County turnout even lower than expected

THOSE WHO DO VOTE GIVE THUMBS-DOWN TO FIVE OF SIX STATE PROPOSITIONS

By Casey Weiss

As a few people trickled into City Hall during their lunch hour to vote in Tuesday's special election, poll workers said it was the most crowded they had seen the polling center all day. “This is now our rush hour,” said poll worker Toby Garcia.

Election workers throughout the city and county had similar stories, with an even smaller percentage than expected of registered voters showing up to vote. Those who did vote were in a generally negative mood about the election, turning down five of the six statewide measures by a wide margin. The only one that passed, Proposition 1F, put a cap on pay raises for state politicians — the very politicians who put the measures on the ballot in the first place — whenever California has a deficit.

A majority of local voters mailed in their ballots beforehand, or dropped them off at one of the 20 Mountain View polling centers, leaving only a handful of people to vote

SCHOOLS BRACE FOR CUTS IN WAKE OF BALLOT DEFEATS

By Casey Weiss

After watching five of the state's six budget measures go down in flames Tuesday, local school administrators had one overarching response: Our schools and community colleges have a rough road ahead.

“We don’t know the impact to us, but education is going to be hit substantially,” said Joe White, associate superintendent of business services for the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District.

On Tuesday, school administrators agreed it was too early to tell exactly what the election results meant for local districts, which are still waiting to see how much will come from the federal stimulus package.

But even though uncertainty reigned, administrators were sure they would be crunching numbers through the summer in an effort to balance their budgets.

"Everyone thinks when they do the election projections at 8:03 p.m., we will know," White said. "We will not know for the longest time about the impacts." State politicians, he noted, "still have to pass a budget."

See ELECTION, page 9

See REACTION, page 9

Gazing into the city’s future

MONTA LOMA NEIGHBORHOOD IS FIRST STOP FOR SERIES OF GENERAL PLAN MEETINGS

By Daniel DeBolt

A series of neighborhood hearings on the city's General Plan kicked off at Monta Loma Elementary School on Monday.

About 60 residents of the “Monta Loma, Farley and Rock Street” neighborhood assembled in the school's multi-purpose room to discuss the city's future. The city is currently updating its General Plan, which aims to translate residents' hopes and aspirations into a set of policies guiding the city's physical development.

Residents broke into small discussion groups as mediators busily wrote down almost any idea mentioned in discussions on various topics, and presented it to the group. The mediators wrote down about 100 ideas after the meeting.

See GENERAL PLAN, page 11

Thoits sells

FIRM TO UNLOAD KEY 14-ACRE PLOT AT SAN ANTONIO CENTER

By Daniel DeBolt

After owning the land for more than 60 years, Thoits Brothers Inc. has decided to sell its portion of the San Antonio shopping center to a developer who appears to have a fresh vision for the property.

Merlone Geier Partners of San Diego has agreed to buy a key 16 acres at the corner of San Antonio Road and El Camino Real for an undisclosed amount. The Thoits family decided to sell after the family's plans for...
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The City of Mountain View is updating its General Plan!

The General Plan is a comprehensive, long-range document which includes a number of important goals and policies regarding Mountain View’s future.

Please join us at one of the scheduled meetings in your neighborhood area to tell us:

- What are your neighborhood's future needs for housing, transportation, services and parks?
- What opportunities are there to improve the future of the city and your neighborhood?

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Schedule and Map of Meeting Areas
All Meetings 6:30 to 8:30 pm unless noted otherwise

For more information, please visit www.mountainview2030.com.
If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Community Development Department at (650) 903-9306 or e-mail: community.dev@mountainview.gov.
What could Craigslist do to make its services safer?

"Require people to have a Facebook profile before they post, like Facebook Connect, that would at least provide some background information on the person posting."  
**Sean Ross**, Mountain View

"It’s pretty much impossible to make it safe; it’s easy to lie about anything and no one can tell.”  
**Jessica Candelaria**, Mountain View

"Like any other classified there’s no way to check anything about anyone. Anybody can advertise on it and you can’t do background checks.”  
**Karen Gentry**, San Jose

"Craigslist is getting a bad rap. They do try to make sure posts are legitimate by having the flagging system. They do a lot more good than bad. People are just focusing too much on the bad things that have happened recently.”  
**John Squire**, Los Altos

"It would be impossible to screen everyone, it would cost too much. You’re taking a risk when you use Craigslist, there’s a disclaimer and it’s at your own risk. Use common sense, don’t walk into a trap, and never give or take cash.”  
**Delphina Turner**, Campbell

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HINT: Blindspot monitoring technologies are emerging that allow drivers to see angles that currently present safety issues.

Larry’s Knows...
Brought to you by Larry & Laurie Moore

Looking Back

The community comes FIRST


Local News

Auto Burglary
24 Hour Fitness on Showers Ave., 5/11
200 block Old Middlefield Way, 5/11
Century 16 Cinema, 5/11
Keller Dr./Tyrell Ave., 5/13
140 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/13
330 block Mariposa Ave., 5/15
95 block High School Way, 5/15
75 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/15
260 block Terminal Blvd., 5/15

Assault
5. Rengstorff Ave./Stanford Ave., 5/14

Battery
260 block W. El Camino Real, 5/11
Alta Vista High School, 5/11
E. El Camino Real/Hwy 237, 5/16

Driving Under the Influence
300 block Moffett Blvd., 5/10
200 block Castro St., 5/10
Highway 85/Moffett Blvd., 5/11
430 block N. Whisman Rd., 5/16
Leghorn St./N. Rengstorff Ave., 5/16
Cypress Point Dr./Dead end, 5/16

Domestic Disturbance
400 block Del Medio Ave., 5/12
800 block E. El Camino Real, 5/13
220 block Escuela Ave., 5/15

 Disorderly Conduct
200 block Mountain View Ave., 5/11

Identity Theft
400 block San Antonio Rd., 5/12
400 block San Antonio Rd., 5/12
150 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/11
600 block Showers Dr., 5/15

Missing Person - Adult
400 block Sylvan Ave., 5/12

Missing Person - Juvenile
500 block View St., 5/15
140 block Calderon Ave., 5/15
220 block Ortega Ave., 5/16

Narcotics Possession
Central Exp./Rengstorff Ave., 5/11

Parole Violation
0 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 5/10

Petty Theft
200 block Monroe Dr., 5/10
Central Liquors, 5/10
100 block Villa Nova Ct., 5/11
400 block San Antonio Rd., 5/11
230 block Middlefield Rd., 5/11
100 block Terra Bella Ave., 5/11
100 block N. Whisman Rd., 5/12
500 block Del Medio Ave., 5/12
Graham Middle School, 5/12
2500 block California St., 5/12
400 block Mountain View Ave., 5/13
220 block Rock St., 5/14
580 block Franklin St., 5/14
190 block Monteeco Ave., 5/14
Safeway on Miramonte Ave., 5/15
240 block Old Middlefield Way, 5/15
260 block Baytree Dr., 5/15
700 block E. El Camino Real, 5/16
270 N. Whisman Rd., 5/16

Possession of Marijuana
0 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 5/14
190 block San Luis Ave., 5/14

Recovered Stolen Vehicle
190 block Latham St., 5/10
60 block Showers Dr., 5/11
150 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/11
600 block Showers Dr., 5/15

Robbery
130 block Dale Ave., 5/10
800 block San Luca Ave., 5/11
7-Eleven, 5/16

Stolen Vehicle
N. Shoreline Blvd./Space Park Way, 5/10
290 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/11
600 block Showers Dr., 5/12
400 block San Antonio Rd., 5/12
150 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/13
90 block Alta Ave., 5/13
60 block Castro St., 5/14

Suspected Child Abuse
200 block W. El Camino Real, 5/11

Vandalism
700 block Castro St., 5/11
240 block Leland St., 5/11
250 block California St., 5/12
300 block Ortega Ave., 5/13
100 block Linda Vista Ave., 5/13
190 block Monteeco Ave., 5/13
60 block Devonshire Ave., 5/13
College Ave./Jelad Ave., 5/14
30 block Nita Ave., 5/15
Police Department, 5/15

The Mountain View Voice is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co. 635 W Evelyn Ave, Ste 3, Mountain View, CA 94041 (650) 966-6300. Application to mail at Periodical Postage Rates is Pending at Mountain View, CA. The Mountain View Voice is mailed free to homes and apartments in Mountain View. Voluntary subscriptions at $10 per year ($55 for two years) are welcome from local residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is $55 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Mountain View Voice, 635 W Evelyn Ave Ste 3, Mountain View, CA 94041. © 2009 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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City ranked 4th-best
FORBES LIST GOOD TO MOUNTAIN VIEW, BUT MISSES THE RESTAURANTS
By Daniel DeBolt

Of all the cities and towns in the U.S. with populations under 100,000, Mountain View has been ranked by Forbes magazine as the fourth best to live in and the best in the Bay Area.

A May 4 Forbes story titled “America’s Top 25 Towns to Live Well” states that, compared to most cities, Mountain View is more likely to rebound from the economic recession and has the sort of business environment often seen only in large cities.

The top 25 list was created by San Francisco-based ZoomProspector.com, which factored in data such as business environment, cultural attractions, average commute time, entrepreneurs per capita, the number of educated professionals between 25 and 34 years old and median income.

Mountain View topped the list in terms of venture capital activity. The report also says Mountain View residents commute 20 minutes to work on average, which is low for the Bay Area.

The city’s drawbacks as cited by Forbes are a lack of cultural attractions and, strangely, a lack of restaurants.

“Imagine how we would be rated if they figured out we did have plenty of restaurants and quite a few performing arts venues,” said city manager Kevin Duggan.

Cupertino ranked fifth on the list, while Foster City and Belmont ranked 10th and 11th, respectively.

Local News

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

College district picks interim chancellor

Casey Weiss

Two years after retiring as Foothill-De Anza's vice chancellor of business services, Mike Brandy has been called back to serve as the district's interim chancellor, trustees announced Monday.

Brandy, who worked in the college district’s administration for a decade, has agreed to fill in while the board searches for a replacement for Chancellor Martha Kanter, who President Obama has been nominated to be undersecretary of education.

Brandy has an MBA from Golden Gate University, and worked as an educator for more than three decades. He left Foothill-De Anza in 2007, but has continued to help the district with budget issues and its plan to develop a research park at NASA Ames.

“Mike Brandy brings us a steady hand and a deep knowledge of the district at a critical time,” board of trustees president Betsy Rechtel said in a press release. “His competent leadership will go a long way in ensuring a smooth transition and sense of continuity during a time of great challenge for the district.”

Pending her confirmation, Kanter will leave for Washington just as the district faces steep budget cuts, and administrators say Brandy has a strong understanding of community college finance.

He served as vice president of finance and college services at De Anza College before being promoted to the district’s chancellor of business services.

On Monday, district trustees approved Brandy’s interim position until mid-December, and hope to have a new chancellor in place by January 2010.

WHAT THEY SAID

Population: 70,960
Location: South of Palo Alto on the Bay Area peninsula
Median income: $88,736

Strongest categories: While there’s plenty more to Mountain View, the average commute time of 20 minutes is a rarely found pleasure of Bay Area living.
Credit Mountain View’s standing as our most active venture capital markets, for an abundance of entrepreneurs running their own businesses, which in turn means they don’t have to commute to bigger cities like San Jose and San Francisco.

Drawbacks: There aren’t a lot of restaurants, music venues, museums or cultural attractions in Mountain View, though it isn’t too far for residents to trek 15 miles to San Jose.

Data provided by ZoomProspector.com

MOUNTAIN VIEW’S YOUTH ARE HIS BEAT

MARCO GARCIA IS CHALLENGE TEAM’S OTHER ‘CHAMPION’

By Casey Weiss

As local community leaders honored Marco Garcia last week for his work with Mountain View youth, he thanked many of them by name for never giving up on him, for helping him to finish middle school, graduate from high school and eventually serve as a police officer in his home town.

Back in 1992, as a senior at Los Altos High School, Garcia faced expulsion for fighting. But board members at that time decided to give him another chance.
Some of those same school leaders, including Judy Hannemann, president of the Mountain View-Los Altos school board, came together again last week to talk about Marco Garcia. But this time it was to recognize him as one of their 2009 “Champions for Youth.”

Every year the Challenge Team — a group of local community leaders who meet monthly to work on issues facing at-risk youth — picks one or more people to honor for their good work as role models and mentors to local youth. This year the group recognized Garcia, 34, and fellow police Officer Katherine Comecansara during a breakfast on May 13. The two officers join dozens of other community leaders, including Hannemann and Garcia’s manager Kevin Duggan.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Fire station design ready, except for the art

By Daniel DeBolt

The Mountain View City Council recently approved plans for a new Shoreline fire station, and all the design needs now is a $67,000 piece of artwork, the city says.

By June 12, the city hopes to receive proposals from local artists for a work of art with a firefighting theme. It can stand on its own outside, like a sculpture, or be installed as a part of the building itself, like a mural or stained-glass window.

City policies state that all major city projects over $1 million put 1 percent of the cost towards public art. In this case, the station is expected to cost $6.7 million once it is constructed across the street from Shoreline Amphitheatre.

The request for proposals for artists can be found on the city’s Web site. Visit www.mountainviewonline.com for details.
THE approach ing clouds looked surreal,” wrote Jessica Gandhi, who sent in this photo of a sunset taken by Soosh Gandhi “from our backyard on Wake Forest Drive.” If you have a photo taken around town which you’d like published in the Voice, please send it (as a jpg attachment) to editor@mv-voice.com.

Mountain View’s Megan McArthur grabs hold of Hubble
ASTRONAUT USES ROBOTIC ARM TO SNAG TELESCOPE FROM ABOARD SPACE SHUTTLE ATLANTIS

McArthur attended Saint Francis High School. The school honored her by watching the Atlantis’ launch together.

NASA officials say five space walks will be needed to restore and renew the telescope. The first took place last Thursday.

Los Gatos hospital set to open July 12

By Casey Weiss

E l Camino executives, speaking at the hospital district’s regular board meeting last week, said the newly fashioned “El Camino Hospital Los Gatos” is scheduled to open in two months. But they added that “It will be a sprint until the end.”

After months of escrow, El Camino officially took over the former Community Hospital of Los Gatos on April 11. Executives closed the hospital’s doors soon after and plan to reopen it with a slightly different staff and some small renovations on July 12, according to the new the hospital’s new president, Eric Pifer. Staffers will run the facility as a second El Camino site, and plan to begin scheduling operations and deliveries as early as June.

“My confidence of getting the hospital open (in July) is actually going up,” Pifer told board members on Wednesday, May 13. Pifer said the hospital has already hired 50 new employees and still has over 275 positions posted online. Many of these new hires were previously employees at Community Hospital of Los Gatos, and some have already started performing surgeries at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, he said.

Executives are also overseeing minor upgrades at the new site, including new furniture in the lobby and emergency room, and will start developing a plan for long-term changes, Pifer said.

“We will keep it roughly in the same condition in which we bought it,” Pifer said.

The hospital plans to hold a community barbeque in early August to celebrate the reopening. Pifer said El Camino has been sending out letters to notify the public that the Los Gatos hospital will not stay closed indefinitely.

El Camino executives announced unexpectedly in December that they were in escrow to buy the new site. Following the announcement, more than 100 local residents signed a petition saying the new purchase would siphon away resources and money from the Mountain View facility, which is a public hospital and partially funded by local taxes.
Caltrain calls meetings on service cuts

Caltrain may also raise fares to deal with $10 million budget shortfall

Agency Facing projected deficit of over $10 million, Caltrain will hold public meetings next week to give Peninsula residents a chance to weigh in on plans to balance the agency’s budget.

Those plans could include increasing fees, suspending weekend service and service to Gilroy, and reducing midday service. To discuss those ideas, a meeting for South Bay residents will be held Wednesday, May 27 at 6 p.m. in the VTA Administrative Offices Auditorium, 3331 N. First Street, San Jose. For mid-Peninsula residents, a meeting will be held concurrently at Caltrain’s headquarters, 1250 San Carlos Ave., San Carlos.

At a Caltrain board of directors meeting two weeks ago, chief operating officer Chuck Harvey presented possibilities necessitated by the budget challenge the transit agency is facing. The changes discussed were eliminating all weekend service, reducing midday service to both zone and base fare by 25 cents each, and levying a surcharge on bicyclists. The changes may be implemented as early as October.

“We have to look for ways to close the budget shortfall,” Caltrain spokesperson Christine Dunn said last Friday, noting that the agency has been impacted by the budget challenges facing partner agencies, which include the city and county of San Francisco, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and San Mateo County Transit District.

“Each are grappling with budget challenges because they’re not going to receive state transit assistance funds,” Dunn said.

Dunn said the proposed measures would help Caltrain balance its budget. The agency is facing a $10.1 million budget deficit for the 2010 fiscal year.

Dunn said Caltrain estimates it would save about $2 million by eliminating all weekend service. Reducing midday service from a half-hourly basis to an hourly basis would save the agency about $2.5 million.

A 25-cent base fare hike would bring in about $1.5 million and a 25-cent per-zone increase would generate about $2.2 million, Dunn said. The increase of both fares would generate about $3.7 million.

Ridership is projected to be impacted, Dunn said. Caltrain estimated losing 1 million annual rides with the elimination of weekend service, and between 100,000 to 200,000 annual rides by cutting midday service.

The increase of the base fare would lead to the loss of an estimated 400,000 annual rides, and raising the zone fare would lose 600,000 annual rides. The implementation of both fare increases would cause Caltrain to lose about 1 million riders on an annual basis.

In January, Caltrain hiked its base fare by 25 cents in response to the high cost of diesel fuel.

Dunn said the community meetings held next week are to receive feedback on the measures under consideration.

At its next Caltrain board meeting on June 4, in addition to discussing the possible changes, the board intends to declare a state of fiscal emergency as it anticipates running out of money within the year. The board is scheduled to take action on the measures on July 2.

Comments on Caltrain’s plans will be accepted until June 4, when the agency’s board is scheduled to review the various proposals. The comments may be sent by e-mail to changes@caltrain.com; by mail to District Secretary, Caltrain, PO Box 3006, San Carlos, 94070; or by phone to (800) 660-4287. For more information, visit www.caltrain.com.

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To introduce you to our team for the NASA-Ames SEMAS Procurement. Please join us May 26, 2009 from 4:30 to 6:00 PM at: Hampton Inn and Suites 390 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View, CA 94043 Ph (650) 988-0300
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It was Miracle Garcia’s turn to talk about the community involvement.

Garcia, he added, “Thank you for allowing me to stay here.”

Garcia said his experiences growing up in Mountain View allow him to relate to the youth he works with every day. He always knew he had to eventually return home to work with them, he said.

“I see me in some of these kids, and I know they can make it,” he said.

Community leaders said they wanted to recognize Garcia for his work with Mesa de la Comunidad, a nonprofit Garcia started with his brother Oscar in 2005 to give the Latino community a voice. Garcia also worked as at-risk-intervention supervisor at Graham Middle School before training to become a police officer. He just finished his training this week.

He still serves as vice president of the Challenge Team event.

In Mountain View, Volunteering

“His dedication to troubled youth is unparalleled,” police Chief Scott Vermeer said during the Challenge Team event.

Garcia lives with his wife, daughters and extended family on the same property where he grew up. The Garcias built a new, bigger house there, he said, and living and working in Mountain View allows him to stay connected.

“It is unique to have the background I have,” he said. “I grew up here. I am part of the system.”

Garcia told Challenge Team members that he first started getting into trouble at Castro Elementary School, and was suspended as a third grader for bringing a switchblade to class. By the time he graduated he had had several run-ins with authority, and had fathered a child at age 18.

“I needed people to give me an opportunity,” he said. “I had to be at the right place at the right time.”

After graduation, Garcia joined the Marines and was stationed in Japan. When he returned to the states, he sold air conditioners. But he knew he was meant to work with kids.

“I was making some decent money, but that is not what I wanted to do,” he said.

While still in sales, Garcia began planning a camp for at-risk youth, and he realized that working with these kids was his true calling. He quit his job and started volunteering at Graham and the YMCA.

“It is only a thought if you never put it to action,” he said.

His volunteering at Graham turned into a job as at-risk coordinator for the school district. Even now, nearly a year after he left the middle school, parents and students are still turning to him for help.

He has tried to help the families and students as much as he can. After all, he said, he still sees himself in most of those students.

“I am just a little punk kid,” Garcia said. “And my name is going to be printed up forever as a Champion of Youth with people like Judy Hannemann.”

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com
MV Whisman made basic aid district

**SWITCH MEANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS GET MOST OF THEIR SUPPORT FROM PROPERTY TAXES**

By Casey Weiss

Further complicating the financial uncertainty over the Mountain View Whisman's future, the local elementary school district recently became a basic aid district, and will now be funded primarily through local property taxes.

The state uses a complex system to fund public schools, requiring that each district receives a minimum level of funding. Property taxes help to support the schools, but if these taxes do not provide enough money, the state funds the remainder by providing a direct payment per pupil.

Mountain View Whisman chief financial officer Craig Goldman uses the common “bucket” analogy to explain funding. If property taxes fill the bucket, the district is basic aid, and gets to keep the surplus. But if property taxes do not fill the bucket, the district is a revenue-limit district, meaning the state adds enough money to fill up the bucket.

Until recently, the Mountain View Whisman School District was a revenue limit district, meaning it received the majority of its funding from the state. But the district found out this spring that it will become a basic aid district, and should be officially certified in July.

“The state, facing a big deficit, is cutting back the amount of funding required to become a basic aid district,” Mountain View Whisman property taxes meet this smaller requirement.

“The amount of money the state is allocating,” Goldman said, “is projected to be less than the amount of property tax we will be collecting this year.”

The Los Altos School District and Mountain View-Los Altos High School District are both basic aid. Since Mountain View Whisman was a revenue limit district, it previously took bigger hits during budget cuts, since the state targeted many of its reduction at revenue-limit districts and cut back the amount of money it provided per pupil.

Now Mountain View Whisman administrators say the change in funding systems could protect them from some hits as the state continues to slash schools to balance its budget.

**REACTION**

*Continued from page 1*

The results of the special election came as a blow to the state Legislature, which put Propositions 1A through 1F before voters in hopes of stabilizing California’s troubled economy. Instead, voters defeated the first five measures by two-to-one margins.

California public schools have already been hit hard by budget cuts over the last several years, and Props 1A and 1B would have helped to refund $9.3 billion the state owes the schools. 1A would have put a reserve, and 1B would have used this reserve to pay back money the state owes educational institutions.

Since the Legislature passed a budget in February, California has fallen ever-further into debt, and now suffers from an estimated $15 billion shortfall. But after the rejection of the ballot measures, local school administrators said that number could grow to $21 billion, and worry that more than $5 billion could be cut from public schools and community colleges, depending on what the Legislature does next.

“These ballot measures are part of the budget solution,” Andy Dunn, vice chancellor of business for Foothill-De Anza, said before the election results were known. “Community colleges and K through 12 are really facing some tough budget times.”

White and Dunn said the deficit as it now stands could lead to cuts of more than $2 billion from the high school district and $28 million from Foothill-De Anza.

As for the Mountain View Whisman Elementary School District, administrators didn’t even hazard a guess, in part because the district just became a basic aid district, meaning that it will be primarily funded through property taxes (see story, this page). Craig Goldman, the district’s chief financial officer, said administrators are still waiting to see what happens next.

The district does expect cuts to some of its preschool programs, since California voters rejected a measure, Proposition 1D, aimed at changing the way the state funds social and educational programs for children under the age of 5.

In his May revise of the budget last week, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger predicted more painful cuts in education, depending on election results. These cuts were targeted at revenue-limit districts, which are school districts receiving the majority of their funding from the state.

The state has not yet laid out cuts to basic aid districts, but they could face reductions in funds to special programs and to things like maintenance.

**INFORMATION**

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Sources: Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters, League of Women Voters

As of Wednesday; some mail-in ballots still not counted

**ELECTION**

*Continued from page 1*

in person, volunteers said. By lunchtime, poll workers at City Hall said they had seen 57 voters.

“It has kind of come in spurts,” said poll worker Susan Webb. “But even so we haven’t had more than two or three at a time. But there has been a steady trickle all day.”

Officials at the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters were not surprised by the low turnout. On Monday, registrar spokesperson Elma Rosas said her office expected that only 40 percent of registered voters would cast ballots in the county. Of them, most had already voted by mail; the rest were expected to come to the polls on Tuesday.

By comparison, she said, around 60 percent of Santa Clara County voters cast ballots in the 2003 recall election, and 51 percent voted in the November 2005 special election.

“We are not seeing the excitement and interest this time,” Rosas said on Monday morning.

But the registrar’s predictions turned out to be optimistic. On Wednesday, Rosas said that only about 25 percent of registered voters in the county seem to have voted, although not all mail-in ballots had been counted.

**Budget battles**

After months of wrangling over the state’s budget deficit through 2010, California politicians finally passed a long-overdue budget in February. But even that budget wasn’t the final word on the matter. Legislators decided to let California voters make the decision on major aspects of the budget, including cuts to social and educational services, transferring money from special funds and deciding whether to borrow against lottery profits.

The complicated nature of the measures — and the fact that the state’s budget problems have only compounded since February — seem to have left many Californians frustrated with the job being done Sacramento. A May 1 Field Poll, for example, stated that “only 14 percent of the state’s registered voters now approve of the job that the state legislature is doing, while three out of four (74 percent) disapprove. This is the poorest rating of the state legislature ever recorded by the Field Poll in trend measures dating back to the early 1980s.”

The negative feelings toward legislators apparently translated into a lack of enthusiasm for this election. On Tuesday, some of those who did vote said they were disappointed in the apathy.

As she left Graham Middle School after dropping off her ballot, Mountain View resident Jan Austin said the empty polling center was “kind of sad.”

“And it’s at a school,” she added.

Austin said she had never missed an election, and this one seemed especially crucial since it would determine the funding for California public schools.

“My kids go to school,” Austin said. “I think it’s important.”

Jim Cripps filled out a provisional ballot at the same polling center at Graham, Cripps, a San Jose resident, said he forgot there was an election today, partially due to lack of hype.

He was in Mountain View substitute teaching, and was afraid he wouldn’t make it home in time to vote.

“I forgot today was the day,” Cripps said. “I knew it was coming on May 19th, but this morning was still a surprise.”

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com
Escuela condo project rejected
DEVELOPER WANTED ELEVATOR, UNDERGROUND GARAGE

By Daniel DeBolt

In a strange process Tuesday night, a 14-unit condo project at 574 Escuela Ave., was denied 6-1 by the City Council, even though several members appeared to support it.

Despite opposition from city staff who say the project is too large, developer Wayne Aozasa has been a passionate advocate for his three-story condo project across the street from Castro Elementary School, which he says would “diversify” the city’s housing. In efforts to meet the unmet need for housing suited for seniors, the classic hotel-style project, called “Escuela Terrace,” includes an elevator from an underground parking garage. A smaller project would make those items financially unfeasible, Aozasa says.

“If you are 63 years old and you go out looking for an apartment, where are you going to find a 1,400-square-foot unit that you don’t have to lift a foot to walk in?” Aozasa said Tuesday afternoon. “We are trying to diversify the housing stock and they are not permitting me to do that.”

After Aozasa refused to significantly change the project after several rounds of review by the City Planning Department, planning director Randy Tsuda allowed it to go before the council. Because the project lacked the legally required California Environmental Quality Act documents, the council was told by city attorney Michael Martello that they could not legally approve the project. Martello also cautioned against a detailed critique of the project. “The environmental document is something you have to have before you can weigh in,” he said.

Council member Jac Siegel was the biggest opponent of the project, saying the $700,000 price for each unit was not “affordable” for seniors. Other council members, including Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga and Mike Kasperzak, appeared to be supportive of Aozasa’s goal of more diversity in housing, and member John Inks seemed to like the design of his project. However, the council voted 6-1 to deny the project (Inks was opposed), after the city attorney told members that denial would be similar to allowing it to continue through the planning process.

Aozasa left the meeting unsure about what had happened. He appeared to be seriously considering giving up on his plans for the underground parking garage and the elevator. Tsuda encouraged him to come back the next morning to get started on a new project.

City planners said Aozasa’s vision could be brought into compliance with the zoning code with some adjustments, but in their professional opinion, the project would still be too large for the long, narrow parcel and would dominate the landscape when finished. City planners now want homes or townhouses for the site.

A church sits to the south, a single story duplex to the north, and an apartment building to the rear of similar height. Story poles currently sit on the site to show how the proposed structure compares to neighboring buildings.

Aozasa says his three-story, 33-foot-high project is well within the R3 zoning for the site, which allows for a height of 45 feet.

Despite meeting notices sent by the city to neighbors, no neighbors came to the meeting Tuesday night to oppose the project. But several neighboring property owners, some of whom have similarly shaped lots, showed up to support it.

At the end of the night, member Laura Macros suggested that the City Council make it clear what it wants for the long narrow lots, like Aozasa’s, that appear throughout Mountain View. City Manager Kevin Dugan suggested the council discuss the problem as part of the city’s General Plan update.

THOITS
Continued from page 1

“phased redevelopment” of the site failed to gain much traction in preliminary discussions with the city, co-owner Fred Thoits told the Voice.

“We talked about doing phased development ourselves,” Thoits said. “But the city didn’t like that.”

The 57-acre shopping center has been a popular topic in General Plan hearings, where residents have echoed the City Council’s call for redevelopment. But in February, Thoists told the Voice that redeveloping the shopping center in such a way was a “pipe dream” because of the center’s 16 owners and Wal-Mart’s 30-plus year lease. Thoits also expressed resentment towards the council for rejecting plans for a Home Depot to replace Sears, which he said cost his family $85 million in lease revenue over 35 years.

In a May 8 letter to planning director Randy Tsuda, Merlone Geier chairman Bradley Geier said his company is looking forward to planning a redevelopment of the property into a “modern retail shopping destination potentially incorporating other uses.”

The news of the sale pleased Thoits, who said he would like to see a mix of uses. Other Thoits family members have been out of direct management of the family since 1957,” Thoits said. It was leased to a developer who managed the Sears property until 2005 and the rest of the property until 2008.

E-mail Daniel DeBolt to ddebolt@mv-voice.com
COUNCIL GIVES STIMULUS FUNDS TO HOMEOWNERS

The City Council voted unanimously to give homeowners a break Tuesday night by directing federal stimulus funds towards home energy conservation. At a cost of $288,000, the city will have three to six new employee conduct energy audits of over 1,500 homes over the next two years. The audits will inform homeowners on how they can save money on energy bills, and several devices and appliances could be given to homeowners free of charge or at a discount to help save energy.

The city is receiving a total of $719,000 in stimulus funds aimed at energy conservation and job creation. In addition to the home energy audits, the city will also be installing LED light bulbs on some of the Cuesta Tennis courts, and will replace the turbines at Shoreline Park that turn the methane gas from the former landfill into electricity. The council decided to pass on the option of using some of the money to create a green building code.

The audits are expected to save 3.4 million tons of greenhouse gases annually, while the lights and turbines, as proposed, would save 82,561 and 334,912 tons, respectively.

GENERAL PLAN

including “transportation,” “neighborhoods” and “greenhouse gases.” There appeared to be widespread agreement about concepts such as walkability, the need for better public transportation and the “network of villages” concept.

But many said Monta Loma, a neighborhood known for opposing 500 homes at the former Mayfield Mall, didn’t need any new housing development.

Chris Beynon of MIG, the firm that is helping the city with the General Plan update, started the workshop with a speech. The General Plan, he said, “needs to reflect where the community wants to go in the future.”

Beynon said the meeting was only partly about broad visions for the future. He said he also wanted to know what people thought about specific intersections and project sites. As an example, he showed renderings of what the 7-Eleven property on Old Middlefield Way could look like if developed with a two- or three-story mixed-use retail and office development.

Speaking generally, some residents said they liked the idea of more retail development for Old Middlefield Way, while others said it was important to save space for the auto shops that exist there now.

The city is already considered “jobs rich,” and over the next 20 years is expected to have an even higher proportion of jobs: Population is expected to grow by 21 percent, or 1,500 new residents, while jobs are expected to grow by 38 percent, or 19,000 jobs.

“Not an astounding number,” Beynon said about the projected job growth. “A lot of communities around the Bay Area would love to have that balance.”

But Monta Loma residents talked more about park space than building homes for workers. There was no shortage of unusual ideas for increasing the green space north of El Camino Real, including a proposal to tear up sidewalks and portions of streets in order to create a greenbelt around Monta Loma.

To address the inequity of park space per capita in the northern and southern halves of the city, one group suggested that the city sell a portion of Cuesta Park for housing development and use the revenue to buy park space north of El Camino Real. Another wanted to use the now vacant shopping center at Alvin Street and Old Middlefield Way as a temporary community garden.

Many residents complained that the fields at Monta Loma Elementary School had been taken over by youth sport leagues.

At least one group talked about redeveloping San Antonio Center with a “more cohesive plan” for mixed use: retail and residential development.

In one group, remarks by a young woman about the merits of building upward and building denser were met with concern by an older man.

“You should be sensitive where you plan that, he said. “You can’t put all the high density you want along El Camino Real and in North Bayshore.”

Some residents expressed concern about putting tall buildings next to single-family homes, and one woman claimed that even the addition of one story to a single story home could make neighboring homes harder to sell.

Plans for a high speed rail line along the Caltrain corridor were discussed by at least two of the groups. One group said Mountain View should have its own high speed rail stop, while a resident in another group said high speed rail should not come through the Peninsula at all.

The next neighborhood meeting will be held Wednesday, May 27 at Landels Elementary School at 6:30 p.m., after the Voice goes to press. It will focus on the downtown and surrounding areas.

For more information about upcoming General Plan neighborhood meetings, see www.mountainview2030.com.

MEMORIAL DAY STEAM TRAINS

Canyon Run Steam Trains

Saturday, May 23 - 1:30, 3:00 p.m.
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VOICE
■ MAY 22, 2009 ■ MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE ■ 11
A unified voice on rail project

Despite the popularity of the state’s high speed rail project in Mountain View and other nearby cities, we have always been concerned about how the trains would fit into the narrow rail corridor between San Francisco and San Jose. Negotiating these pricey suburbs, with their outspoken residents, could easily become contentious and costly for overseers of the rail project.

In the early going, shortly after voters approved the nearly $10 billion bond issue in November, residents whose homes back up to the tracks had no forum to raise their concerns about how the 125 mph trains would affect them. Even city councils could not get answers from the High Speed Rail Authority, which at the time barely had enough money to operate.

In Mountain View, concerns were raised about the impact of grade separations at Castro Street and Rengstorff and Central Expressway, and the challenge of fitting additional tracks at the downtown station. But the real heat came from Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Atherton, where residential and commercial property owners have major concerns about the impact of the trains.

No doubt the toughest decision on the Peninsula segment of the project will be whether the tracks are built in a tunnel, in a trench, at grade or on an elevated platform. Although no polls have been taken, we suspect the underground option is by far the most popular among residents of the densely populated Peninsula corridor. But building a tunnel probably would add millions, if not billions, of dollars to the cost of the project — hardly an acceptable plan given the condition of the state’s economy.

Some council members from Peninsula cities, including Mountain View, are working together so they can present a unified voice to the Rail Authority on issues of common interest. This ad hoc group has already received a promise from the Rail Authority that it will share early drafts of some of its environmental studies with the cities. That will make the process more transparent, and give all those interested more information.

Problem with data aggregation with little/no human intervention. Miss the obvious that Mtn. View is a mecca of diverse cuisine. I don’t know if anyone (Yelp? UrbanSpoon?) has a firm count of restaurants. I’m guessing 50 or so in the downtown core alone. Wonder what constitutes “a lot” of restaurants for a city of 75,000?

Brent Harrison, a resident of the Old Mountain View neighborhood

I’ve lived here since 1989. My wife and I moved here because we liked the look of the place and the then not-too-high real estate costs. I think the magazine actually walked in Mountain View and other nearby cities, we have always been concerned about how the trains would fit into the narrow rail corridor between San Francisco and San Jose. Negotiating these pricey suburbs, with their outspoken residents, could easily become contentious and costly for overseers of the rail project.

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Another idea, to sponsor a design charrette (a series of collaborative design sessions), would be invaluable in giving local residents a peek into the future look and feel of their communities after high speed rail is built. Architects taking part in the charrette would build models depicting what a future urban landscape would look like.

Given the tremendous cost and complexity of building the high speed rail line, it is a daunting task for local jurisdictions to speak up when they feel they are being run over by this gargantuian project. There is a distinct possibility that a single city’s concerns may not be heard. But five cities — or better yet, the entire Peninsula — will wield considerable clout as the environmental review process goes forward.
Works in progress

MAYFIELD BAKERY & CAFE IN PALO ALTO PIQUES APPETITES, BUT SUFFERS FROM SPOTTY SERVICE

By Dale F. Bentson

Some new restaurants, especially when they’re trying to master being both a restaurant and a full-blown bakery, take longer to iron out all the kinks. That’s the case at Mayfield Bakery & Cafe, located in the revamped Town & Country Village in Palo Alto. So far, some things work, others are works in progress.

The cool whitewashed interior partially overlooks the patio area and its inviting tables with expansive umbrellas. The long, open kitchen occupies a side wall with rotisserie and wood-fired oven. The starched white linen tablecloths, covered with brown craft paper, suggest a relaxed ambiance and hint that the food is fun, casual and worthy.

Adjacent to the cafe is the bakery with a glass wall in between. Bakers can be observed making breads and pastries throughout the day. In all, Mayfield is an energetic and ambitious project.

Opened in early February, the restaurant bears a name honoring the extinct town of Mayfield, which sat on this tract of land before Stanford University and Palo Alto. The project is owned by Bacchus Management Group, which operates Spruce restaurant in San Francisco, the V...
MAYFIELD

Continued from page 13

Verranza

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www.pezzellas.com

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Burrata Bruschetta served with grilled artichokes and olive vinaigrette.

The Valley’s First
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Burrata Bruschetta

MAYFIELD

Continued from page 13

lage Pub in Woodside and the Pizza Antica chain. Nancy Pitta (Hawthorne Lane, Boulevard) is the 
boulanger principal while experienced Herb Harms is the cafe’s general manager.

The menu is appealing, accenting American comfort foods with California freshness. Many of 
the dishes sparked but a few were ill-prepared. Desserts, though, were excellent. The wine list had 
broad appeal and fair prices. Service was touch-and-go.

For starters, the roasted golden beet salad ($10.50) with horseradish yogurt, walnuts and chopped 
fennel looked appetizing. The beets were cooked al dente but the horseradish yogurt dressing 
was disappointingly bland. No horseradish was evident, not the faintest hint.

The burrata bruschetta ($10.50) was a delightfully unusual rendition with grilled artichokes 
draped over the burrata (cream and mozzarella cheese) and grilled bread, all drizzled with olive 
vinaigrette. The bruschetta was a fun twist on an Italian classic but offered creamier, more 
pungent flavors. A great start. Mayfield offers several side dishes that could also serve as starters. 
My favorites were the crisp Brussels sprouts ($4.50) with chilies and lemon and the grilled delta 
asparagus ($6) with preserved lemon and olive oil. Both were fresh and delicious. The Brussels 
sprouts alone are worth a trip.

Almond wood-grilled Hawaiian dorado (mahi-mahi, $24) came with crispy heirloom pota-
toes, spring onion and green garlic aioli. The fish was firm and just grilled through (as I requested). 

The baked ricotta gnocchi ($14.75) were set in a pool of melted parmesan cheese dotted 
with black chanterelles. I might be missing the point here but gnocchi are supposed to be 
feather-light potato dumplings — light, as in light as air. Baking them in cheese weighed them down, 
made the dish heavy (although the portion was small) and rendered the gnocchi stringy and 

Spit-roasted chicken ($20.75) with artichoke puree and pepper sofrito (onions, garlic, carrots, et al.) 
was irresistible. The half chicken was fall-off-the-bone tender, juicy and aromatic. The vegetables added 
depth and some zing to the plate.

Niman Ranch pork shoulder ($18.50), spit-roasted, was laced with chunks of pancetta layered 
over a bed of Brussels sprouts leaves. The pork was mouthwatering with a high-flavor profile.
The pancetta was plenty salty but the Brussels sprouts were so salty that they were inedible. Someone in the kitchen got carried away, ruining most of what was an otherwise delicious dish.

Spit-roasted leg of lamb ($24) came with an excellent grainless English pea risotto, baby escarole and mint salad. The thin-sliced lamb was imbedded with the rich, almost smoky flavors of the almond firewood. I had not had leg of lamb roasted quite that way. It was robust, succulent and non-fatty.

For desserts, I nominate Mayfield Bakery & Cafe in Palo Alto for its sour cherry bread pudding ($7.50) with honey-whipped creme fraiche as the dessert of the year. It was jazzy, light, rich, expressive. The cherries added sweet little flavor bombs to the pastry, while the lush creme fraiche gave it a sophisticated air.

Carrot cake ($7.50) with cream cheese and walnuts was also grand save for the semi-frozen dollop of cream cheese (or creme fraiche — I wasn’t sure what it was). The cheese or cream had an unsettling metallic taste. Fortunately, it was on the side and didn’t interfere with the scrumptious cake. Meyer lemon cheesecake ($7.50) with blood orange compote, ditto s’more tart ($7.50) with graham crackers, chocolate ganache and toasted marshmallow.

Service alternated between good and infuriating. One evening, we were asked if “everything is OK” at least a half dozen times. Other visits, I was queried during each course. Once per meal is sufficient; more than that is irritating.

One dinner, an overzealous busboy snatched away my side dish halfway through the course. When I paused to query him, he made a grab for my not-yet-done-eating dinner plate. I nearly threw my body over the plate to save it.

The wine list features about 100 far-flung labels and not one is priced over $100. It is one of the most approachable lists I have come across in some time. There are a dozen and a half wines by the glass, none exceeding $12. Corkage fee is $10.

Mayfield offers many beers, old-fashioned sodas, milkshakes and ice cream floats. There are coffees galore from the Bacchus Group-owned Roast Coffee Company in Oakland. A charbroiled Kabob

If you would like to be listed in Dining on the Town please call Anna or Dianna at the Voice at 506-948-0123 or send email to newsaffrionrestaurant.com

DINING NOTES

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MV Voice & PA Weekly

NEW TUNG KEE NOODLE HOUSE
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Mtn. View • 650/947-8888
(Inside San Antonio Center)

FRENCH

LE PETIT BISTRO
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Mtn. View • 650/964-3321
Casual and cozy French restaurant. 15 tables.

ITALIAN

AMICI’S EAST COAST PIZZERIA
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ITALIAN

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**MOVIE TIMES**

**ANGELS & DEMONS (PG-13)★★★☆☆**
- Century 16: 11:25 a.m., 1:05, 2:24-5, 3:45, 4:35, 5:15, 6, 6:50, 7:45, 8:40, 9:25 & 10:10 p.m.
- Century 20: 11:25 a.m., 12:10, 1:40, 2:30, 3:15, 4:45, 5:35, 6:20, 7, 20, 8:05, 9:45, 9:30 & 10:25 p.m. Fri.-Mon. also at 10:30 a.m.

**FACE/TOCK (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)**
- Century 16: 11:15 a.m., 1:15, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40 & 9:50 p.m.
- Century 20: 11:35 a.m., 1:45, 3:55, 6, 8:10 & 10:20 p.m.

**EARTH (G)★★★☆☆**
- Century 16: 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15 p.m.
- Century 20: 12:25, 2:50 & 5:05 p.m.

**EVERY LITTLE STEP (PG-13)★★★☆☆**
- Aquarius: 1:30, 4, 6:30 & 8:45 p.m.

**GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST (PG-13)★★★☆☆**
- Century 16: 11:10 a.m., 2:45 & 9:45 p.m. Century 20: 3:55 & 9:55 p.m.

**THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE (R) (NOT REVIEWED)**
- Aquarius: 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9:15 p.m.

**MANAGEMENT (R) (NOT REVIEWED)**
- Century 20: 2:15 & 8 p.m.

**MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG)★★★☆☆**
- Century 16: 11:10 a.m., 1:35 & 4 p.m.
- Century 20: 11:50 a.m., 2:20 & 4:40 p.m.

**NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: BATTLE OF THE SMITHSONIAN (PG)★★★☆☆**
- Century 16: 11:30 a.m., 12:20, 1:10, 2, 2:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:15, 7, 7:55, 8:45, 9:30 & 10:25 p.m.

**OBSESSED (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)**
- Century 20: 4:15 & 8:45 p.m.

**RUDO Y CURSI (R)★★★☆☆**
- Century 20: 12:30, 5:30 & 10:35 p.m.
- Palo Alto Square: 2:10, 4:40 & 7:15 p.m. Fri.-Sat. also at 9:40 p.m.

**THE SOLOIST (PG)★★★☆☆**

**STAR TREK (PG-13)★★★☆☆**
- Century 16: 11 a.m.; 12:30, 1:55, 3:25, 4:50, 6:25, 7:20, 8 & 9:20 p.m. Fri.-Wed. also at 10:15 p.m.
- Century 20: Fri.-Mon. at 10:35 a.m.; 12:05, 1:30, 3, 4:30, 6:15, 7:35, 9:10 & 10:30 p.m. Fri.-Wed. at 7:05 & 10 p.m. Thu.-Thu. at 12:05, 1:30, 3, 4:30, 6:15, 7:35, 9:10 & 10:30 p.m. Thu. at 7:05 p.m.

**STATE OF PLAY (PG-13)★★★☆☆**
- Century 16: 8:20 p.m. Fri.-Sat. also at 9:45 p.m.
- Century 20: Fri.-Thur. at 1:05 & 6:50 p.m.

**SUMMER HOURS (NOT RATED) (NOT REVIEWED)**
- Guild: 1:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m.

**SUNSHINE CLEANING (R)★★★☆☆**
- Palo Alto Square: 1:45 & 7:20 p.m.

**TERMINATOR SALVATION (PG-13)★★★☆☆**
- Century 16: 11:50 a.m., 1:15, 2:30, 3:40, 5:10, 6:20, 7:05, 7:50, 9:10 & 10:30 p.m.

**UP (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)**
- Century 16: Thu. at midnight. Century 20: Thu. at midnight.

**X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13)★★★☆☆**
- Century 16: 11:15 a.m., 1:50, 4:20, 7:25 & 10 p.m.
- Century 20: 11:20 a.m. & 2, 4:35, 7:15 & 9:50 p.m.

*Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.*

**AQUARIUS:** 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)

**CENTURY CINEMA 16:** 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (960-0970)

**CENTURY PARK 12:** 557 E. Bayshore Blvd., Redwood City (365-9000)

**CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN:** 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (369-3456)

**CINEARCS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE:** 8000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)

**GUILD:** 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)

**SPANGENBERG THEATRE:** 780 Ainsley Road, Palo Alto (354-8263)

For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the Aquareus, Guild and Park, visit www.landmarktheatres.com

* 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.
vengeance. Beto and Tato Verduzco are living life on the edge in rural Mexico. Beto (Luna) is an idealistic hothead making endless promises to his fed-up wife and kids. Tato (Bernal) is the charismatic clown, a happy gadabout living one day at a time in clueless obscurity. In true fairy-tale fashion an eager scout (Guillermo Francella) turns up at the ubiquitous dirt pitch where the boys take out their physical frustrations on the futbol-frenzied locals. He offers Tato a tryout with a professional team — while negotiating an outrageous finder’s fee — and somehow Tato makes the cut. Beto, consumed with jealousy over Tato’s mercurial celebrity, leaves his family on a lark to make the rival team’s starting lineup as their beloved keeper. Now it’s mano a mano family-style, sans the brotherly love. Rated: R for profanity, brief violence and nudity. 1 hour, 43 minutes. In Spanish with English subtitles. — J.A.

**STAR TREK 1/2**

Director J.J. Abrams and company have achieved quite a bit in reframing the future adventures of the explorers of Starfleet (a “peacekeeping and humanitarian armada”). The crew of the Enterprise includes Capt. Christopher Pike (Bruce Greenwood), first officer Spock (Zachary Quinto), communications officer Uhura (Zoe Saldana), Dr. Leonard “Bones” McCoy (Karl Urban), helmsman Hikaru Sulu (John Cho), 17-year-old navigator Chekov (Anton Yelchin), and the brash and unwelcome James T. Kirk (Chris Pine), destined to follow in his father’s footsteps to become a Starfleet captain (also on the fringes: Simon Pegg’s Scottish starship engineer Montgomery Scott). Before the Enterprise takes its maiden voyage in response to a mysterious threat (involving Eric Bana’s Romulan “war criminal” Nero), Abrams gets to work with some surprisingly rich and certified-fresh myth-building. It’s a stroke of genius to conceive of Kirk and Spock as two rebels looking for a cause, who butt heads on the way to becoming lifelong friends. Rated PG-13 for violence, sex-foil action and brief sexual content. Two hours, seven minutes. P.C.

**X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE**

(Century 16, Century 20) The story focuses on the relationship between brothers Wolverine (aka Logan) and Sabretooth (aka Victor Creed), from their adolescence to wartime heroics to involvement in the controversial Weapon X program. After being sacrificed to a firing squad Wolverine and Sabretooth are approached by General William Stryker (Danny Huston). Stryker convinces the men to join a team of tough mutants that includes sharp-shooter Agent Zero (Daniel Henney), brawler Fred Dukes (Kevin Durand) and wisecracking mercenary Wade Wilson (Ryan Reynolds), aka Deadpool. It turns out Stryker has sinister intentions and Wolverine is fortunate to survive the adamantium infusion. As Wolverine endeavors to dismantle Stryker’s nefarious program, he turns to fellow mutants for help. Overall, the movie is not unlike the character himself: Rough around the edges but memorable nonetheless. Rated: PG-13 for violence, intense sequences of action and some partial nudity. 1 hour, 47 minutes. — T.H.
ART GALLERIES

“He disappeared in the dead of winter” Exhibition of drawings, paintings, and sculpture by artist Inga Dorozhe. Through May 31, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Moty Gallery, Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, Finn Circle, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.art4all.org/view

AUDITIONS

Fabulous Fable Factory - A Palo Alto Children’s Theatre Hot Dog Suppertime Show This musical adventure follows young Monroe as he helps the fable makers recreate some of Aesop’s most famous fables. Auditions open to age 8-18. Rehearsals start May 27, 3:45-5 p.m. Free. Palo Alto Children’s Theatre, 1305 Middletown Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-463-4930. www.citypaloalto.org/childrenstheater

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS


CPR and First Aid Basic CPR and first-aid classes. Healthcare professional review. CPR and call-preparation Tuesdays, 5-10-30 p.m. 2 year CPR certification is $50 ($40 for review). First Aid 1st Monday, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Art Care Plus, Inc, 862 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-442-0024. www.facep.com

Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation Introduction to meditative development of mindfulness to focus on all aspects of experience. Five week course taught by Shailla Catherine and guest teachers. Thursdays, through May 26, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Center for całm, 14-280 Park Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-292-5667. www.centerforcalm.com

CONCERTS

Dr. Anthony Doheny & Dr. Nicholas Isaacs An evening of compositions by Mozart and Schubert by two of CSMA’s talented faculty artists. Part of the Music at 7, Faculty & friends series. Sponsored by Applied Materials. Supported by target, media sponsor 101.KOLF Thu., May 28, 7-8 p.m. No charge, donations accepted. Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) at Finn Center, Finn Circle, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.art4all.org; www.tealcart.org

TEN - Somei Yoshino Taiko Ensemble Ensemble featuring drums, percussion, rare stringed and windwood instruments, and unusual costumes. May 22-23, 8-10 p.m. $26, senior/students/children/group discount available. Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6000. www.taiken-ssemble.com

DANCE

English Country Dance English Country Dance. Live music, no partner needed, all dances taught, costumes available. 6:15-9 p.m. 2004 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 650-428-0950.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Relay For Life of Mountain View The American Cancer Society invites all cancer survivors to join the Relay For Life event for the ceremonial Survivor’s Lap and other activities. Relay For Life brings hope to communities and gives cancer survivors the opportunity to celebrate the progress we’ve made in the fight against cancer. May 30-31, 10-10 a.m. Participating as a survivor is free. Cuesta Park, 615 Cuesta Drive, Mountain View. Call 408-688-0117 . www.relayfor-life.org/mountainviewca

Robin Kramer 30-year anniversary at LSVH Celebration for the 30-year anniversary of Robin Kramer’s music leadership at Mountain View High School. Sat., May 23, 6-9 p.m. $35 by 4-10, $45 after 10. After party at Robin’s home after the show. Then after that, Michael’s Restaurant, Shoreline Park, Mountain View. http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1167488150&ref=profile#/ . www.relayforlife.org/mountainviewca

ENVIROMENT


EXHIBITS

Honor Your Mother Ceramic Show The students of the Mountain View-Altos Adult Education Ceramics class are having an exhibit at the Mountain View Senior Center. The items on display are in honor of Mother Earth and all mothers. The exhibit is up through June 3, 9-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Senior Center, 3020 N. 4th St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6073. http://www.mvsaee.net/


NOTICE OF BUDGET ADOPTION PUBLIC HEARING 2009-2010

The governing board of Mountain View Whisman School District will hold a public hearing on the adoption of the 2009-2010 proposed budget of the district for the year ending June 30, 2010, prior to final adoption, as required by Education Code Section 42103.

The public hearing will be held on June 16, 2009, at 7:00 PM. The public hearing will be held at Mountain View Whisman School District, 750-A San Pierre Way, Mountain View, CA 94043.

The budget can be inspected by the public beginning on June 10, 2009, during the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM at Mountain View Whisman School District, 750-A San Pierre Way, Mountain View, CA 94043.
What's Sun Doing in Social Media with Sumaya Kazi	Face to Face with Sumaya Kazi - Senior Social Media Manager at Sun Microsystems. Gourmet dinner and wine are included. Tue., May 26, 7-9 p.m. $20 online, $30 at the door. Samovar Conference Hall, 1077 Independence Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-941-8464. http://www.meetup.com/CO-IT-Executives/calendar/10271463/

TEEN ACTIVITIES


BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Are you in High School and in a band? Submit your band's demo and contact information by Friday, May 1. Battle is May 30, 6:30-6:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Recreation Division, 201 South Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6410.

VOLUNTEERS

Junior Museum & Zoo Office volunteers are needed to help with fundraising, community relations and special events. Data input, mailings, internet research, etc. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Junior Museum & Zoo, 1451 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-326-6318. www.friendsjmz.org

Volunteers are needed to help with fundraising, community relations and special events.

Photo of Pan Parkins of Mountain View in Timbuktu, Mali, West Africa.

Take a photo with the Mountain View Voice on your next trip and email to mwoods@mv-voice.com or mail to Postcards, P.O. Box 405, Mountain View, CA 94042.

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Your Views Needed

The city of Mountain View is now accepting views on the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Proposed Budget. The proposed budget is available for review on the City’s website at http://www.mountainview.ca.gov. If you are unable to attend the public hearings, please submit your views in writing by June 5, 2009. The City Council will hold a public hearing and adoption on June 9, 2009. Public hearings are set for Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the Council Chamber, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, has been set as the time and place for a public hearing to receive citizen input on the use of funds in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Proposed Budget; on the use of funds in the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Capital Improvement Program and Community Development Block Grant, on proposed water, wastewater and solid waste recycling and refuse rates and various City fees.

NOTICE OF BUDGET ADOPTION

Patty J. Kong
Director
City of Mountain View

2019-20 Proposed Budget

The governing board of The Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District will hold a public hearing on the adoption of the 2009-2010 proposed budget of the district for the year ending June 30, 2010, prior to final adoption, as required by Education Code Section 42103.

The public hearing will be held on June 22, 2009, at 7:00 PM.

The public hearing will be held at Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School Boardroom, 1299 Bryant Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040.

The budget can be inspected by the public beginning on June 17, 2009, during the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM at Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District, 1299 Bryant Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94040.

Notice is hereby given that Tuesday, the 2nd day of June, 2009 at the hour of 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in the Council Chamber, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, has been set as the time and place for a public hearing to receive citizen input on the use of funds in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Proposed Budget; on the use of funds in the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Capital Improvement Program and Community Development Block Grant, on proposed water, wastewater and solid waste recycling and refuse rates and various City fees.

Copies of the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Proposed Budget, supporting documentation for proposed water, wastewater and solid waste recycling and refuse rates and various City fees will be available for review on Friday, May 29, 2009 by 8:00 a.m. at City Hall in the City Clerks Office, 500 Castro Street, 3rd Floor, Mountain View; Monday through Friday, and during public hours at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St, Mountain View. The budget document and related reports will be available after 5:00 pm on Thursday, May 28, 2009 on the City’s website at http://www.mountainview.ca.gov. If you are unable to attend the public hearings but would like the City Council and staff to know your views, please send a letter to the City Council, P.O. Box 7540, Mountain View, California 94039, or an e-mail to city.clerk@mountainview.gov on or before Friday, May 29, 2009 for the June 2nd public hearing and on or before Friday, June 5, 2009 for the June 9th public hearing.

Dated this 15th day of May, 2009.

David C. Nevala
City Manager
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Redwood City, 318 Robin Avenue, May 23 8:30. HOG MOVING SERVICE: FURNITURE, DECORATIVE ITEMS, FRAMES, KITCHENWARE, LOTS OF CLOTHES (ALL SIZES) AND MANY MORE!! ALL GOOD CONDITION.

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Session II: July 6-July 17
Session III: July 20-31
Session IV: August 3-14
Session V: August 17-28

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Mountain View
Open Sunday
1:30 to 4:30
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ground floor condo
Living rm w/ glass slider to
front private patio
Kitchen features tile counter
tops & glass slider to
private patio
Large master bedroom
Inside laundry area
Complex with swimming pool
$379,000

913 Camille Lane
Mountain View
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Elegant 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath
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1476 FAIRWAY DRIVE
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Newly constructed 5 bedroom home near Los Altos Country Club, on .5 acre flat lot. Beautiful gourmet kitchen, open family room, soaking ceilings, crown moldings, hardwood floors, office, 3 car garage.

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LOS ALTOS HILLS

12011 GREENWILLS COURT
$4,395,000
Gated property on quiet cul-de-sac on a highly desired street in Los Altos Hills. Great floor plan featuring 5 bedrooms and 3 baths plus office/study with wet bar. Spacious rooms throughout, newer appliances in kitchen, remodeled master bath with tennis court and pool, 3 car garage. Minutes to town.

OPEN SUNDAY, 1:00-4:00

SANTA CLARA

3458 CABRILLO AVENUE
$699,000
Great location, completely remodeled (almost 100% new) 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with living room and family room. Features include granite countertops and stainless steel appliances in kitchen, beautiful flooring throughout, new front lawn with automatic sprinklers, and a spacious attached 2 car garage.

Palo Alto Hills

3132 ALEXIS DRIVE
$2,795,000
Private, gated Mediterranean Villa situated on the 18th Fairway of Palo Alto Hills Golf Course with views of majestic trees, lakes and fountains. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths including separate bedroom and bath ideal for au pair or office. Formal living and dining rooms. Spacious kitchen and family room overlooking the garden. Dramatic landscaping, meandering walkways, fruit trees, olive trees and terraced patios.

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

LOS ALTOS HILLS

1520 MONTEBELLO OAKS
$3,195,000
Custom designed home with exceptional attention to detail. High ceilings, crown moldings, gorgeous stone and hardwood floors. 5 bedrooms, 6.5 baths, including separate in-law quarters with living room for au pair or office. Formal living and dining rooms. Expansive land with many possibilities for pool and tennis court. Hoga MDA 54,129 sq ft. and MF 23,493 sq ft.

LOS ALTOS

24286 ELISE COURT
$2,799,500
Located on a secluded acre, this beautifully landscaped classic California Estate features a fabulous swimming pool and gorgeous mountain views. This one of a kind family home boasts 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths with 3,750 sq. ft. of living space. Features include wide plank hardwood floors, double pane windows, remodeled bathrooms, oversized 3 car garage, billiard/game room, library, and much more.

12125 OAK PARK COURT
$3,498,000
Great value in this 6,000 sq. ft. 4 acre, newer style home. Nice floor plan with soaring ceilings, featuring 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths with office and au-pair with separate entrance. Expansive land with many possibilities for pool and tennis court. Hoga MDA 54,129 sq ft. and MF 23,493 sq ft.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

2517 WESTFORD AVE
$1,399,999
Waverly Park beauty features remodeled 4 bedroom, 3 bath ranch style Adobe home on great lot in premier neighborhood. Gourmet kitchen opens to family room, separate dining room, spacious living room, vaulted ceilings, and wonderful yard for outdoor entertaining.

LOS ALTOS

206 CHERRY AVE
$3,150,000
Stunning, spacious, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,912 sq. ft. Mediterranean home close to Downtown Los Altos. Perfect for family living and entertaining, this quiet, .41 acre fully fenced property has an end of cul-de-sac location that offer’s a private retreat setting. Great room, large contemporary kitchen and extra office/library that could be used as a 5th bedroom, large lawn, 20ft by 60ft black bottom pool/spa. Close to Los Altos Schools. Lot: 38,100 Gross sq ft. 16,530 Net sq ft.

LOS ALTOS LIVING

1642 PARKHILLS AVENUE
$2,195,000
Custom built home exceeds all expectations with spacious floor plan that has 4 bedrooms, including master bedroom suite with sitting area and 3 full baths. Superbly designed with 2,841 sq. ft., the home features a large living room, formal dining room, kitchen with grand center island that opens to the family/great room and breakfast area. Gorgeous hardwood floors throughout.

LOS ALTOS

12125 OAK PARK COURT
$2,695,000
Stunning home on 12,000 sq. ft. lot, cul-de-sac location. Large kitchen with stainless appliances. Gas burner stove with six burner, massive ovens and dishwasher in kitchen. Large island and separate dining area. Pool and gorgeous mountain views. Covered/covered large patio’s. Huge level lawn area.

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