit Bryant. “If it doesn’t, then we say it wasn’t a good idea — how sad.”

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See BINKLEY, page 12

See EDITOR’S DESK, page 7
**Moffett Building is the Ideal Shop Space**

It’s a dream-come-true scenario for most gearheads: all the shop space you could want and a huge piece of smooth asphalt to test your vehicle.

That dream did come true for electric race car company Kleenspeed Technologies, which has taken over the big-box-sized former hardware store at Moffett Field after the Navy Exchange closed it last year. As part of its lease agreement with NASA Ames, Kleenspeed is able to use its parking lot and the Moffett runway for testing. A video on the company’s Web site, www.kleenspeed.com, shows one of the cars flashing up and down the tarmac.

In order for private companies to be allowed to lease space at Moffett, their presence must somehow fit in with NASA’s mission of space exploration. So how does Kleenspeed fit? The space agency has an interest in electric vehicles for use on the Moon and Mars — therefore, it wants to keep electric vehicle experts like Kleenspeed close at hand.

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**KLEENSPEED**

Continued from page 1

borrows its chassis from a gas-powered IMSA Lights racer. It accelerates from zero to 60 miles per hour in three seconds and has reached a top speed of 136 miles per hour so far, but is expected to reach 160. It uses an AC Propulsion motor and controller — a set-up not publicly available but which powers other fast electric cars like the Wrightspeed X-1 and the Tzero — that is modified by Thruxar, a brand of Kleenspeed.

The batteries — “a private product,” Kroll said — sit in boxes on each side of the driver and will last through a 30-minute race. The unmarked lithium-ion-phosphate cells, no bigger than flashlight batteries, are linked in long strands and packed into four boxes for each car.

“A lot of this stuff is stuff people don’t have,” Kroll said, referring to the backyard electric vehicle builder.

KleenSpeed, in partnership with Wrightspeed, plans to sell the WX10-T (the T stands for Thruxar) for about $100,000, Kroll said.

This model is a smaller version of what will be built to race in the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Kroll believes electric race car manufacturers will find new interest in motorsports thanks to electric vehicles.

Kroll believes race car organizers may find new interest in motor sports thanks to electric vehicles. It could also spark the interest of older racers — after all, the learning curve isn’t that steep, he said.

“...You can’t be a dummy and be racing,” Kroll said, adding, "It really isn’t that complicated.”

KleenSpeed’s rubber will meet the road in Sebring, Fla. on March 15, when the quiet WX10-T will take on a pack of loud gas-powered race cars in the IMSA Lights series. For more information, visit www.kleenspeed.com.

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**E-mail Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com**

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Local News

HANGAR

Continued from page 1

working on a large airship for the U.S. Department of Defense, Braxton said.

“I know there is a lot of concern because we are working behind the scenes,” Braxton said. “We have been in dialogue with headquarters and working with the Pentagon.”

Braxton would not name the airship or the company, but many who heard him speak are now certain that Moffett Field may become the West Coast base for a 500-foot-long Army airship constructed by Lockheed in Akron, Ohio — in Hangar One's twin structure, the Goodyear Airdock.

“It was obvious to anyone who knows what’s going on in the world that he [Braxton] means the one Lockheed is building at Akron,” said RAB civilian co-chair Bob Moss.

“There are only two companies in the world that are building airships,” Braxton would not give many details about the airship, but mentioned that it could be fitted with “sensors” for NASA's earth sciences work. Braxton also said the airship would be too large for Hangar Two or Hangar Three at Moffett.

According to Lockheed’s Web site, a smaller prototype airship called HALE-D is in the works now. It would be used by the Army for missile defense and ground surveillance, doing the work of satellites at less cost. Wrapped in thin solar panels which charge batteries running four electric motors, the airship is supposed to be capable of flying above the jet stream at 60,000 feet for weeks at a time. Lockheed won a $150 million government contract to build it several years ago.

Building a hangar big enough to house such an airship would cost more than $90 million — much more than the cost of restoring Hangar One, Moss said.

One source familiar with NASA Ames' efforts to lease Hangar One believes Ames director Pete Worden is pushing the Lockheed airship as a "pet project." But the airship buffs who want to save Hangar One may not have a problem with that.

If NASA brings an airship to Hangar One, there will be "applause," Moss said. "You don't need a public hearing to know what the reaction will be.”

In a speech during Moffett Field’s 75th anniversary celebration last year, Worden talked enthusiastically about airships — the “clean transportation” they could provide, how they could help with homeland security and act as “observational platforms,” or to “help us understand climate change.”

Some worry that the airship plan would preclude other uses in the 1,100-foot-long hangar. At the RAB meeting, some brought up whether the Moffett Field Historical Society museum would be moved back into Hangar One. Braxton said it was being considered. NASA Ames realizes that the hangar would have to be opened periodically for some kind of “public touring” of the historic structure, he said, adding that NASA would like to park some of its historic planes in Hangar One as well.

The Navy plans to begin taking the siding down as early as October of this year, and Braxton said NASA wants to put up new siding while the scaffolding is still in place. A material for the new siding has yet to be selected. Having it all done in 18 months is "pretty aggressive," Braxton said, adding that NASA hopes to receive some extra funding from the Obama administration.

But NASA’s first priority is to ensure that the agency is not left with any toxic cleanup responsibilities for Hangar One, Braxton said. In an e-mail, RAB founder Lenny Siegel said Braxton's comments were “the most substantive and detailed affirmation thus far that federal agencies intend that the hangar be cleaned, restored, and reused.”

Editor's Desk

Continued from page 5

book “teaches small business owners, professionals and others how to get stories about them and their business in newspapers, magazines, TV and radio shows and the Internet.” Also, the book will reveal many of Kaus’ “secrets” — such as “how to become a media darling” and “how to get on Oprah” — and one chapter “takes you inside the minds of journalists.” It’s a short one.

For more, visit www.youcanbefamousbook.com or write dan@yourpowerpublicity.com.

Don Frances can be reached at dfrances@mv-voice.com.

Notice of Public Meetings

January 21-29, 2009

Proposed 2009 Transit Service Plan

VTA will hold eight public meetings to present proposed bus service changes for 2009 and to obtain public input. The main objective of this cost-neutral proposal is to reallocate resources from underutilized service to improve and increase service to bus lines with higher ridership.

The VTA bus lines affected by the proposed changes are listed below:

Major Changes

VTA Bus Lines 14, 15, 17, 37, 45, 63, 64, 66, 68, 88, 89, 180, 181 and a new community bus line serving Kaiser Santa Clara.

Meeting Locations

Wednesday, January 21
2:00 p.m.
Alum Rock Youth Center
Community Room
137 N. White Road
San Jose

This location is served by VTA Bus Lines 25, 45 and 71.

Monday, January 26
4:00 p.m.
Lucie Stern Community Center
Community Room
1305 Middlefield Road
Palo Alto

This location is served by VTA Bus Lines 35.

Tuesday, January 27
2:00 p.m.
Campbell Community Center
Roosevelt Community Room
1 West Campbell Avenue
Campbell

This location is served by VTA Bus Lines 26 and 60.

If you require special accommodations to participate in the meetings, please contact VTA (see below) at least five days in advance of the meeting.

For More Information

For a detailed list of the proposed changes log onto www.vta.org or call VTA Customer Service.

Minor Changes

VTA Bus Lines 10, 13, 18, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 31, 33, 46, 48, 49, 52, 55, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 70, 71, 72, 73, 77, 81, 82, 330 and DASH.
COUNCIL  
► Continued from page 5

“I had 50 phone calls today — everybody I know in Mountain View my age is against it. We paid a lot of taxes. I just don’t understand it — it hurts me so much.”

Two other seniors spoke, one of them saying that teens would be disrespectful and aggressive. “They push you just as though you were not there,” she said.

Siegel agreed that the youth would be energetic, saying that “teens don’t know how walk — they run.”

“If you’ve ever been to a party and not felt welcome, I’m afraid that’s the feeling we would have day to day,” Macias said.

Inks said he had a “keen interest” in the problems faced by teens in the neighborhood, but would not support spending money on “this particular trial.”

Created with the input of the city’s Youth Advisory Committee, the plan would have provided homework assistance, fitness classes, CPR classes and babysitting classes. On the second and fourth Saturday night of each month there would be special activities, including a video game tournament, a “battle of the bands” and an open mic night or movie night.

When the vote on plan failed 3-3, Siegel made another motion: look at the Rengstorff Community Center as an alternative site. The proposal, which ups the cost from $36,000 to $50,000, passed 5-1 with Inks opposed.

However, staffers said the community center was already at capacity.

“It sounds really simple to find another space — it’s really not,” Bryant said.

Recreation manager Jim Teixeira said city staff would return to council with another plan making use of other facilities in the area, adding that it “may not serve the same purpose.”

“In recreation we try to do what we can with what we have,” Teixeira said.

General Plan rewrite chugs ahead

Despite concerns from several members, the council on Tuesday night selected Bay Area Economics to write the housing element of the General Plan, trusting city staff’s assurances that the firm would not try to be the “policy maker” and would not provide a “cookie cutter” report.

BAE is the same firm that wrote the housing element of the General Plan, trusting city staff’s assurances that the firm would not try to be the “policy maker” and would not provide a “cookie cutter” report.

Chat with MAK

Continuing the mayoral tradition of holding open office hours, new Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga will be available to residents every Thursday morning at Peet’s Coffee at 1032 Castro St. from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

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Cyclists to ride in budget protest

By Casey Weiss

While they continue to wait for news from Sacramento about state budget cuts, local leaders are planning a community bike ride to protest any slashes that would affect children.

The ride will start at the El Camino YMCA on Grant Road on Sunday, May 3, and cover 27 miles through Mountain View, Sunnyvale and Los Altos — all in an effort to bring light to children’s rights, including the need for health and educational initiatives.

“This will bring attention to the state that awareness needs to be on the kids,” said YMCA sports director Trenton Hill, who is working with the Community Health Awareness Council to plan the event.

The protest ride is becoming an annual tradition among Mountain View community leaders. After Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger first announced potential cuts to education last spring, Mountain View Whisman School District Superintendent Maurice Ghyse, former CHAC board president Bruce Bari and parent Nelson Iwai biked the 126 miles to Sacramento.

With California facing a multi-billion-dollar deficit through June 2010, local leaders want to plan something bigger that involves more of the community. District administrators say all educational programs are once again on the table now that the elementary and Mountain View-Los Altos High School districts are facing more than $1 million each in cuts.

Bikers will begin at the YMCA at 9 a.m. and head to the west side of Sunnyvale. The three-hour ride will eventually end back at the YMCA for the annual kid’s health fair, which goes until 2 p.m.

Local community leaders have been planning the May ride during their monthly Challenge Team meeting, and are encouraging families and children to participate, if only for a short time. Parent-teacher councils from local schools will set up frequent stops for food and drink.

“We are doing as much as we can to get as many people and schools involved, so we can have the biggest impact,” Hill said.

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El Camino Hospital, back of cafeteria
2500 Grant Road, Mountain View

To register and for more information call 800-216-5556
Sioux Lewellyn Lehner
An Angel Dances Among the Stars

A star was born on January 14, 1958. Sioux Lewellyn Lehner was soon to be known as one of the most influential, amazing, inspirational women you will ever meet. She was destined for stardom; a beautiful face, charisma, talent, and an undeniable gift for the stage. As a San Francisco Bay Area native, Sioux grew up in the small, suburban town of Sunnyvale, California. She has touched thousands of lives, both young and old, all over the world.

Sioux began taking dance classes from Benni Smith at the age of three and flourished quickly into a beautiful face, charisma, talent, and an undeniable gift for the stage. As a San Francisco Bay Area native, Sioux grew up in the small, suburban town of Sunnyvale, California. She has touched thousands of lives, both young and old, all over the world.

Sioux had family on her mind. She met and fell in love with her husband, Peter Lehner. Sioux was the lead in a national TV show in Japan when she and Peter found out a baby was on the way. Back in the United States, Sioux began teaching for the USA Drill Team alongside American Idol and Pop Star, Paula Abdul. Old time high school friend, Terri Hatcher, was babysitting Sioux’s daughter while the Lehner family prepared for some big plans in the Bay Area. Sioux’s dream was to open up her own dance studio. Little did she know that it would be more than that. In 1988, her dream began. This would change not only the Bay Area, but thousands of lives. Sioux created “Dance Attack”, in Mountain View, California; it was the start of a dance revolution. Dance Attack had three buildings, 20 teachers on staff, over 500 students, and an energy and love for dance that was unstoppable. Dance Attack competed and traveled all over the United States, and many of her previous students are world-wide celebrities today.

10 years and three beautiful children later, it was time again to concentrate on her family. Peter offered a great job opportunity, so Peter, Sioux, Rachele, Justin and Jake moved to Tigard, Oregon. Here, Sioux also created her next dance studio, “Fired Up”. However, this was a different path for her, a more inspirational women you will ever meet. She was destined for stardom; a beautiful face, charisma, talent, and an undeniable gift for the stage. As a San Francisco Bay Area native, Sioux grew up in the small, suburban town of Sunnyvale, California. She has touched thousands of lives, both young and old, all over the world. Sioux began teaching for the USA Drill Team alongside American Idol and Pop Star, Paula Abdul. Old time high school friend, Terri Hatcher, was babysitting Sioux’s daughter while the Lehner family prepared for some big plans in the Bay Area. Sioux’s dream was to open up her own dance studio. Little did she know that it would be more than that. In 1988, her dream began. This would change not only the Bay Area, but thousands of lives. Sioux created “Dance Attack”, in Mountain View, California; it was the start of a dance revolution. Dance Attack had three buildings, 20 teachers on staff, over 500 students, and an energy and love for dance that was unstoppable. Dance Attack competed and traveled all over the United States, and many of her previous students are world-wide celebrities today.

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Board begins study of Castro crunch

MV WHISMAN TRUSTEES HOPE TO REDUCE ENROLLMENT AT POPULAR SCHOOL

By Casey Weiss

Parents and teachers crowded the Mountain View Whisman School District's normally empty board room last week, anxious over the future of Castro Elementary School as trustees decide how to curb its growing student population.

With over 4,400 students currently enrolled in its schools, the district has reached numbers not expected until 2011. Castro was hit especially hard, in part due to an increase in enrollment in the campus' two programs: PACT and Dual Immersion Spanish.

PACT, a parent participation program, has 194 students. Dual Immersion has 299, and another 158 students are enrolled in traditional classes at Castro, bringing the school's population to 651, administrators said during the Jan. 8 meeting.

The sudden rise also is partly due to an increase of families moving into military housing at Moffett Field, administrators said. They hope to bring the Castro population back down to around 600.

Trustees have two weeks to pick the best option for the school from a list of five options: leaving the campus as it is, limiting enrollment for kindergartners, moving some PACT and Dual Immersion Spanish.

Castro was hit especially hard, in part due to an increase in enrollment in the campus’ two programs: PACT and Dual Immersion Spanish.

Although PACT parents and teachers had offered to move a new building in an effort to alleviate overcrowding, such a move could cost millions in renovation and maintenance costs and in lost revenue. In November, trustee Ellen Wheeler said the district cannot afford the loss during a state budget crisis. Administrators now say they could possibly move the program to Graham Middle School, but have other more cost-efficient options on the table. Among those options, the last two — to move some PACT classes (kindergarten to second grade) to a new site, or to limit new kindergarteners and eliminate 65 out-of-district transfers in kindergarten through second grade — would have the quickest impact on enrollment numbers.

On Jan. 8, a brief debate among the trustees about the PACT program ran along familiar lines, with Wheeler saying she could not justify spending more money on one group of students.

"I think it's critical that we are all seen as sharing the pain of the upcoming cuts," Wheeler said, reading aloud some comments she had prepared. "I think we're setting PACT parents and teachers up for outrage by other members of our community."

Other trustees disagreed that a new building would only benefit PACT and Castro students. Money for renovations would come from a special fund designated only for construction, they reminded Wheeler.

"The kids at Castro seem to be sacrificing more," said trustee Steve Olson. "If $400,000 fixes the problem, it would alleviate a school that has sacrificed.

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com

For the New Year, join the YMCA and reap the benefits of a healthier you.

Activities for all ages and abilities:

- Group Exercise Classes
- Cardio and Strength Training
- Youth Sports and Teen Programs
- Swim Lessons
- Parent-child Programs
- Year-round Camps
- Child Watch while at the Y

Invest in your health.

Join the Y in January and get a FREE personal fitness plan and gym bag! Offer ends 1/31/09.

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Financial assistance available

To locate your neighborhood YMCA, call (408) 551-6400 or visit www.ymcavic.org

Send Us A Postcard

Photo of Ralph Jiang at the Statue of Liberty, New York.

Take a photo with the Mountain View Voice

on your next trip and email to

dmartin@mv-voice.com

or mail to

Postcards, P.O. Box 405
Mountain View, CA 94042.

JANUARY 16, 2009 MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE 11
MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTRAL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
Saturday Services, Worship 11:00 am
Sabbath School, 10 am
Wednesday Study Groups, 10:00 am & 7:00 pm
1425 Springer Rd., Mtn. View Office Hours 9-1, M-Fri
650-967-2189

Los Altos Union Presbyterian Church
858 University Avenue 650-948-4361
WWW.UNIONPC.ORG
Yuma Plant on University
cross El Monte Ave.
Service 9:15 and 11:15 am
Sunday School 9:15 am Worship
8:30 am Breakfast Union #2 (Weekly)
9:30 am Breakfast Union #1 (Weekly)
9:45 am Church School Nursery
11:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary,
Club Sunday for Children, Nursery

A Guide to the Spiritual Community

LAND TRANSFER DELAYS BAY TRAIL OPENING

The opening of a long-awaited Bay Trail connection around Moffett Field is being delayed as officials wait for a small piece of it to be transferred from the Cargill Salt Co. to NASA.

Bay Trail project manager Laura Thompson said that at one point Cargill was willing to open the trail before transferring the small piece of land, but a later decision was made by Cargill executives against it.

Once completed, the 500-mile trail will encircle the waterfront of San Francisco and San Pablo bays. More than half of the trail has been completed, and the Moffett section would make an important connection from Palo Alto and Mountain View to Sunnyvale through Alviso.

The section would have opened in November 2008, but now will have to wait until sometime this spring, Thompson said.

“The trail exists — we just need to take the gates down,” she said.

SAN ANTONIO LANES CLOSED FOR TREE REMOVAL

Sections of busy San Antonio Road north of Central Expressway are being closed while numerous large trees are removed from the median.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 12, the city of Palo Alto has been closing one lane in each direction between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays, and will continue to do so for the next four months.

Workers will be removing the large trees and their “invasive roots” to make way for more “sustainable” street trees and plants, according to a city of Palo Alto press release. Additional road repair and asphalt replacement will close lanes in the same area this fall.

— Daniel Deford

ROASTING MEAT CAUSES 99 RANCH FIRE

A duck or a pig that caught fire in an oven sparked a blaze at the 99 Ranch supermarket on Grant Road last Thursday.

Mountain View Fire Department firefighters quickly controlled the two-alarm fire that started around 8:45 a.m., said fire department spokesperson Lynn Brown.

Firefighters arrived at the 99 Ranch Market at 1350 Grant Road to find a kitchen fire nearly extinguished by the in-house sprinkler system, Brown said. Firefighters had the blaze controlled by 9 a.m.

There was no apparent structural damage, Brown said, though a precise damage estimate hasn’t been determined.

— Bay City News

TRUCK BURSTS INTO FLAMES ON HWY 101

Police temporarily shut down Highway 101 southbound on Wednesday morning just before 11 a.m. after a garbage truck burst into flames near the Shoreline Boulevard exit.

The garbage truck was driving on the freeway when it caught fire, police said. Firefighters were quickly able to contain the fire, according to police spokesperson Liz Wylie, and were planning to bring the truck to Sunnyvale to be emptied.

Traffic stopped on Highway 101 while firefighters worked to contain the fire, and police also shut down the service road next to the freeway.

— Casey Weiss

BINKLEY

calling it an important ruling in favor of veterans with PTSD and others saying Binkley was a fraud who never saw combat and used his Army service in order to gain undeserved sympathy.

Family and friends were tearful after the verdict Tuesday, said Alan Lukke, a Vietnam veteran who has been following the trial.

Binkley, 34, is a Los Altos native who attended Los Altos High School and West Point military academy. Psychiatrists testified at the trial that Binkley developed PTSD during his service in Bosnia and Hindus and developed an addiction to painkillers after a hip injury that went untreated following his return home in 2001.

In January 2006, he robbed the Walgreens pharmacy on the corner of El Camino Real and Grant Road using an unloaded handgun. He later turned himself in.

Of the six court-appointed psychiatrists, only two testified that Binkley was legally insane during the crime. One of them, Dr. Leonard Donk, said Binkley was legally sane because he had a clear plan for the robbery. But he also said Binkley wanted to die if he didn’t get his medication.
Economy didn’t dim Voice Holiday Fund

Voice readers shrugged off the sagging economy and dug into their pockets this year, collecting more than $40,000 to support seven local nonprofits. Thanks to you, many local residents will once again benefit from our annual Holiday Fund drive.

A record 178 donors, up significantly from last year’s 143, contributed to the fund, which also receives grants from the Wakerly Family Foundation, the Packard Foundation and the Hewlett Foundation.

The Silicon Valley Community Foundation administers the Holiday Fund, and arranged for the grants from the William and Flora Hewlett and David and Lucile Packard foundations, which along with the Wakerly Family grant totaled just over $30,000.

This year, donations from individuals hit a high of $2,100 each from two readers, and a number of others contributed $1,000 each. The Mountain View Mom’s Cookie Party continued its longtime support of the Holiday Fund with a donation of $680.

As of this writing, a total of $72,840 was contributed by readers and the three foundations, meaning that each of the seven nonprofits supported by the Voice Holiday Fund will receive $10,465 in early February. Here are the seven agencies:

- The Community Services Agency, or CSA, of Mountain View and Los Altos;
- The Community Health Awareness Council, known as CHAC;
- Mountain View Rotacare, based at El Camino Hospital;
- The Day Worker Center of Mountain View;
- The Support Network for Battered Women;
- The Community School of Music and Arts;
- Partners for a New Generation.

LOITERING DAY WORKERS ARE NOT LONG GONE

Editor:

Your Jan. 9 editorial stated that, thanks to the Day Worker Center, the days of day workers lining El Camino Real, loitering in parking lots and creating ill will, are long gone (“Worker center won’t ruin the neighborhood”).

On Friday, Jan. 9 and Saturday, Jan. 10 at 10:45 a.m., I walked along El Camino Real, adjacent to The San Antonio Shopping Center, to see if this was true. I counted 73 day workers on Friday and 71 on Saturday.

It appears the day workers didn’t know that they are long gone.

Donald J. Bahl
Garden Terrace

A GLOBAL WARMING LESSON FROM HEZEKIAH

Editor:

History is often a good guide to seeing how various strategies turn out in actual practice. Patrick Hunt of Stanford is a globetrotting archaeologist whose lecture I attended. He spoke of the ancient Assyrians and their campaign of conquest against the ancient Israelites. They were the ones who conquered the North, creating the “Ten Lost Tribes.” The people of Lachish were an accomplished group, but they waited until the Assyrians were at their gates before thinking up a plan. They tried to build up the walls, but the Assyrians built their towers faster and overran and destroyed their once-great city.

Jerusalem under King Hezekiah was more proactive. They built an underground tunnel to safeguard their precious water supplies. They beeled up their walls, and built extra guard towers. When the Assyrians came, their efforts were frustrated, and after a plague struck the Assyrians they withdrew, thereby saving the Southern Kingdom.

We in California should take a note from Hezekiah’s playbook. Global warming is advancing like the Assyrians of old. If we prepare early, perhaps we will be as lucky as the Israelites. If not, disaster beckons.

Ed Taub
Devoto Terrace

IT’S ‘MTN.’ NOT ‘MT.’

Editor:

I’ve held this pet peeve in long enough. If you must abbreviate Mountain View, it should be MtV, not Mt View. Mt. means Mount, as in Mt. Everest. Mtn. means Mountain, as in Mtn. Winnery. When writing about our town, write it out or use Mtn. View when abbreviating. Even M.V. is more acceptable than Mt.

Denley Rafferty
Cypress Point Drive
You don’t have to be a vegan to love the Loving Hut. You do have to swallow some slightly scary save-the-planet propaganda with your soy proteins. “Be Vegan. ... Go Green. Save the Planet” is the motto. Go, Team Vegan! If only eating right would turn the tide against global warming, who could argue?

A flat screen runs a silent stream of Supreme Master TV, the 40-seat Palo Alto restaurant’s main design element. Supreme Master, out of Southern California, beams “24-hour uplifting news and inspirational programs.” Supreme TV epitomizes the phrase “It’s all good.” Perhaps there have been snickers about the Taiwan-based chain’s choice of name. It is meant to convey loving all the animals, and a traditional Asian bamboo hut.

Each of the world’s 25 Loving Huts is a little different. Some

The little vegan that could

PALO ALTO’S LOVING HUT CATERS TO THE HERBIVORES AMONG US

By Sheila Himmel

You don’t have to be a vegan to love the Loving Hut. You do have to swallow some slightly scary save-the-planet propaganda with your soy proteins. “Be Vegan. ... Go Green. Save the Planet” is the motto. Go, Team Vegan! If only eating right would turn the tide against global warming, who could argue?

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Each of the world’s 25 Loving Huts is a little different. Some

The “raw fettucine” at the Loving Hut features raw celery root with collard greens and other vegetables in a creamy almond sauce.
Many of the dishes are visual and textural symphonies.

BLT, Milpitas serves Szechwan eggplant, Thai soup and pho, the Vietnamese noodle soup.

On the avocado BLT ($8.95), the part of the B is played by paprika-smoked tempeh. It doesn’t come close to the texture of bacon. But the strips of fermented soybean cake are heavily seasoned with maple syrup and salt, so if you haven’t had bacon in a long time, maybe this could do it for you.

Another popular dish, shepherd’s pie ($8.95) honors its British origins as a way to use leftover meat. But instead of being made with the traditional lamb or mutton, this pie uses crumbled soy, pasta noodles, there are curlicues of raw celery root.

My advice is to split the salad and get an accompaniment of Seven Seas Rice ($5.90), warmly dressed in lemon sauce. The seven are nutty brown rice, roasted pine nuts, flecks of salty nori seaweed, bell peppers, greens, cucumber and sesame seeds. It is, as advertised, “very harmonious.”

Many of the dishes are visual and textural symphonies. The Loving Hut Salad ($8.95) is a bright, attractive composition of seasonal fruit, sweet peas, corn, chickpeas,
dried cranberries and pistachios atop crisp organic lettuce.

But this is a very limited menu. For starters, your choice is fresh but otherwise expensive Vietnamese-style spring rolls ($5.50) and Crumbled Sensation ($7.95). Crumbled Sensation is the Loving Hut version of Buffalo wings, fried shrimp or Indian fritters. These are yams in yam-flour batter, deep-fried and served with mayo-free tartar sauce and a refreshing mound of cole slaw.

If you must have dessert, have a fresh fruit muffin ($3.50). It’s a little spongy, but tasty and topped with a streusel crust. Egg-free flan ($2.95) is toothache-sweet and has serious texture issues. Chocolate tofu ice cream ($3.50) and mango sorbet ($6.50) are like astronaut or camping desserts.

Everyone who works at Loving Hut is a vegan. If all you know about vegans is that they shun all animal products, Loving Hut serves a purpose. It helps answer the question “What do vegans eat, anyway?”
There’s plenty of Best Picture buzz these days about “Slumdog Millionaire,” director Danny Boyle’s tale of an unlikely game-show champion in Mumbai. Reviewers are raving on the Pen- isula, too. All three of our main film critics, Jeanne Aufmuth, Tyler Hanley and Susan Tavernetti, put “Slumdog Millionaire” on their lists for the top 10 movies of 2008. Although no other movie is on all the lists, two out of three critics agreed on several films, including “Milk” and “Rachel Getting Married.” There’s lots of Oscar humming here as well: Sean Penn for Best Actor; Anne Hathaway (who had quite a year) for Best Actress; and Victoria Stilwell’s Cesar as Best Supporting Actress. Then there are the more unusual pronouncements. Many reviewers loved Clint Eastwood’s “Gran Torino,” but Aufmuth put it on her “panned” list. And Hanley called “Man” — not your emblematic Oscar pick — the second-best movie the year had to offer. Will Oscar agree with our critics? We’ll get an idea on Jan. 22, when the award nominees are announced, and find out for sure at the awards ceremony on Feb. 22.

The winsome robot WALL-E also gets some kudos: Hanley has chosen him as one of 2008’s best cinematic heroes. Although no other movie is on all the lists, two out of three critics agreed on several films, including “Milk” and “Rachel Getting Married.” There’s lots of Oscar humming here as well: Sean Penn for Best Actor; Anne Hathaway (who had quite a year) for Best Actress; and Victoria Stilwell’s Cesar as Best Supporting Actress. Then there are the more unusual pronouncements. Many reviewers loved Clint Eastwood’s “Gran Torino,” but Aufmuth put it on her “panned” list. And Hanley called “Man” — not your emblematic Oscar pick — the second-best movie the year had to offer. Will Oscar agree with our critics? We’ll get an idea on Jan. 22, when the award nominees are announced, and find out for sure at the awards ceremony on Feb. 22.

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aucmuth
Continued from page 17
economics professor into a graceful, compassionate soul who opened his heart to the possibility.
5. MAN ON WIRE — With breathtaking harmony James Marsh balanced tempo, humor and passion in the retelling of high-wire artist Philippe Petit’s stunning walk across New York’s City’s tempo, humor and passion in the retelling of high-wire artist Philippe Petit’s stunning walk across New York’s City’s tempo, humor and passion in the retelling of high-wire artist Philippe Petit’s stunning walk across New York’s City’s tempo, humor and passion in the retelling of high-wire artist Philippe Petit’s stunning walk across New York’s City’s tempo, humor and passion in the retelling of high-wire artist Philippe Petit’s stunning walk across New York’s City’s tempo, humor and passion in the retelling of high-wire artist Philippe Petit’s stunning walk across New York’s City’s tempo, humor and passion in the retelling of high-wire artist Philippe Petit’s stunning walk across New York’s City’s tempo, humor and passion in the retelling of high-wire artist Philippe Petit’s stunning walk across New York’s 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a dystopian Earth, kids haven't had the opportunity to be this traumatized since Bambi lost his mother. But Pixar's animated adventure stars the most lovable garbage-compacting robot who picks up a love interest, a cause and hope along the way. Gloriously inventive and technologically stunning, "WALL-E" has a big green heart.

4. THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON — A story about a man who ages backwards sounds like a gimmick. It's not. Eric Roth's mature screenplay allows Brad Pitt's Benjamin Button to see and be seen differently than ordinary people. A technological tour de force, David Fincher's film about love and loss has an understated eloquence, inclusive spirit and melancholy soul.

3. FROST/NIXON — Moisture on Richard Nixon's lip during televised debates might have cost him the 1960 presidential election. It won't make him lose the sympathy vote in director Ron Howard's slick adaptation of Peter Morgan's stage play, based on the interviews between the Brit TV host and the disgraced former leader. Michael Sheen/Frank Langella face off as the title characters in this incisive, entertaining drama that puts Tricky Dick in the hot seat.

2. WALTZ WITH BASHIR — Israeli writer-director Ari Folman proves that animation isn't just for kids anymore. His haunting animated feature about the shock-and-awe war inflicts on the human psyche unspools images and vivid hues. Representing Israel's collective amnesia, Folman and his friends must sift through their blocked memory banks to separate historical fact from fancy. Only then can they confront their role in the 1982 invasion of Lebanon and the subsequent Sabra and Shatila refugee camp massacres — in hopes such violence will never happen again.

1. SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE — British director Danny Boyle packages the plight of the Mumbai orphans and their quest for survival into a pulse-pounding game show format. The cinematic version of "Everything I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in the Slums" emerges as the year's most affecting film. How did he do it? A. He cheated crafting an engrossing love and rags-to-riches story that only reminds viewers at the end that the fairy tale finale is, unfortunately, "only a movie". B. He's lucky (to have cast sympathetic London star Dev Patel in the lead role). C. He's a genius (with a signature visual style and the ability to insert challenging subject matter into crowd-pleasing genres). D. It is written (in Vikas Swarup's novel and Simon Beaufoy's smart script).
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

(County 16, Century 20) In early-century Louisiana an unusual child is born. The baby looks like a widened old man and isn't expected to live. With the persistent efforts of his Korean War vet Walt Kowalski with a chip on his shoulder the size of the Matterhorn, Benjamin Button beats the odds and continues to thrive, so well that he appears to grow younger as he advances in years. Benjamin's meeting with 7-year-old Daisy (Elle Fanning) has a profound effect on his life, her presence a stabilizing force that ebbs and flows throughout the years. Benjamin and the adult Daisy (Cate Blanchett) inexplicably meet halfway on the age spectrum — on her way to the graceful golden years and to his ultimate youth — a joyous and profoundly sad state of affairs. Rated: PG-13 for brief violence, sexual content and language. 2 hours, 47 minutes. — J.A.

Doubt

(County 16, Century 20) There is no doubt that Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams and Viola Davis are the three best reasons to see John Patrick Shanley's adaptation of his Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning drama. If acting for the screen is truly about reacting, then their naturalistic and nuanced performances help counter Meryl Streep's more mannered turn that rings so false at the end. Shanley's examination of moral issues is another good reason to catch the battle between razor-tongued Sister Aloysius (Streep) and congenial Father Flynn (Hoffman), whom she suspects of pedophilia. No evidence exists that the priest has behaved inappropriately with the parochial high school's first black student (Joseph Foster). The narrative construct teeters on the concept of reasonable doubt — and the blindness and intolerance of those making unjustified accusations. Or are they? Rated: PG-13 for thematic material. 1 hour. 44 minutes. — S.T.

Frost/Nixon

(County 16, Century 20) An overly confident "Tricky Dick" Nixon accepts "entertainer" David Frost's invitation to televise a series of interviews in 1977 — for the right price. The stakes are high for both the disgraced former president and the underrated television talk-show host. "Frost/Nixon" is more psychologically cat-and-mouse game than verbal sparring match. Ron Howard directs the film at a breakneck clip, pausing only to reveal glimpses into each man's character. Engrossing emotionally and intellectually, this showdown shouldn't be missed. Rated: R for some language. 2 hours, 2 minutes. — S.T.

GRAN TORINO

(County 16, Century 20) In early-century California we meet Walt (Clint Eastwood, stars and directs himself as cantankerous Korean War vet Walt Kowalski with a chip on his shoulder the size of the Matterhorn. He lives alone and has no relationship to speak of with his adult sons. Walt appears to grow younger as he advances in years. Benjamin's meeting with 7-year-old Daisy (Elle Fanning) has a profound effect on his life, her presence a stabilizing force that ebbs and flows throughout the years. Benjamin and the adult Daisy (Cate Blanchett) inexplicably meet halfway on the age spectrum — on her way to the graceful golden years and to his ultimate youth — a joyous and profoundly sad state of affairs. Rated: PG-13 for brief violence, sexual content and language. 2 hours, 47 minutes. — J.A.

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after he attempts to steal Walt’s prized, cherry-condition 1972 Gran Torino. Walt puts Thao to work in his home and yard, grudgingly handing over small odd jobs and offering mainly advice on testosterone and tools. A relationship blossoms as Walt breaks out of his shell and Thao feels admiration for the father figure he never had (grun). Overall, a poorly acted and heavily cliched melodrama. Rated: R for language and violence. 1 hour, 56 minutes. — J.A.

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD 1/2
(Guild, Century 20) Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio are literally at each other’s throats as April and Frank Wheeler, the classic 1950s golden couple who suddenly find theuster lost from their white-picket-fence union. Through a series of deft flashbacks director Sam Mendes builds a story of suburban ennui, a stifling boredom compounded by two kids and dead-end jobs. The build-up gains slow momentum but once “Road” finds its rhythm it’s positively devastating. Rated: R for language and nudity. 1 hour, 59 minutes. — J.A.

VALKYRIE 1/2
(Century 16, Century 20) Tom Cruise teams with auteur Bryan Singer for this gripping suspense/drama about the attempted assassination of Adolf Hitler in 1944 Nazi Germany. Cruise spearheads a spectacular cast as Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg, a confident soldier and family man suffering from the physical and emotional effects of service under Hitler’s maniacal leadership. Eager to raise his children in a Hitler-less Germany, where fear and the fury of war don’t blanket the country like a black cloud, von Stauffenberg sides with a handful of high-ranking German generals to scheme Hitler’s downfall. Surreptitiously the German Resistance begins to plan the execution of Project Valkyrie, an emergency protocol intended to shift military power away from the SS following Hitler’s death. Rated: PG-13 for violence and brief strong language. 2 hours. — T.H.

THE WRESTLER 1/2
(Century 16) Mickey Rourke plays true to type as a washed-up wrestler perpetually on the verge of a comeback. Randy “The Ram” Robinson doesn’t have a lot to live for save for the glory of his 1980s gladiator days. He moonlights at trade shows and wrestles in small halls by night, high on the memories of yesterday’s adulation. He’s estranged from his angry daughter (Evan Rachel Wood), eating painkillers like candy and living in relative squalor in a New Jersey trailer park. Randy befriends a warm-hearted stripper named Cassidy (Marisa Tomei) at his local club but she plays it cool and gently rebuffs his awkward advances. An unexpected medical condition is Randy’s wake-up call, the kind of second chance that could be his last. The climax is the ultimate in raw conclusions, leaving a disheartening life in grim perspective. Rated: R for violence, language, nudity and sexuality. 1 hour, 45 minutes. — J.A.

MOVICRITICS
S.T.-Susan Taverretti,
J.A.-Jeanne Aufmuth, T.H.-Tylar Hanley

Innovator of the Future
Rambus Scholarship 2009

$10,000 Scholarship Opportunity

Rambus Inc. is offering up to two $10,000 college scholarships to graduating high school seniors from Mountain View and Los Altos area high schools. The scholarship considers academic and extracurricular achievements, leadership, and communication skills, but is particularly targeted towards students who demonstrate strong interest in science and technology.

Applications are available now; the application deadline is February 6, 2009. Interested students should contact the school’s scholarship coordinator for more details, or visit: www.rambus.com/scholarship

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HER POSITION ON RETIREMENT LIVING?

Moldaw Family Residences
Is The Perfect Fit!

“My internal map of reality tells me constantly that the best is yet to come.” - Lily Anne Hillis

Lily Anne Hillis takes a different twist on life. She teaches yoga for all ages, makes her own compost for her rose garden and considers herself a movie maven. She also wants to stay intertwined with people of all ages and cultures. So she decided Moldaw Family Residences would be the perfect fit for her.

As part of the multi-generational Taube Koret Campus for Jewish Life, Moldaw Family Residences will give you unlimited opportunity to stay connected to the world around you, no matter what your idea of enjoying life is.

Call or visit us online to find out what Lily Anne and many others have already discovered. But don’t wait — we’re already 76% reserved, and construction is well underway.

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366 Cambridge Avenue - Palo Alto CA 94306
www.899charleston.org - 650.321.4188

Moldaw Family Residences at 899 Charleston welcomes and admission is open to older adults of all faiths, ethnicities and racial backgrounds.
**CLASSES/WORKSHOPS**

**Car-seat Safety Workshop - New Parents** in this Child Passenger Safety Workshop, learn car-seat safety, how to select the proper seat, installation tips, and the correct way to secure a child in a car seat. Thu., Jan. 22, 6-7 p.m. Free. Whole Foods, 4800 El Camino Real, Los Altos. Call 415-722-8851.

**Cheese Please!** Learn to make mozzarella and chevre cheese. Ages 7 and up. Sat., Jan. 24, 3:30-5 p.m. $15 per person. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. http://www.hiddenvilla.org/calendar.php

**Connecting with your child every day** joining parenting coach Susan Stone Belton to learn why spending time with their child is the most important thing they can do, and learn new communication techniques that help to develop close bonds. Tue., Jan. 20, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. City of Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6897. http://www.cityofmv.org/library


**Topo. Outdoor Recreation mapping software** National Geographic Maps will show you, with your own GPS or Google Earth, the area of interest you are exploring. Thu., Jan. 22, 7-9 p.m. Free. REI Mountain View, 2450 Charleston Road, Mountain View. Call 650-969-1938. www.rei.com/mountainview

**Navigating with National Geographic:** Learn how to use your GPS with Map Software. Ted Galusha of National Geographic Maps will show you, step-by-step, how to use your GPS with TOPO. Outdoor Recreation mapping software to plan your next day hike or backcountry adventure. Thu., Jan. 28, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. REI Mountain View, 2450 Charleston Road, Mountain View. Call 650-969-1938. www.rei.com/mountainview

**Tuning your snowboard** a demonstration of the steps in the tuning process, how to tune it so that your skis/boards ride smooth glide – these are just a few of the benefits you’ll experience, when your skis/boards are properly tuned and waxed. Thu., Jan. 22, 7-9 p.m. Free. East West Book Store, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-494-6025. http://www.eastwestbooks.com


**Environmental Docent-Led Walks of the Mountain View-Los Altos Shores** Each walk will explore different areas of the ecosystem in Mountain View-Los Altos Shores, as long as there is one adult per child. Nature is provided. Wear gardening clothes and bring water. Location: Meet at Castro School front office. Thu., Jan. 22, 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Free. Mariano Castro School, 505 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. http://www.MVLPShoreline.org

**Environmental Processes; Ecosystems; Birds, mammals, served up with a dash of bracing British humor,** The Pear Theater says. Jan. 9-Feb. 8. www.peartheater.com

**Community Events**

**Los Altos Library Book Sale** Three-day book sale sponsored by Friends of the Los Altos Library, Fri., Jan. 23, Friends members only 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sat., Jan. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat., and rare editions. Sun., Jan. 25, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cash only. Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-948-7683. http://local-toollibraryfriends.org

**St. Joseph School Open House** St. Joseph School will hold its annual Open House and Science/Fair Jan. 15. It is also accepting applications for the 2009/2010 school year. 12:15-2:15 p.m. Free. St. Joseph School, 1210 Miramar Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-967-1839.

**DANCE**

**English Country Dance** Peninsula English Country Dance welcomes all, from beginners to experienced dancers. No partner needed, all dances taught. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Dance meets 1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesdays through July 2009. 8:10 p.m. $15 members, $20 guests. Flex-it Studios, 425 Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-493-6012.

**English Country Dancing** English Country Dancing. Live music provided, all dances taught, comfortable clothing and shoes. 1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesdays through June. 8:10 p.m. $15 members, $20 guests. Flex-it Studios, 425 Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-493-6012.

**On Stage**


**Food and Families**

**MPVNS Open House** Parents and children welcome at a Mountain View Parent Nursery School open house. MPVNS is a leading NAEYC accredited parent cooperative nursery school, where parents’ involvement is key to the best early-childhood experience for their children. Sun., Jan. 17, 2009, 10 a.m.-noon Free. Mountain View Parent Nursery School, 1299 Bryant Avenue, Mountain View. Call 650-969-9506. www.mpvns.org

**PACT School Tour - Arts Focus** The PACT School is a public magnet school accepting K-5 students from all districts, celebrating over 10 years of its innovateing developmental, parent-participation model. Visit PACT classrooms during the school day. Meet at Castro School front office. Thu., Jan. 22, 9:10 a.m. Free. Mariano Castro School, 505 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. www.pactschool.net

**Webex:**

**Sue McCabe** will display a program by the San Carlos photographer on display through Jan. 31. The exhibit features landscapes, seascapes, and cityscapes of Ireland from Ms. McCabe’s recent travels to the country. Thu., Sat. – 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. noon-4 p.m. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

**Ireland** Recent paintings by Sue McCabe on display through Jan. 31. The exhibit features landscapes, seascapes, and cityscapes of Ireland from Ms. McCabe’s recent travels to the country. Thu., Sat. – 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. noon-4 p.m. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Los Altos Library Book Sale** Three-day book sale sponsored by Friends of the Los Altos Library. Fri., Jan. 23, Friends members only. 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sat., Jan. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sun., Jan. 25, noon to 3 p.m. Cash only. Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-948-7683. http://local-toollibraryfriends.org

**DANCE**

**English Country Dance** Peninsula English Country Dance welcomes all, from beginners to experienced dancers. No partner needed, all dances taught. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Dance meets 1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesdays through July 2009. 8:10 p.m. $15 members, $20 guests. Flex-it Studios, 425 Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-493-6012.

**English Country Dancing** English Country Dancing. Live music provided, all dances taught, comfortable clothing and shoes. 1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesdays through June. 8:10 p.m. $15 members, $20 guests. Flex-it Studios, 425 Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-493-6012.

**On Stage**


**LIVE MUSIC**

**Didjeridoo Sound Healing Concert** Didjeridoo artist, healer and musician Paradiso. Joining him will be special guests Bodhi (singing) and neighbor John Flewitt. Sun., Jan. 24, $15 in advance, $20 day of event. East West Book Store, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-940-7242. www.southernsilenthistoriccenter.org
Imagining all we can do together
The Campaign for El Camino Hospital

El Camino Hospital has provided caring, compassionate, and technologically superior health care to our community for over 40 years. Now, you can help preserve the tradition of excellence that is critically important to our community.

A Charitable Gift Annuity is a life-income gift that locks in a guaranteed rate of return and gives you an immediate charitable income tax deduction.

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PA: 756 PA Ave., 1/18, 10-6
Enjoy shopping! Women's temps, and high end clothes, shoes and steed. Variety of styles and prices. More.

San Carlos: 940 Commercial St. Suite G, Every Saturday, 10-4, Estate Sale Warehouse. Every Saturday 10-4, 4500sf of quality furniture, deco-
art, lighting and carpet, 18th cen-
tury to modern, value pricing, convenient access, and parking. (650) 453-8591

215 Collectibles & Antiques
Decals Show Scale Models
January ANTIQUE SALE At The Addison Antique Store
# Alma St. and Addison Ave.

220 Computers/ Electronics
GET A NEW COMPUTER Brand Name laptops & desktops. Bad or broken? No problem. We offer the best options and the best service.

220 Computers/ Electronics
Don't Overpay for a Laptop!

225 Music Lessons
violin & viola lessons

225 Music Lessons
violin & viola lessons

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violin & viola lessons

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violin & viola lessons

230 Freebies
60 feet of 1/2" steel conduit - FREE
235 Wanted to Buy
A New Slant on Life - $15.00
240 For Sale/

240 For Sale/

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MANOR WAY, LOS ALTOS
Offered for $1,398,000

LUNDY LANE, LOS ALTOS
Offered for $1,748,998

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**LOS ALTOS HILLS**

**25870 RIDGE LANE**

$2,295,000

This approx. 4300 sq. ft. home offers great living space for the active family. The spacious home boasts 5 BR/4.5BA & an open kitchen/living room floor plan. Filled with light, there are wonderful vistas from most rooms. Downstairs, there is a second family room which opens to the pool. Close in location & excellent Los Altos Schools.

**LOS ALTOS**

**287 QUINNHILL RD.**

$2,648,000

Fabulous Wendell Roscoe designed home perched high on a knoll top with views of the hills. The great floor plan features a large great room, formal dining room surrounded by windows with views and a lower level room with bath that could be used as a four bedroom, office or theater room. Beautiful mature landscaping and patio enhance outdoor living with pool and koi pond.

**LOS ALTOS HILLS**

**ENTERTAINER'S DELIGHT**

$13,600,000

This elegant estate includes a library, two family rooms, theater room, au-pair quarters, wine making facility, pool, cabana, 8-10 car garage. MBR suite w/sep. retreat and fireplace. 2,000 SF guest house. This approx. 4300 sqft family home offers great living space for the active family. The spacious home boasts 6 BR/4.5BA & an open Kitchen/Family rm floor plan. Filled with light, there are wonderful vistas from most rooms. Downstairs, there is a second family rm which opens to the pool. Close in location & excellent Los Altos Schools.

**BURLINGAME**

**GORGEOUS TOP FLOOR UNIT**

$589,900

Wonderful end unit features two bedrooms, two baths, kitchen, dining area, breakfast nook, living area. Great views of the hills. Light and airy top floor unit with high ceilings, convenient location near downtown Burlingame.

**LOS ALTOS HILLS**

**YOUR CHANCE TO BUILD!**

$2,395,000

Preliminary plans available for European estate with approx. 11,000 SF plus a sep. guest house & 4-car garage. Lot may be purchased separately. MDA: 110,051 / MFA: 8,477

**LOS ALTOS**

**DESIRABLE LOCATION**

$4,200,000

Designated a Historical Home by the City of Los Altos and enjoying the benefits of the Mills Act, this elegant and charming hm is approx. 4,000 sq & includes 4BR/3.5BA, formal LR, DR, Kitchen w/butler’s pantry, Fam rm, and large third flr recreation rm. Located just blocks from downtown Los Altos.

**MOUNTAIN VIEW**

**MINUTES TO TOWN**

$889,500

Spacious bungalow style home near downtown Mountain View. Large back yard, 3br/2ba, approximately 1700 sq. ft. of living space. Large family room with fireplace, hardwood floors, freshly painted.

**OPPORTUNITY AWAITS!**

$439,000

Build to suit. Private setting located within 2 blocks of downtown Mt. View, Caltrain, VTA, & local restaurants. Water & sewer lines installed. Utilities available. Drive by today! Priced to sell!

**SUNNYVALE**

**COMING SOON!**

$699,000

Great Townhouse in Prime Location with West Valley Elementary, Cupertino Middle and Homestead High. Other features include, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, updated kitchen w/ new cabinets & Granite counter top, new Hardwood floors & doors & much more.
867 Georgetown Place
San Jose

Open House Sunday January 18th 1:30-4:30 pm

Stunning executive end unit home with luxurious upgrades, features, & designer paints throughout.

Premium location: Interior of neighborhood, private, quiet, close to Light Rail, Amtrak, Caltrain, HP Pavilion, Cahill Park, The Alameda Neighborhood.

Largest unit, big wrap-around patio.

3 bedrooms 2 1/2 baths.

Offered at $699,000

Beachfront Home
Aptos

Come enjoy the Monterey Bay beachfront home. Country English style home built 1928. Step down to the beach from your deck. This is a very private location in a gated community of 29 homes. Built by Dutch contractor Lou Foote in old County English style fashioned after the Anne Hathaway House. 4 bedrooms 2 baths.

By appointment only.

Offered at $6,250,000

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4BR/2.5BA. Largest floor plan in Cuernavaca! Euro-style eat-in kitchen, master retreat with fireplace & sunken tub. Formal living & dining rooms. Great Backyard

IN DESIRABLE CUESTA PARK $985,000
3BR/2BA. Bright & updated w/double pane windows, hardwood floors, fireplace, bonus room, built-in storage loft in 2 car garage

STEEL FRAME-NEW HOME $698,000

BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED $1,099,000
3BR/2BA. Refinished hardwood floors, crown molding & raised panel doors. Eat-in kitchen w/granite counter, bay window, & recessed lights. Living Room w/vaulted ceiling.


Custom designed home is overflowing with high-end finishes. No expense has been spared in building this residence. Stunning entry. Formal living & dining rooms. Chef’s delight kitchen has high end appliances. Oversized family room. Spectacular master suite. Expansive patio. CAT 5, wiring for surround sound, intercom & more!

Tastefully updated ranch on peaceful cul-de-sac location near Los Altos/Mountain View border. Terrific Los Altos schools.


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