

Mountain View VOICE



Fall
Real
Estate
guide
inside

OCTOBER 13, 2006 VOLUME 14 NO. 42

INSIDE: HEALTH & FITNESS | PAGE 29

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HEAVY LOAD:

Three-year-old Benjamin Hamilton, of Redwood City, struggles to lift a 15-pound pumpkin at the Pumpkin Patch on Grant Road. The farm at Grant Road has been selling pumpkins every October for 19 years.

NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

More rental units to be bulldozed

COUNCIL OKS PLANS FOR CONDOS AND TOWN HOUSES ON ROCK ST., RENGSTORFF AVE.

By Daniel DeBolt

A frustrated city council on Tuesday approved plans to replace lower-rent apartments with pricy row homes and condominiums, sealing the fate of dozens of renters who will most likely have to find housing elsewhere.

The council voted 5-1 for a new housing project to replace the 15 rental units at 2260 Rock St., then voted unanimously for a project to replace the 32 rental units at 333 N. Rengstorff Ave. Council member Laura Macias was the lone dissenter in the first vote.

Meanwhile, council members also indicated they are ready to take another look at building affordable housing on Evelyn Street on a city-owned lot.

Mayor Nick Galiotto summed up the frustration of some members about the increasing trend

of tearing down old apartment buildings and replacing them with units that cost much more.

"We haven't really seen the development of anything affordable, at the same time we are erasing anything affordable," he said.

A case in point is the apart-

► See **COUNCIL**, page 8

EDUCATION

Districts learn the score

MOUNTAIN VIEW WHISMAN REPORTS ITS STANDARDIZED TEST RESULTS

By Alexa Tondreau

The Mountain View Whisman School District has gone over the final round of evaluations on its standardized test results for the 2005-06 school year, and found generally that it had made improvements during the last school year.

Referred to as the "academic excellence scorecard" at the district board meeting Oct. 5, the report measured the overall scores generated by the district on two sets of required standardized tests that take place every year — the first being the state's Academic

► See **SCORES**, page 9

THE TROUBLE WITH SQUIRRELS

Traps still on hold

NOISY RANGERS ON FRONT LINE AS CITY SEEKS HELP

By Daniel DeBolt

As anxious parents watch to see how the city will handle the squirrel problem at Cuesta Park, a park ranger walks around the children's play area with a metal clipboard, banging on it to shoo away squirrels that come near the playground.

"They're learning that there is no food here," said the ranger

about the ill-reputed squirrels. Huge signs telling visitors not to bring food into the area are posted in Russian, Spanish, Chinese and English.

The city has yet to set the squirrel traps in Cuesta Park, though the tubular body-crushing cages can be seen mounted on redwood trees on the hill near the children's

► See **TRAPS**, page 14

Attacked for a loaf of bread

LOCAL FAMILY HAD BEEN AVOIDING CUESTA PARK

By Daniel DeBolt

One day early last month, Samir Freiha, 4, and his friend Kate, 6, were roaming around Cuesta Park with Kate's grandfather, Roger Miller.

A squirrel was seen rummaging around in the bottom of a stroller. The two kids approached the squirrel, which was busy eating some bread.

"Shoo," Samir said.

That's when, according to Samir's mother, Amy Freiha, "It jumped out of the bottom basket and bit him and scratched him two or three times."

"Unfortunately we weren't there to witness it," she said.

The Sept. 9 incident is one of at least seven reported since May,

► See **ATTACKED**, page 15

INSIDE

GOINGS ON 26 | MARKETPLACE 34 | MOVIES 24 | REAL ESTATE 41 | VIEWPOINT 16 | WEEKEND 19



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Annette Hull



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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Amber Cleave..

In your opinion, are the Republicans in trouble this election?



"If the election were today I would say they are in trouble. The truth is that it's too early to tell and the Republicans always seem to recover."
Arden Chu, Mountain View



"I certainly hope so. Many members of the Republican Party left voluntarily and the rest have been fired. Only the headliners are left and they need to get a moderate person in there or the Republicans don't stand a chance."
Val Cusino, San Jose



"Probably, yes. I am personally a Democrat and I agree with Democratic policies. In my mind I think Bush really messed things up for the Republicans."
Derek Wong, Mountain View



"Yeah. The neo-conservative doctrine, forced to be our only doctrine for foreign policy, has proved to be ineffective and inadequate. The Republicans are definitely in trouble."
Jeff Piercy, Mountain View



"I'd like to think so, but you never can tell."
Lisa Parramore, Mountain View

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Mountain View Housing Council · Silicon Valley LGBT Democratic Club · Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
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■ QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“It’s on hold until further notice as we look at other options and alternatives.”

— DAVE MUELA,

MOUNTAIN VIEW’S COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR,
ON THE PROGRAM TO TRAP AND KILL SQUIRRELS IN CUESTA PARK.

■ CRIMEWATCH

ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON, RENGSTORFF PARK, 10/08

A huge fight was reported last Sunday at 4 p.m., after several people interfered with a private party being held in the BBQ area of Rengstorff Park.

The majority of the fighters, reportedly wielding bats, left by the time police arrived at the park, but one man, 25-year-old Isaac Cruz, was arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon. Cruz was allegedly seen swinging a knife at innocent partygoers during the fight and trying to stir things up.

Later that evening, another person involved in the ruckus was brought to El Camino Hospital for a stab wound. The incident remains under investigation.

VANDALISM, JENNIFER’S TAQUERIA, 1929 LATHAM ST., 10/08

At 5:45 p.m. last Sunday, an extremely intoxicated man was refused further service by employees at Jennifer’s Taqueria. The drunk became infuriated and proceeded to vandalize the restaurant. Police say he

broke the salsa display and rack, threw the cash register on the floor, and broke the 8-foot-long plate glass window next to the door.

After his fit, he tried to leave the restaurant, but was stopped by police outside. Police said the man, identified as Michaca Porfirio, had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. He was arrested for vandalism and for the warrant.

DISCHARGE OF FIREARM AT INHABITED BUILDING, LA COSTENA, 2078 OLD MIDDLEFIELD WAY, 10/07

Officers discovered several bullet holes in the windows of La Costena upon arrival at 6:51 a.m. last Saturday. There were also bullet holes in a display near the cash register and an exterior wall. No one was hurt in the shooting, which is assumed to have occurred sometime Friday night, probably between 1 and 1:30 a.m.

The building was empty at the time and there are currently no suspects. The biggest threat was those people living in the apartment complex above the crime scene.

■ POLICE LOG

AUTO BURGLARY

300 block Flynn Ave., 10/03
Twisters Gym, 10/05
700 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 10/08
900 block Boranda Ave., 10/08

BATTERY

1000 block Grant Rd., 10/03
E. El Camino Real/Sylvan Ave., 10/06
Rite Aid, 10/07
Shoreline Amphitheatre, 10/07

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

60 block W. El Camino Real, 10/04
700 El Camino Real, 10/05
400 block Palo Alto Ave., 10/06
100 block Laurel Way, 10/06
2000 block San Ramon Ave., 10/08
200 block Murlagan Ave., 10/08
2100 Del Medio Ct., 10/08
100 block Del Medio Ave., 10/09

GRAND THEFT

1900 block Montecito Ave., 10/03
2000 block Stierlin Rd., 10/06
2000 block Stierlin Ct., 10/09

STOLEN VEHICLE

400 block Ortega Ave., 10/04
600 block Sierra Vista, 10/04
900 block Boranda Ave., 10/06
300 block Sherland Ave., 10/08

VANDALISM

Crittenden School, 10/03
W. Middlefield Rd./Moffet Blvd., 10/03
1900 block Colony St., 10/04
100 block E. Middlefield Rd., 10/06
1800 block Miramonte Ave., 10/08
1900 block Latham St., 10/08
600 block Tyrella Ave., 10/09

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

600 block Showers Dr., 10/03
2600 block Fayette Dr., 10/09

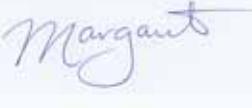


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Mountain View is a wonderful place to live, work, play and learn, and I am running for Mountain View City Council because I want to help keep our city that way for all of us and our children.

Our economy is improving but we still face challenges ahead. My fourteen years of public service/policy experience, leadership skills and community involvement will help me to be an effective and responsive city councilmember who lends an important voice to balanced growth, sound city management, a vibrant local economy, and strong families as well as ensuring a city hall that is accessible to everyone in our diverse community.

I would be honored to represent you and ask for your vote on November 7th.



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Pumpkin paradise

By Don Frances

IT IS PUMPKIN time, and every year around now we send a photographer down to the Grant Road farm to get a picture of a very small child amid the gourds (see page 1). The effect is often hilarious, especially when the pumpkins are so big compared to the kids' melons.

It's a classic fall scene, and if you're up for more you may as well head over to the beleaguered farm and park yourself on haystack. Now's the time: They've been selling pumpkins for 19 years now, but with development plans on the horizon, they may not make it into their third decade.

MORE PUMPKIN news: Los Altos High School is holding a Pumpkin Patch fundraiser on behalf of the school's athletic teams. The event begins Friday, Oct. 13, and runs every day until Halloween, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"Also," wrote Karyn Plank, who carried the title of "pumpkin patch fundraiser co-chair," "we're planning a pumpkin carving contest among school administrators. Would the *Voice* be willing to run a picture if we send it to you?"

Well sure, Karyn, so long as the photo meets certain requirements. It should be colorful, not too busy, with a good view of the carvers' faces, and please, refrain from

► See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 12



NICHOLAS WRIGHT

TOWER CRUMBLES: *Tower Records on San Antonio Avenue is currently holding a going-out-of-business sale. The Sacramento-based record store chain was bought out last week and will be closed down.*

Council candidates report donations

AS OF LAST WEEK, ABE-KOGA TOPPED THE FUNDRAISERS, WHILE SIEGEL TOPPED THE SPENDERS

By Daniel DeBolt

As campaign signs spring up all over town and eight candidates vie for three council seats, one candidate has clearly overshot the rest in campaign fundraising.

Margaret Abe-Koga has raised \$15,274 for her bid in the Nov. 7 election according to campaign disclosure statements filed Oct. 5. Abe-Koga raised more than \$10,000 by July 1, before many of the candidates even decided to run.

Behind Abe-Koga is Jac Siegel, an environmental planning commissioner, who raised \$8,753. Siegel, however, spent more than Abe-Koga before Oct. 5, with a total of \$7,687 in expenditures compared to Abe-Koga's \$5,586.

Abe-Koga's success at fundraising may be due to her experience running for office. She recently finished her term as county school board trustee for Mountain View, an elected position. Her first job in the political world was as an aide to Congresswoman Ann Eshoo.

Abe-Koga received contributions from the Mountain View Housing Council for \$500, Joe Simitian for State Senate for \$200, Ken Yeager for Supervisor for \$100, Unite HERE Local 19 for \$250, and the California League of Conservation Voters for \$100.



Candidates are required to disclose sources of all donations over \$100. Abe-Koga clearly has the longest list in that regard, with 27 contributions over \$100 in the last filing period, from July 1 to Sept. 30. For his part, Siegel has 11 donations over \$100.

Human relations commissioner Alicia Crank boasts the largest single donation to any candidate: a \$1,000 contribution from Mountain View

► See **CAMPAIGN**, page 8

CAMPAIGN FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

(As of October 5, 2006)

Name	Total Contributions	Total Expenditures
Margaret Abe-Koga	\$15,441	\$5,586
Ronit Bryant	\$8,305	\$4,255
Alicia Crank	\$3,658	\$1,339
Tian Harter	\$4,232	\$1,204
John Inks	\$6,643	\$2,836
Kalwant Sandhu	\$4,606	\$2,037
Jac Siegel	\$8,753	\$7,687
John Webster	\$100	\$0

Coroner IDs woman killed on tracks

69-YEAR-OLD REPORTEDLY TRYING TO BEAT THE TRAIN AT RENGSTORFF AVE. CROSSING

By Alexa Tondreau

A woman struck and killed by a train in Mountain View on Thursday has been identified as 69-year-old Consuelo Coronel, the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner reported Monday.

Coronel, a Mountain View resident, reportedly tried to cross the tracks at a grade crossing at Rengstorff Avenue around 6:45 a.m. last Thursday, Oct. 5, Caltrain spokesman Jonah Weinberg said last week.

The crossing's mechanical arms and flashing lights were active and indicating that a train was coming through, Weinberg said. The train conductor reportedly told investigators that he saw Coronel attempt to "beat the train" before she was hit.

"Trains run notoriously faster than they appear," Weinberg said.

Coronel's death marks the 12th fatality on Caltrain tracks so far this year, including six suicides and one car accident.

To promote safety on the tracks, Caltrain has been appearing at schools along the Peninsula to talk to students about appropriate safety precautions near railway tracks. Caltrain representatives plan to appear at 11 middle and high schools this month alone.

"It's good for them to know what to do near a train track," Weinberg said. "We give them information, like the fact that trains hang over the rails from three to five feet. And we want them to know that it's not just unsafe to be on the rails, it's also illegal." ▀

E-mail Alexa Tondreau at atondreau@mv-voice.com

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK INCLUDES PANCAKES, EDUCATION

This week was fire prevention week, and Mountain View firefighters visited elementary school classrooms to tell kids how to “stop, drop and roll” and to not play with matches.

Fire department spokesperson Lynn Brown said the department held a pancake breakfast fundraiser last weekend to raise money for the Burn Foundation. Last year the same fundraiser made \$7,000.

Though fires are less likely in the colder weather, this time of the year many people accidentally start fires with their heaters or fireplaces, Brown said.

— Daniel DeBolt

recent affordable studios project in Mountain View, was last week given the title “Project of the Year” by Multifamily Executive, a national publication targeted at senior-level executives who deal with multifamily housing units.

Designed by KodamaDiseno Architects, San Antonio Place was selected based on such criteria as architectural innovation, floor plan, suitability to target market, creativity with materials, interior design, landscaping, creative financing, and ability to work with officials in the government and community. The project was praised for its affordability, comfort and luxuries, despite the small size of its rental units.

‘OHLONE DAY’ OPEN TO PUBLIC

Deer Hollow Farm, located in the Rancho San Antonio Preserve, invites the public to visit its Ohlone Indian village replica on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Ohlone Indians lived in the Bay Area for thousands of years. “Ohlone Day” is a living history festival that educates people about the Ohlone Indians with a hands-on approach. The festival offers many activities for children such as acorn grinding, cooking and rope making, and a fire-starting demonstration.

The festival is held by Friends of Deer Hollow Farm as a fundraiser for scholarships that sponsor field trips to the farm. Each year, more than 4,000 Bay Area elementary students visit the farm on field trips.

Tickets to attend the “Ohlone Day” festival cost \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Children under age 2 are free. For more information, call (650) 965-3276, or e-mail www.fodhf.org.

— Amber Cleave

KIDS FUN DAY THIS WEEKEND

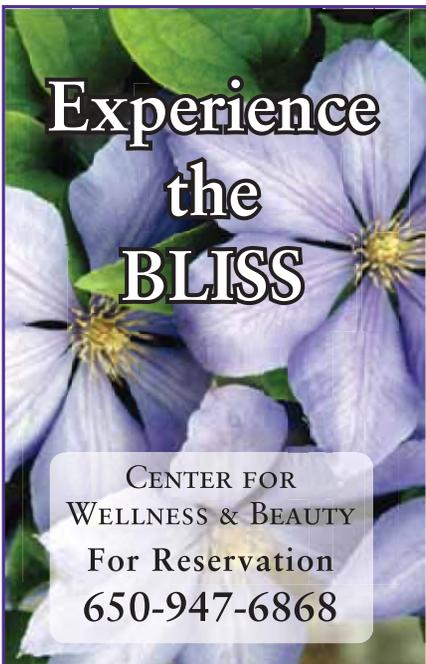
This Saturday the North County Children’s Health Initiative, a collaboration of public and nonprofit groups, is hosting Kids Fun Day, designed as a fun way to spread health awareness and to register low-income families for health insurance coverage.

The event will include arts and crafts, healthy snacks, physical activities and games. Local community agencies, such as the Mountain View Fire Department, will be there to participate in the fun and to offer information about their services and resources. Energetic kids and families are needed to ensure a great time for all, and everyone is welcome.

The event is Saturday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mountain View City Hall Plaza, 500 Castro St. For more information, call (408) 299-5050.

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Tales of the beneficial bat

'BAT TALES' DESIGNED TO BREAK STEREOTYPES OF OUR LITTLE WINGED FRIENDS

By Amber Cleave

Sooky, maybe. Misunderstood, definitely. Bats, our little winged friends who flap in the night, are getting a new look this Halloween season thanks to their advocates at The Lively Foundation, a San Francisco-based nonprofit that supports performance arts. The foundation has put together a show — “Bat Tales!” — designed to shatter the negative stereotypes and reveal bats for what they truly are.

“Bats are very helpful to humanity,” explained Leslie Friedman, Mountain View resident, artistic director at The Lively Foundation, and mastermind behind “Bat Tales.” “It is frustrating that superstitions outweigh scientific facts.”

Rather than lecture on bats, Friedman wanted to inform while entertaining. The result is an hour-and-a-half revue of bat-themed skits, musical numbers and so on, all with the purpose of shedding new light on the world's only flying mammal.

Perhaps the most salient fact of all is that bats are currently in dire straights. Today they are forced to make their habitat in man-made structures such as mines, barns, freeway underpasses and bridges. But as old properties in Mountain View, for example, are redeveloped, even these man-made habitats are threatened by human encroachment.

According to biologists, in North America more than half of the 47 species of bats live in mines. But for safety and other reasons, these mines are quickly being closed. (Bat Conservation International, a foundation dedicated to the research and support of bats, installs bat-friendly gates in order to keep the mines open to bats but closed to people.)

Whatever the danger posed by mines, Friedman believes that humanity and the environment would be harmed more severely by the bats' demise. Mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile virus seem to underscore this concern. Certain bat species eat mosquitoes and other flying pests, including crop-eating insects, by the ton, and others pollinate fruits and nuts that humans consume.

“If the bats are out of luck, then we are too,” Friedman said.



COURTESY PHOTO

“Bat Tales” skits include music, dance and comedy.

“Bat Tales” has been showing in the Bay Area almost yearly since 1991 (the next showing is this Sunday afternoon at the Masonic Lodge on Church Street). The show has evolved over the years with new numbers, performers, dances, songs and theatrical skits, with something in there for viewers of all ages.

This constant progression is largely due to the artistic creativity of Friedman, who was inspired in the early 1990s by two unrelated presentations. One was composer Jon Deak's “Lucy and the Count.” The other was a lecture by Dixie Pierson, a biologist in Berkeley who specializes in bats.

Her imagination sparked, Friedman created a ballet to the music of Deak, titled “Lucy and the Count, the Bat Ballet.” This marked an early version of what would become “Bat Tales.”

This year's programs vary from comic to serious, but all are entertaining, Friedman says. The conglomeration of theater, storytelling, song and dance is largely based on cultural legends about bats. For example, “The Man Who Fell in Love with a Bat” is based on a Guatemalan legend.

“Out to Lunch” is a comic piece involving three bats and a giant mosquito. In it, Friedman poses the idea that bats eat

mosquitoes and mosquitoes eat people, therefore people should be more appreciative of bats. “Mine Bat,” a more serious piece, is about the unnecessary and egregious destruction of bats. And “Vote for Me Because I'm a Bat” seems especially appropriate in an election year.

“The show appeals to people who are interested in the natural world and the artistic world. I am trying to appeal across those lines,” Friedman said. “The show is for entertainment and ecological education purposes — but more for entertainment.”

E-mail Amber Cleave at acleave@mv-voice.com

■ INFORMATION

What: “Bat Tales,” a revue performance designed to entertain and inform the public on bats

When: Show starts at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15

Where: Mountain View Masonic Lodge auditorium, 89 Church St., Mountain View

Price: \$20 general admission, \$10 seniors and children under 10. Group tickets are also available.

Info: Tickets can be purchased by phone at (866) 468-3399, at the door (cash only), or online at www.ticketweb.com. For more information, call The Lively Foundation at (650) 969-4110, or visit www.livelyfoundation.org.

“If the bats are out of luck, then we are too.”

LESLIE FRIEDMAN

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CAMPAIGN

► Continued from page 5

Professional Firefighters, which has yet to publicly endorse a candidate. She is also the only candidate to receive a contribution from state Assembly member Sally Lieber, for \$250.

Other players spreading money around are the California League of Conservation Voters, with \$100 each going to Siegel, Abe-Koga and former parks and recreation commission chair Ronit Bryant. Acco Management Co. gave \$400 each to Siegel, parks and recreation commissioner John Inks, and businessman Kalwant Sandhu. The Mountain View Housing Council donated \$500 each to Siegel, Sandhu and Inks. Unite HERE Local 19 gave \$250 each to Siegel, Bryant and Abe-Koga.

Candidates received money from decidedly different sources.

Bryant received money from many residents in her downtown neighborhood.

Sandhu received money from several small businesses, a landlord and several individual residents. Activist Tian Harter got \$100 from the Green Party and money from several people who shared his last name, including someone who works as a “declassifier” for the National Security Agency.

Bryant, Harter and Siegel all loaned themselves substantial amounts of money. Bryant accounts for \$4,000 of her own money, while Harter gave himself \$2,000 and Siegel \$5,500. Inks borrowed \$5,000 from himself.

All candidates have agreed to the \$17,911 expenditure limit. According to statements from each candidate, so far the money has gone toward signs, fliers, newspaper ads and refreshments for fundraisers. ■

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



COUNCIL

► Continued from page 1

ment building at 2260 Rock St. The council’s action Tuesday night means residents of its 15 units will soon be displaced to make way for 15 large row houses.

Many of the residents there are recent immigrants who cannot speak English. The *Voice* was only able to talk to one resident, who didn’t want to be named, but who said she thought the owner had the right to do as he wished with his own property. Rents at the small complex range from \$750 a month for a studio to \$1,200 for a two-bedroom.

Rock Street is lined with old apartment buildings, but that will change as several other developments are being planned up and down the street.

“Obviously it’s a street in transition,” said council member Tom Means.

City staff members said the architects of the new development are trying to incorporate the 1960s style of the old apartments into the design of the new three-story row

homes.

Council member Greg Perry said the way the area had been re-zoned encouraged the development of large homes. Several council members expressed interest in fixing the zoning on the street to promote new apartments.

Next up was 333 N. Rengstorff Ave. Council members said they felt this project had a much better trade-off than the Rock Street one, because the developer plans to build even smaller units than currently exist, and sell the units as homes-to-be-owned in the \$400,000 range.

Most current residents at the 32-unit complex, however, may already be struggling to make the rent.

Matt Miller is a young engineer at a local high-tech startup company. He said he and his wife both work, and pay \$1,400 a month for rent. If he had to pay more for a new home “we’d be out of luck,” he said. “It’s already a stretch.”

The current units there are 1,500 to 2,000 square feet. The new units would be 850 to 1,200 square feet. According to the plan, 10 percent of the homes will be sold below market rate.

Ultimately, the plan would turn the complex into a high-density housing development with 102 units atop an underground parking garage. The project was given the initial green light for planning through a “gatekeeper” approval on Tuesday.

At the end of Tuesday’s meeting, the council told city manager Kevin Duggan to find room on a future meeting agenda for choosing an affordable housing site downtown. Several months ago, the council deadlocked 3-3 on placing affordable housing on a city-owned lot on Bryant Street, which is currently being used as a staging area for parking garage construction.

There are three city-owned lots downtown to choose from, with the other favorite being the Caltrain overflow lot on Evelyn Avenue west of Castro Street. Galiotto said he was now willing to change his vote to favor the Evelyn Avenue site, which may give the idea of building affordable housing near the train station the four votes it needs to pass. ■

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

THE ROUNDTABLE AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

ANXIOUS TIMES: SEEING BEYOND A WORLD OF PERPETUAL THREATS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

9:00-11:15 A.M.

MAPLES PAVILION, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

www.stanford.edu/roundtable

The final decade of the 20th century was a time of great optimism. The fall of the Iron Curtain, expansion of the European Union, and the technology revolutions of the 1990s promised to unite diverse people.

Yet, in the first decade of the 21st century, this optimism has faded in the face of myriad threats: terrorism and nuclear proliferation, virulent pandemics, our global dependence on oil, and the often unsettling implications of an interconnected planet.

What is the way forward in the midst of these challenges? What is Stanford doing to help address these issues?

Join us for this provocative discussion hosted by Stanford President John Hennessy and moderated by veteran journalist Ted Koppel.

Panelists

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The Hon. Anthony M. Kennedy, *Supreme Court justice*

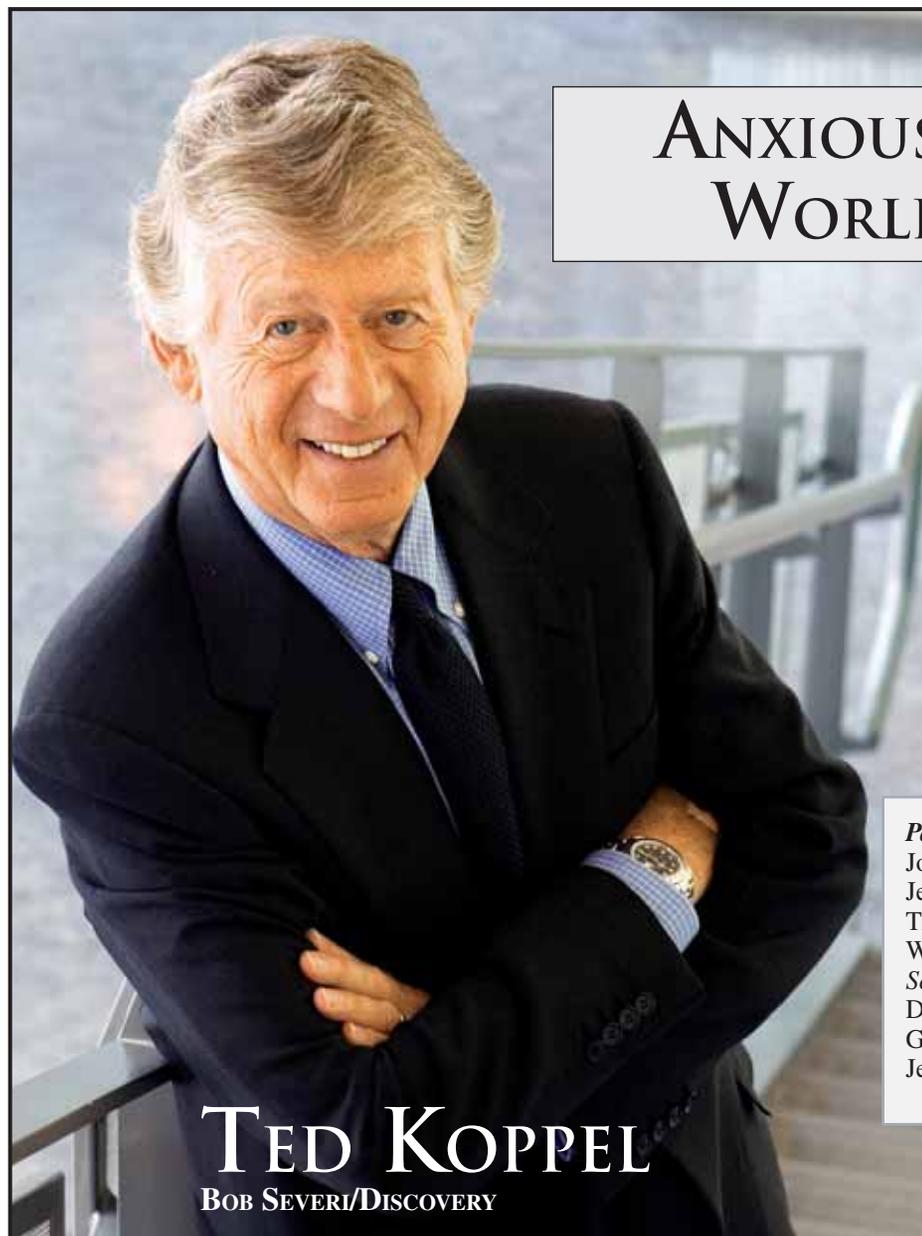
William Perry, *former Secretary of Defense, Berberian Professor in the School of Engineering*

Dr. Lucy Shapiro, *Ludwig Professor of developmental biology and cancer researcher*

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SCORES

► Continued from page 1

Performance Index (API), and the second the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as mandated by the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

At the meeting, chief academic officer Mary Lairon explained that the various numbers were helpful when viewed as “different lenses for looking at areas of improvement.”

The district saw a seven-point growth in its API score, which went from 764 in 2004-05 to 771 in 2005-06. Districts must meet requirements for API base and growth scores for the state’s accountability system.

As part of the scorecard, Lairon recommended a long-term API district goal of 800 in two years’ time.

Castro Elementary had the greatest growth of any school in the district, gaining 37 points. It also made its AYP goal for the first year, putting it into “safe harbor” mode. If Castro can successfully make this goal again next year, it will be removed from its current program improvement status.

But the assessment of Castro did note the inclusion of PACT and Slater school students in its score reporting, which may have had some impact on its progress.

The district as a whole made its AYP goal, but found that, based on the data, additional efforts had to be made to improve the academic performance of students who are Hispanic and those in the district who are English language learners.

Using the 2005-06 data, the

district is developing a “bottoms-up” method that more directly involves teachers in reviewing data from their own classrooms. Additionally, Superintendent Maurice Ghysels says he is working to develop a way to make students care more about their scores, because typically they have been disconnected from the end result of their test-taking.

“We want to get kids to take responsibility for their own improvement,” he said.

Ghysels also suggested administering a questionnaire to parents and students to get feedback about the testing and the quality of their education in general.

“We could get their reactions to their academic experience, and how students and parents both feel about their individual experience in school,” he said.

SATs also in

Across town on Monday at the Mountain View Los Altos district board meeting, a different batch of scores were in — the SATs from 2006. Results showed that math scores at Mountain View High School increased by six points, and at Los Altos High they were up by one point. Reading (verbal) scores declined at both schools, down by five points at Mountain View and by one point at Los Altos.

Both schools exceeded state and national averages by a significant margin.

District scores from the past 15 years also showed that the number of SAT test-takers at both high schools has been steadily on the rise. The number jumped significantly at Mountain View High in 1998, when the school implemented the Prelimi-

nary Scholarship Academic Test (PSAT) for all students.

Next year, the district wants to implement the PSAT at Los Altos High as well, as it is thought to better prepare students for success on the SAT.

“We want to give all students the chance to take the PSAT,” Superintendent Barry Groves said.

“It’s really nice to have not just increasing scores,” he said, “but increasing participation.”

E-mail Alexa Tondreau at atondreau@mv-voice.com

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- Sunday, November 5
- * INFANT CARE**

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- Wednesday, November 15
- * FATHERS OF DAUGHTERS: THE JOYS & CHALLENGES OF ADOLESCENCE**

An evening for fathers of adolescent daughters to learn how to understand and communicate with their daughters as well as discuss issues specific to the father-daughter relationship in adolescence.

- Wednesday, November 15
- * CHILDBIRTH CLASS IN THE CITY**

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- Saturday, November 18

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Open your books to page one

CITY-WIDE BOOK CLUB BEGINS NEXT MONTH WITH 'BLINK'

By Alexa Tondreau

This November, everyone in the city is invited to crack open a book and share their thoughts as they read along.

Mountain View Reads Together envisions everyone reading a single book, an exercise that is meant to be like a book club on a city scale, where participants can share in one, or all, of nearly 20 free activities held at the library and throughout the city in November.

The selected book is "Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking," by best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell. It was picked by the coordinator of the event, ParadigmHill Mountain View, for its universal appeal.

"Blink," which is nonfiction, delves into the process of rapid decision-making and the snap judgments that we all make on a daily basis.

Volunteer coordinator Sharlene Gee said that in the selected book "we saw a lot of opportunity for community conversation. It's about how to manage things when they go wrong, and how we sometimes harbor unconscious stereotypes without even realizing it."

The kick-off event will take place at Google on Nov. 1, at 7 p.m., with speakers and refreshments. An array of activities will be held throughout the month, including a "police role play" featuring Chief Scott Vermeer, a panel discussion on first impressions, and a prize-winning short film on stereotyping by a local filmmaker. There will also be more typical book-club events, where readers can gather at local bookstores or restaurants to discuss their thoughts on "Blink."

ParadigmHill, founded earlier this year through the Leadership Mountain View program with sponsorship from the Mountain View Public Library, serves as a local forum and plans activities meant to reach out to the city's diverse community.

Although "Blink" is ideally suited for adults, teenagers are also encouraged to read. Participants in Mountain View Reads Together need not read the book to share in the experience.

For more information and for a calendar of events, visit <http://mvreads.org>.

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Day Worker Center celebrates 10th anniversary

PLAY, FESTIVAL
PART OF TWO-DAY
COMMEMORATION
NEXT WEEKEND

By Daniel DeBolt

On Oct. 20 there will be a unique opportunity to hear and see the stories of Mexican immigrants who struggle to cross the border and earn money for their families. The stories come from Mountain View's growing Day Worker Center, and will be dramatically retold by actors in a play at the Community School of Music and Arts.

"Our talented cast has worked very hard and are proud to be representing their friends and co-workers in the play," said director and volunteer Veronica Meza.

The event is the first of two next weekend to commemorate the center's 10-year anniversary. On Oct. 22, the center is hosting

a family festival at St. Joseph School, which will include food from throughout the Americas, folk music, dancing and sports events.

"We are taking this opportunity to thank our volunteers and bring together the community we serve," said executive director Maria Marroquin.

Assemblywoman Sally Lieber is sponsoring the first event on Oct. 20, which will also include an art show with the theme "Dignity of the day workers." Local students and artists have created pieces using a variety of media.

The Oct. 20 event will go from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at CSMA, located at 230 San Antonio Rd. The Oct. 22 event goes from 2 to 8 p.m. at St. Joseph, 1120 Miramonte Ave. Both events are free. For more information, call (650) 903-4102. ▀

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



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EDITOR'S DESK

► Continued from page 5

making the pumpkins look like Rich Fischer.

SUPERVISOR LIZ KNISS will be in attendance at this weekend's Kids Fun Day, and you should be too. This event is a novel approach to the otherwise dull task of finding and signing up kids who are not currently receiving health care. The event is this Saturday, Oct. 14, at City Hall Plaza, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ...

ALSO, THAT VERY same Saturday, Monta Loma Elementary School's PTA is holding its annual Fall Festival from 2 to 6 p.m. ▣

Don Frances is editor of the Mountain View Voice. He can be reached at dfrances@mv-voice.com.

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Cops crack violin case

\$100,000 WORTH OF INSTRUMENTS STOLEN FROM MOUNTAIN VIEW SHOP

By Daniel DeBolt

Back on Sept. 1, while the alarm system happened to be temporarily down, Norm's Violin Shop in Mountain View had just over \$100,000 worth of expensive violins, bows and guitars stolen from the premises.

But after a month-long joint investigation with officers from several Peninsula cities, detectives have found a prime suspect: 36-year-old Dennis Martin Lloyd II, from the small town of McFarland, near Bakersfield. Police arrested him in Ceres in late September.

Police say Lloyd has admitted to a plan to stock his own store with the stolen goods. Officers say they have searched his music store in Delano — another Central Valley town — and recovered many of the instruments, plus others stolen from stores in San Carlos, San Jose, Livermore, Dublin and Reno, according to Palo Alto police Sgt. Sandra Brown. Brown said that in total, the suspect stole over \$150,000 worth of high-end instruments, making Norm Clark, owner of the Mountain View store, the biggest single victim of the spree.

Clark said police are still cataloguing the instruments — but he only expects about half of the equipment to be returned.

"He just wanted high-end stuff," he said about the burglar. "He knew what he was doing, but as far as intelligence I rate his IQ way down there."

Clark, who is retired, said business was unusually good earlier in the year, so he's been able to get through the "terrific impact" of the burglary without a serious threat to his livelihood.

Clark said one of the shop's \$5,000 violins was destroyed when the burglar ripped a group of instruments off a rack in one fell swoop.

"If he knows good instruments he didn't take good care of them," he said.

Lloyd was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail in San Jose and charged with three counts of burglary and one count of conspiracy to commit burglary relating to the Palo Alto thefts, Brown said. Additional charges are pending from the other cities. ▀

The Palo Alto Weekly contributed to this story.

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LOCAL ELECTION 2006

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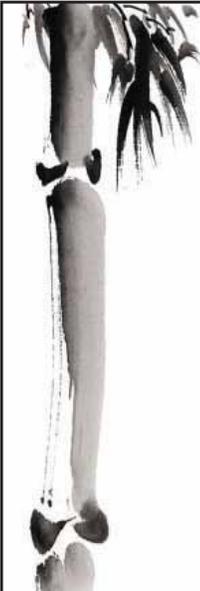
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- **Mountain View City Council Candidate LIVE Call-in Debate**
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- **Measure C Round Table Discussion**
Broadcast LIVE on Wednesday, Oct 25, 7-8 pm
- **Candidate Statements**
Broadcast daily from October 19 to November 7
- **Additional Election Programs**
 - Mountain View "Many Neighborhoods" Meeting
 - League of Women Voters Candidate Forum
 - MV City Council Candidate Information Exchange
 - Cupertino Rotary FUHSD Board Forum

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TRAPS

► Continued from page 1

play area, where seven encounters with squirrels have been reported, including four involving children.

"It's on hold until further notice as we look at other options and alternatives," said community services director Dave Muela about trapping the squirrels.

Wildlife biologist Dave Johnston from H.T. Harvey and Associates was called in by city staff for an initial evaluation. The city is still considering whether to employ the group as a consultant.

"They have a background in squirrel management," Muela said. "They've done specific work with squirrels."

Johnston, who specializes in mammology, has taught at San Jose State University and Santa Clara University. He didn't take a strong position on what should be done at the park, but said he would provide consultations from a biologist's perspective.

However, Johnston did speak about the type of squirrel at the park, which is a non-native species called the eastern gray squirrel. He said the species was introduced in the early 1900s to Golden Gate Park, SJSU and UC Berkeley, and has since spread, pushing the native western gray squirrel out of the area. Today, the native squirrel can only be found nearby in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

When asked if the eastern gray squirrel had ever attacked people in other places, Johnston said, "I don't know if there are other situations quite like this one, but they [the eastern gray in particular] are often pest species."

According to its Web site, H.T. Harvey and Associates often does work for environmental impact reports. The agency employs 18 ecologists with a wide variety of specialties out of its San Jose office.

Johnston said Cuesta's squirrels can live 9 to 12 years. When asked how long it could take for

the squirrels to unlearn aggressive behavior, he said. "I'm not qualified to answer that, I don't know if anybody really knows that."

Mary Paglieri, president of the Little Blue Society, which presents itself as a consultation group concerned with human-animal conflict, said she thinks it is possible to train the squirrels with a set of special "aversive" techniques.

"We have methods and techniques that we use that are very effective to change an animal's behavior — we have done this with coyotes, raccoons and mountain lions," she said.

She couldn't give specific examples resembling the particular situation at Cuesta Park, but said the city was definitely on the right track with its large signs and patrolling park rangers.

The squirrel's "behavior is already being modified by the fact there is no food being given to them," Paglieri said. "It just takes time for them to realize humans are not a source of free food. I'm happy the city is taking its time."

City manager Kevin Duggan warned that the city couldn't forever afford to have park rangers patrolling 10 hours a day, seven days a week.

"What my primary goal has to be is a safe environment," he said last week. "With three bites in the last 30 days it just got to be a real problematic situation. I don't think anybody wants to trap squirrels."

About six students and three parents from Branham High School in San Jose were motivated enough by the threat of dead squirrels to show up at Cuesta Park last Saturday and inform people, using signs and fliers, of the park's squirrel problem.

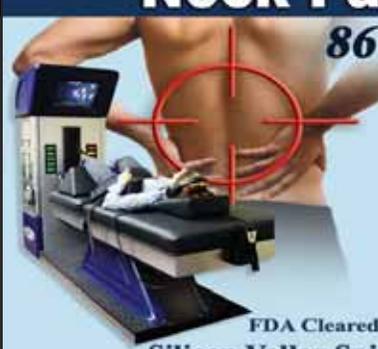
The students were members of the school's Helping Humanity Club, which claims about 30 members at its regular meetings. But the action was a last-minute one, according to group president Philip Anderson.

The students encouraged park users to write to the mayor about the problem. ▀

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ATTACKED

► Continued from page 1

four of which involved children. After the attack, Miller carried Samir home with blood running down the boy's hand. "The poor old man was shaking," Freiha said.

Freiha, a nurse, dressed her son's wounds. After going to El Camino Hospital it was decided that Samir didn't need rabies shots, because an infectious disease specialist there said the chance of a squirrel carrying rabies was extremely low.

"That must be a tough decision for a doctor to make," Miller said.

The Freihans weren't quite sure how to react to the incident. They tried to report it to a park ranger, but the ranger told them the hospital kept such records.

Not long after, however, the story about aggressive squirrels at Cuesta Park hit the news. "We had no idea so many kids had been attacked," Freiha said.

The family has preferred Bubb School's play area over Cuesta for years because of the squirrels. Their home is a few blocks between both parks. "We usually go to Bubb and we don't have any problems," Freiha said.

Miller, who lives right across the street from the Freihans, said his granddaughter Kate prefers Cuesta

to Bubb — even though she too was scratched by a squirrel there three months ago. Miller is a retired physicist that worked at the Stanford linear accelerator for 45 years.

Though he wasn't watching during the moments when Kate and Samir approached the squirrel, he said he remembers seeing breadcrumbs all over the ground after the incident, leading him to believe the squirrel was eating a loaf of bread in the stroller.

"I'm a little surprised Kate didn't warn him, because she had gotten scratched," he said.

He said he's seen the squirrels rummage through people's bags looking for food.

"I suspect the problem isn't feeding as much as it is having snacks there," he said. "Any mother tends to have snacks for their kids."

Ever since the incident, large signs in multiple languages saying food isn't allowed within the tree-lined play area have replaced smaller ones that were up most of the summer, Miller said.

Freiha said she believes the squirrels are very territorial in the play area, and have "learned aggressive behavior."

Despite the traumatic experience, she and her husband, Selim Freiha, say they favor trapping and moving the squirrels over euthanizing them. ■

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Diana Reynolds Roome

Elaine Rowland

Kathy Schrenk

Photographers

Norbert von der Groeben

Nicholas Ryan Wright

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Assistant Design Director

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E-mail Classified

ads@MV-VOICE.com

E-mail Circulation

circulation@MV-VOICE.com

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Milestone for Day Worker Center

Putting aside its sometimes contentious past, the Day Worker Center of Mountain View is celebrating its 10th anniversary by looking ahead to what appears to be a very bright future.

The center, started 10 years ago to aid the workers who gathered on sidewalks to take temporary jobs, serves about 75 clients a day who line up to take work from anyone who calls in seeking help. The center also offers classes in English and other subjects that help workers negotiate their way in today's marketplace.

Today, with relatively stable finances and a group of supportive benefactors, including Los Altos Mayor Ron Packard, the center is looking to some good years ahead. There is talk of a stable endowment and even a dream of a permanent home. More volunteers are evident at the center, located in the Calvary Church on Escuela Avenue. And the long, debilitating feud with St. Vincent de Paul, the center's former operator, is history.

These days, executive director Maria Marroquin and long-time supporter and board secretary John Rinaldi are breathing a sigh of relief, and marveling at their reversal of fortune. Besides the help from Los Altos, the Peninsula Community Foundation (now merging to form the Silicon Valley Community Foundation) is providing the center with annual grants of \$75,000 a year for three years, for a total of \$225,000 if all goals are met. (Last year the center received \$7,600 from the Voice Holiday Fund, which provided similar grants to five other nonprofit organizations that serve the Mountain View and surrounding communities.)

The role of the center in today's economy is particularly timely given the recent failed effort in Congress to write a new immigration bill, and the lack of support, despite the efforts of President Bush, to couple the bill with a viable way for workers to earn work permits or citizenship.

Meanwhile, Mountain View's Worker Center continues to serve employers and workers in a safe and supportive environment. Congratulations to Ms. Marroquin, Mr. Rinaldi and all the others in the Day Worker organization, as well as those who are helping to find steady funding and a larger, permanent location for the center. It is a worthy cause, and a way for the community to receive help from the workers and, in return, give them what they need most — a day's pay for a day's work.

■ INFORMATION

Two upcoming events will commemorate the center's anniversary: On Oct. 20, a play about day workers will be presented at the Community School of Music and Arts, beginning at 7:30 p.m. with opening remarks by Assemblywoman Sally Lieber, D-Mountain View. And Sunday, Oct. 22, a fund-raising event featuring food and activities will be held at St. Joseph School, beginning at 2 p.m.
See story on Page 11.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

NEW COUNCIL SHOULD REFLECT WILL OF THE PEOPLE

Editor:

What will Mountain View look like in 10 or 20 years?

Decisions on housing development have been addressed by this city council, which will have a significant impact about the look and feel of our community. Certainly, these decisions are just the beginning of a number of important housing- and development-related issues that will face the new council after the election.

The three new council members will have a substantial impact on the direction the city takes.

I would like to see the city take a balanced approach to growth, one that acts on the input from the citizens of the city. I intend to seek out those candidates that will put the will and the wishes of the people of Mountain View into the decision-making process.

Michael Fletcher
Dell Ave

KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES BEFORE VOTING

Editor:

We have a very interesting election coming up in Mountain View.

Our city council is made up of seven sitting council members. And we have three out of seven seats available, presenting a unique opportunity to really mold the council to the way we want our city to be run. Think about all the decisions that have been made in the past few years. Did they go the way you wanted them to?

For the downtown residents, I can say fairly confidently that most people were disappointed that the council chose Long's drug store over Zanotos grocery. We understood the argument that Long's made the city a better financial offer, but we wanted a grocery store. That decision rested with the council members, and they voted differently than the desire of their constituents in the downtown.

Eight people are running for council this election. Three of these are women. Mountain View politics are largely devoid of party affiliation, but

I know that one candidate is a strong advocate for Republican policies, one is a vocal proponent from the Green Party and one is a Libertarian. I'm assuming the rest lean toward the Democratic Party, but I'm not sure.

My point is that these candidates are not created equal, and it is up to us to decide which ones will represent the way we want our city to run. Please, get involved and stay informed.

Ken Rosenberg
Mercy Street

COUNTY WRONG TO CUT MENTAL HEALTH FUNDS

Editor:

I'm responding to a Sept. 22 article, "County Facing Grim Budget Cuts," which says that "The county plans to balance the \$2.3 billion general fund budget by cutting about \$155.6 million from departments, including nearly \$34 million from the mental health department, one of the hardest-hit divisions."

To me this sounds unconscionable and will lead to ruined lives, broken families and damaged children in our community. I see county mental health funding as a salvation for our most vulnerable members of society. For them, these much-needed provisions can stand between a healthy mind and chaos. Santa Clara County needs to balance its budget another way.

Most people with mental health needs will not have the wherewithal and the savvy to advocate for themselves and fight the system to get what they need. They are busy struggling to just get through today.

But take away their psychiatric care, their professional counselors, their support groups and teams, and you might as well take the floor out from under them. This could afflict a normally harmless, gentle person with confusion, paranoia or psychosis, and suddenly all of us become vulnerable.

I feel strongly that this is an irresponsible, shortsighted, and cowardly direction to go for our county. We need to instead cut funding for people who are able

► See **LETTERS**, page 18

Two takes on the Cuesta Annex

Water district's flood plan proposal is worth a serious look

By Greg Zlotnick

What to do with the Cuesta Park Annex? This question has been under discussion for years in Mountain View. With community input the city is developing an answer.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District has been working with residents on a flood protection project along Permanente Creek that was promised as part of our Clean, Safe Creeks program approved by county voters (70 percent in Mountain View) in November 2000. The Annex can potentially play a big role in that project.

Flood protection and community use of the Annex are not mutually exclusive.

There is a tremendous opportunity for a multi-purpose project to increase flood protection and enhance the environment, while allowing for use of the Annex per the community's desires: open space, a heritage orchard, playing fields, even a history museum.

This does not mean making a giant sink-hole out of the Annex. I wouldn't support that.

Some believe the chances of a flood are too remote to worry about. Besides, that's what flood insurance is for.

That's what your neighbors said for years until San Francisco Creek flooded a portion of Palo Alto in 1998, causing more than \$28 million in damages. More importantly, the trauma still lingers with residents there. A major flood on Permanente Creek could cause \$48 million of damage, in 1999 dollars.

While the standard we work with, as established by the federal government, is protecting against a "1 percent event" — the chances of such a large flood in any given year is 1 in 100 — during the period of a 30-year mortgage, the real odds are 1 in 4.

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- Protect 2,500 properties (over 50 percent more than originally identified)
- Preserve 1.6 miles of riparian habitat
- Remove 2.4 miles of concrete channel and replace it with natural creek bank
- Preserve 20 acres of open space, and
- Extend the Permanente Creek trail to Middlefield Road rather than have it dead-end at U.S. Highway 101.

Isn't that worth a serious look? In addition, the district would incorporate whatever the city desired at the Annex as part of the project and could pay for most of those enhancements, saving scarce city funds for other pressing needs.

What's the "cost" of allowing the Annex to be used this way? Perhaps once every 10 years, a few feet of floodwater that would otherwise flood homes would be held at the Annex for a few winter days, making it unusable for that period. That temporary inconvenience seems a small price to pay for significantly increasing the protection of the community and enhancing the environment.

Too often the public complains, not without some justification, that in government the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing, while asking, "Can't they get their act together?" That's what we're trying to do here.

Ultimately, it is Mountain View that will decide what happens with the Annex. I look forward to working with the city to transform the Annex into a civic asset that happens to help protect its citizens at the same time.

Greg Zlotnick is the District 5 director of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. His district includes Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Cupertino, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, Stanford and portions of San Jose and Sunnyvale.

Harmonious balance needed between open space, playing fields

By Ivan John

Mountain View was once a city abundant with orchards, but times have changed since Ole Hanson, the founder of San Clemente, said, "The whole City should be a Park."

The open spaces aren't so abundant now, which is why the 12.5 acres of the Annex to Cuesta Park are so important.

Much has been said from all sides on the future of the Annex, but there is no need for any one group to capture the final say in determining its use.

On the one hand, we ought to be able to accomplish the goal of preserving our open spaces (as well as acquiring and improving new open space) in a way that leaves future generations at least as well off with open space as we are today.

On the other hand, we also need a net gain in playing fields for casual and team sports. Therefore it is imperative for us at this opportune moment in the planning process to recognize the needs of our growing population of youth. Mountain View, like other Peninsula cities, needs fields for team sports and other recreational activities.

This is not a black-and-white set of choices, but a mix, where we should seek harmony between a natural setting and playing fields.

Let's step back and recognize that today's Mountain View is multi-generational and multi-ethnic. Our youth is our future; let's provide them with the tools to develop their talents.

We cannot only wait for adequate sports facilities to arise from the ongoing Recreation Strategic Plan, which is expected to be completed in the summer of 2007. However, the possibilities are out there — for example, conversion of a six-acre lot at Garcia Avenue running alongside the Shoreline Golf Links is at present in the embryonic stage in the form of a feasibility study.

The study's goal is twofold: to examine the challenges of building on landfill, and to mitigate environmental considerations. If these problems should be properly addressed, there will be a distinct gain in lighted playing fields for competitive team sports in Mountain View.

How we set about reaching these goals is what matters most to our local communities, sports teams and neighborhood associations. Parks, open space and recreational facilities are so very important to the well being of the close-knit community which makes Mountain View a caring city.

To my mind this is a golden opportunity — as the Cuesta Master Plan process for the Annex and use of its 12.5 acres of open space gathers steam, and the long-awaited update of the Parks and Open Space Plan (last revised in 2001) comes online — to get it right.

It is my belief that Cuesta Annex can be all things to all of us; a place to meander in, a haven of wonderment, a place to kick a ball — not yours or mine, but ours.

Ivan John is vice chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission. He lives on California Street.

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LETTERS

► Continued from page 16

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**Juanita Strait
Quincy Drive**

TAKE FOOD OUT OF SQUIRREL EQUATION

Editor:

If you look at the squirrel
issue in Cuesta Park objec-
tively, the squirrels have more
right to be there than we do.
It's their home, while we just
visit there.

The problem of aggressive
squirrels attacking young
children was created by us,
and it is up to us to solve the
problem — without harming
innocent squirrels or displac-
ing them from their rightful
home.

I assume from the location
of the signs in the park that
the main problem is at the
playground and not the picnic
areas. I have the following,
simple proposal: Ban adults
who bring young children into
the playground from bringing
any food for those children.
Better yet, make the entire
park a "food free zone" except
for designated picnic areas,
and make all of the trash con-
tainers in the park squirrel-
resistant.

Another option would be to
fence off the playground for a
while and tell parents and nan-
nies to take the children else-
where — but that won't work.
Closing the playground for a
while to re-train the squirrels is
totally rational, but it just won't
fly with parents, most of whom
want everything for their kids
with no sacrifices or inconve-
niences. Unfortunately, real life
has lots of sacrifices and inconve-
niences.

**William R. Hitchens
Sunnyview Lane**

HUNGRY SQUIRRELS NO FRIEND TO CUESTA NEIGHBOR

Editor:

Not everyone loves squirrels.
For 41 years I have lived two
blocks from what is now Cues-
ta Park. For many of those
years I have taken vegetables
from my garden and fruit

from my and my friends' trees
to Mountain View's Commu-
nity Services Agency, where
people stand in patient lines
for food.

But they have to share it with
the squirrels. I wouldn't mind
so much if the little animals
— however cute — would fin-
ish what they start to eat. But
they leave half-eaten peaches
and tomatoes sitting on fence-
post tops.

Their worst offense is to my
walnut tree (never mind that
they planted it). They pick or
knock off every single walnut
before it's ripe. This tree is
big enough to supply many
families, and I remember how
good a fresh walnut tastes. I
don't want all the squirrels
killed, just the vandals in my
backyard.

**Helen Nelson Grinich
Carol Avenue**

RED CROSS SAYS THANKS

Editor:

I want to offer a public thank
you to the Community Ser-
vices Agency and the Moun-
tain View City Council, which
helped the local Red Cross
assist residents after the June 13
Latham Avenue apartment fire
which displaced 19 families.

Our Red Cross volunteers
responded to the fire depart-
ment's call and provided for the
immediate needs of the 48 men,
women and children. Trained
volunteers, some bilingual,
arranged for motel rooms, food,
clothing and medication for the
residents.

However, we soon learned
that the displaced families
would not be able to return to
the damaged building in the
near future, so I turned to an
old agency partner. Tom Myers
of CSA responded quickly to my
call for assistance. CSA extend-
ed motel housing through the
weekend, helped clients locate
affordable apartments, and
opened its Food Closet.

Then city manager Kevin
Duggan offered to assist our
two agencies with the costs.
The city council voted a one-
time emergency grant of up to
\$25,000. Recently both agen-
cies received checks from the
city, totaling about 29 percent
of the grant. Fortunately, the
rest of the expenses were cov-
ered through the generous
donations of many members of
the community.

This partnership represents
the best in community spirit.
Your local Red Cross thanks
CSA, the city of Mountain View
and the generous public.

**Trish Bubenik,
Executive Director
Palo Alto Area Chapter
American Red Cross**

MountainView
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If you would like to be listed in DINING ON THE TOWN please call Judie Block at the Voice at 964-6300

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

■ MOVIE TIMES

■ BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

French charmer

BEAUSEJOUR IN LOS ALTOS OFFERS CHIC AMBIANCE, TASTEFUL CUISINE

By Dale F. Bentson

It is easy to cozy up to Beausejour, the engaging French restaurant tucked away in the quietude of Los Altos.

Hidden behind a street-side stucco exterior, the restaurant has a decor that is warmly elegant, with upholstered chairs and artwork in fancy frames. I haven't been in a local French restaurant with as much European flair in some time.

The restaurant is divided into smaller dining rooms, keeping the experience intimate. Downstairs are additional banquet and party facilities that can handle up to 95 guests.

William Yee and his wife, Anh, are celebrating their 20th anniversary in the space. After graduating from the Culinary Academy in San Francisco,

William worked in hotel restaurants around the West Coast honing his culinary skills. He was also infused with family experience; his father-in-law owned several French restaurants in Saigon.

"The French so influenced Vietnamese cooking it became traditional," Yee said.

The menu leans toward traditional French-American fare, with nightly specials. The seasonably evolved menu changes about four times per year.

For starters, I was delighted with the smoked duck breast (\$8.95). Served on a bed of organic greens with bits of bacon and pickled red onion, the duck was fleshy and succulent.

Crispy avocado on a bed of greens (\$6.95) was the most unusual appetizer. The avocado was quartered and rolled in Cajun spices, salted, washed in

egg, floured and rolled in panko (Japanese-style breadcrumbs), then fried in canola oil. The result was a rich, crispy, creamy, almost tropical first course.

The en crouete seafood soup (\$9.95) was delicious. The large ramekin was loaded with prawns, scallops and salmon. The sauce was delicate and the pastry topper buttery and flaky.

Another good choice was the roast beet salad (\$8.95), served on spinach with fresh mango slices, caramelized walnuts and feta cheese, dressed with citrus vinaigrette.

Main dishes are offered either a la

► See *BEAUSEJOUR*, page 21

Beausejour's rack of lamb entree (front) and shrimp scampi (back).

VERONICA WEBER



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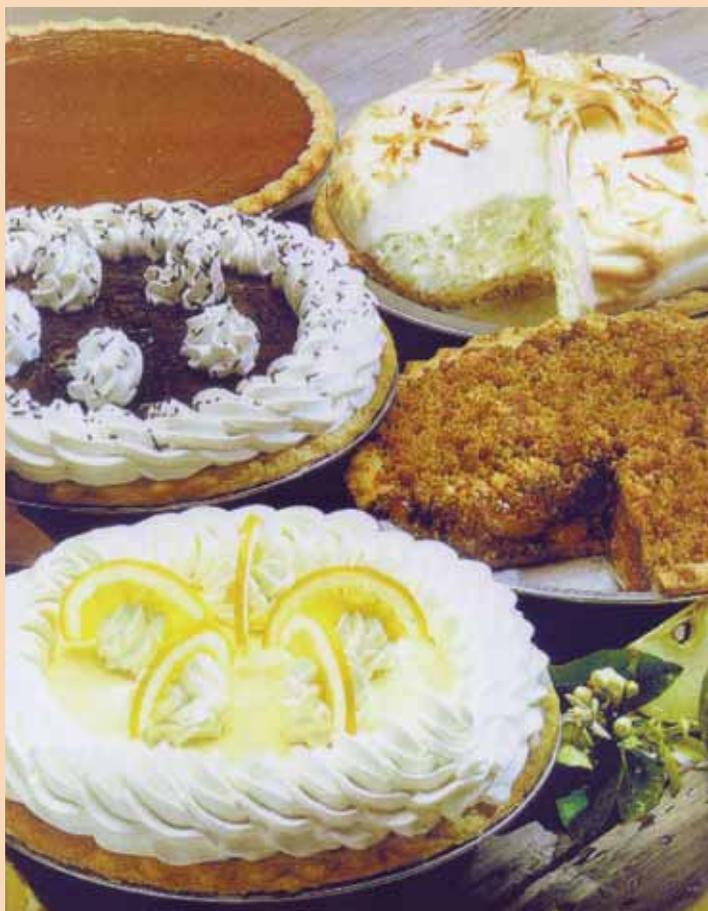
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VERONICA WEBER

Tri Thai sets a table for dinner service at the Beausejour French restaurant.

BEAUSEJOUR

► Continued from page 19

carte, or, for \$8 more, as a three-course dinner. Dinners come with either the soup of the day or salad and dessert.

According to Yee, if there is a signature dish of Beausejour, it is the rack of lamb (\$24.95). I second the motion. My plate held four juicy, tender, pecan-herb-crusted ribs that came with scalloped purple potatoes and vegetables glazed with a delicate brown garlic sauce.

King salmon (\$17.95) was pink-orange, plump and tasty. The thick filet was coated with a chardonnay demi-glaze of shallots, bay leaf, garlic, parsley and cream. It was a well-balanced combination. Mashed potatoes, carrots and fresh steamed spinach completed the plate.

Fruits de mer (\$20.95) was a tempting combination of scallops, tiger prawns and mussels au gratin. Delicately fried polenta and vegetables made this a hearty plate.

Scampi (\$28.95) in lobster sauce was light and flavorsome. The sauce was a combination of herbs, vegetables, lobster and cream — blended, pureed, thickened and smoothed into a silken sauce.

One evening, a large veal chop (\$24.95) was the special. The meat was fork-tender and cooked exactly as I had requested. Mashed potatoes and sauteed shiitake mushrooms accompanied.

While tempting dishes flowed from the kitchen, some attention to detail was overlooked. For instance, the plates were not always wiped clean before the food was brought to the table.

Service was efficient if impersonal. Wait staffs need not be

overly friendly or too chatty. Here, the staff was not ungracious; rather, they just seemed to be on autopilot.

Of the desserts, one was extra-special while most of the rest were good — with one communication breakdown.

First, the good news. The lemon curd shortcake (\$6.50) was superb. Crisp yet feather-light, the shortcake was served with berries drenched in Grand Marnier sabayon sauce. Sabayon is the French version of the Italian zabaglione: a warm custard of whisked sugar, wine and eggs.

Fresh baked apple tart (\$7) on puff pastry with vanilla ice

cream and apricot sauce was divine. The pastry was airy, flaky and oven fresh.

Orange creme brulee (\$6) was served at room temperature. It would have been luscious had it been chilled. Chocolate mousse (\$5.50) was more pudding than the light, airy foam I expected.

The snafu came with the house-made raspberry swirl cheesecake (\$5.75). The cheesecake was fresh, slightly warm and richly flavored. But the sauce of fresh pureed raspberries tasted moldy — not just a little, but a lot. I quickly motioned over the nearest staffer, who appar-

► See BEAUSEJOUR, page 22

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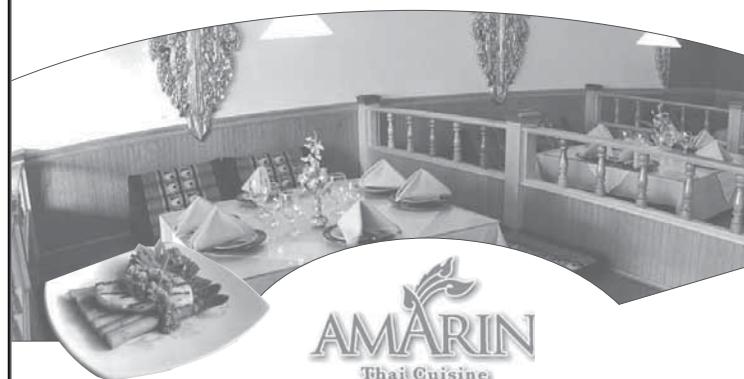
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BEAUSEJOUR

► Continued from page 21

ently didn't pass the information along to my waiter, as the cheesecake was neither replaced nor taken off the bill.

For early-bird dinners (5 to 6:30 p.m.), Beausejour offers six tempting three-course dinners for \$15.95. Seafood, pork and lamb dishes are presented, with a mixed green salad and choice from two desserts.

Beausejour offers a laundry list of libations. Nearly 100 combinations of cocktails, martinis, tropical and mixed drinks, shooters and after-dinner drinks are available (\$5.50-\$7). The wine list tilts heavily

towards California.

Beausejour is a charmer with a tasty menu of well-prepared ingredients. A recommitment to detail from the kitchen would help realize that first-class experience every diner covets. ▀

■ **DINING NOTES**

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Ruth (Linda Mugleston) and Nathan (John Eric Parker) share a moment in 'Dessa Rose.'

DAVID ALLEN

A lifetime wrapped in an evening

"DESSA ROSE" MAKES SOULFUL WEST COAST DEBUT IN THEATREWORKS PRODUCTION

By Amber Cleave

We are descended from a long line of strong women."

"Dessa Rose," the new and ambitious production by TheatreWorks, commences with these stirring lines, part of a soulful opening song called "We Are Descended." The understanding implied here — that we are all humans, and of the same origins — is established at the outset, and hangs over the remainder of the show.

Composed and written by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, "Dessa Rose" defies clean categorization. Described as a "chamber opera" — a musical production meant to be performed in small spaces — it's not strictly correct to call it a play or a musical.

Even so, "Dessa Rose" is told entirely through song. The music is haunting, and many of slavery's heavy themes are reflected in the chain-gang sound of the score. "Noah's Dove," for one, has the hymnal, church-like sound and feel of a prayer. There are also a few light numbers, with a Southern twang brought out through a plucking banjo.

The plot, based on the Sherley Anne Williams novel of the same name, is one of Southern legacy: Dessa Rose, a young black slave, becomes pregnant and is condemned to death by hanging. But the slave owners, rather than kill a perfectly good slave child, decide to prolong Dessa's life until she gives birth.

She joins forces with a divorced white Southern woman, Ruth, who provides sanctuary for runaway slaves, and together they

trick the system in an attempt to achieve freedom and liberation. In such a crucible as this, the themes become clear — legacy, unity, abolition, rebellion, friendship, sisterhood, love, life and death — and "Dessa Rose" portrays them to the utmost.

TheatreWorks spared no expense in bringing "Dessa Rose" here for its West Coast debut. Under the artistic direction of Robert Kelley, musical direction of William Liberatore and choreography by Christopher Widnom, it brings the Antebellum South — its horror and glory — right here to Mountain View.

Veteran Bay Area set designer Andrea Bechert has created an uncomplicated and malleable set for the show. The wood-fence slave quarters remain on stage throughout, but are manipulated to repre-

sent the various settings. The set is vibrant and perfectly augmented by the lighting and background, which changes from sunrise to starlit sky as the story demands.

This uncomplicated approach to the set balances the complicated storytelling. The tale digresses many times, and takes the audience through loops, as we learn the different character's perspectives — and then their changed perspectives at different points in their lives. For example, Ruth and Dessa Rose, played respectively by Linda Mugleston and Carly Hughs, are portrayed in their 20s and in their 80s, with corresponding points of view.

As the years unfold, Ruth and Dessa Rose form a magnificent duo; through their strength they're able to share a loneliness which crosses racial and cultural lines. Mugleston and Hughs, for their part, prove themselves to be powerful actresses and vocalists amid a small and tight-knit cast.

No one character seems to carry "Dessa Rose" for the rest. Adam Nehemiah, played by Ian Leonard, perfectly embodies the corruption and close-mindedness of Southern white men of that era. Conversely, Nathan, played by John Eric Parker, embodies a slave's forgiveness, love and acceptance.

As the play comes to a close, "We Are Descended" rings true once more, this time as an epilogue. It brings "Dessa Rose" in a full circle, and ingrains its themes: understanding, acceptance, unity. ▀

■ INFORMATION

What: TheatreWorks presents "Dessa Rose," a chamber opera by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty

Where: The Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St.

When: Through Oct. 29, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays through Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Price: \$35-\$62

Info: Tickets or more information are available by phone at (650) 903-6000 or online at www.theatreworks.org. Tickets are also available at the walk-up ticket window.

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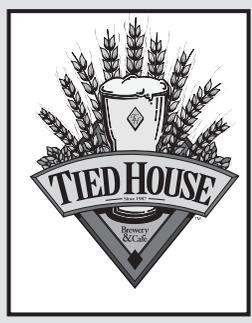
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MOVIE TIMES
A GUIDE TO RECOGNIZING YOUR SAINTS (R)

Century 16: Noon, 2:35, 5, 7:20 & 9:40 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15 & 9:40 p.m.

ACCEPTED (PG-13) Century 20: 12:50, 3:10, 5:35, 8 & 10:25 p.m.

AMERICAN HARDCORE (R) Guild: 2:50, 5:10, 7:40 & 10 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 12:40 p.m.

THE DEPARTED (R) ★★★1/2 Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 12:15, 1:15, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:45, 6:45, 7:45, 9 & 10 p.m. Century 12: Noon, 1:05, 2, 3:15, 4:25, 5:30, 6:40, 7:55, 8:55 & 9:55 p.m.

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA (PG-13) ★★★ Century 20: 5:15, 7:40 & 10:10 p.m.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50 & 10:15 p.m. Century 12: 11:50 a.m.; 12:55, 2:15, 3:20, 4:35, 5:45, 7:05, 8:10, 9:30 & 10:30 p.m.

EVERYONE'S HERO (G) Century 20: 11:35 a.m. & 2:20 p.m.

FLYBOYS (PG-13) ★★ Century 12: 12:40, 4:10, 7:10 & 10:10 p.m.

THE GOONIES (1985) (PG) Aquarius: Fri. & Sat. at midnight; Sat. & Sun. at noon.

GRIDIRON GANG (PG-13) ★★★ Century 20: 1:25, 4:15, 7:05 & 9:50 p.m.

THE GRUDGE 2 (PG-13) Century 16: 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:35 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 12:30, 1:15, 2, 2:55, 3:35, 4:25, 5:20, 6, 6:50, 7:50, 8:35, 9:25 & 10:30 p.m.

THE GUARDIAN (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: 1, 4, 7 & 9:55 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:45, 2:30, 3:45, 5:30, 7, 8:30 & 10 p.m.

THE ILLUSIONIST (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 12:25, 2:55 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 1:55, 4:20, 7:25 & 9:55 p.m.

INFAMOUS (R) ★★★1/2 Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 1:55, 4:40, 7:30 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:55 a.m.; 2:35, 5:15, 7:55 & 10:30 p.m.

JACKASS: NUMBER TWO (R) Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:05 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 12:55, 3:25, 5:50, 8:05 & 10:20 p.m.

JET LI'S FEARLESS (PG-13) ★★ Century 12: 12:10, 2:35, 5, 7:40 & 10:05 p.m.

THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (R) ★★★1/2 Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 2:15, 4:55, 7:55 & 10:30 p.m.

THE LAST KISS (R) ★★ Century 20: 11:50 a.m.; 2:25 & 10:05 p.m.

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE (R) ★★★ Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 2:15, 4:40, 7:10 & 9:35 p.m. Aquarius: 2:10, 4:30, 7 & 9:20 p.m.

MAN OF THE YEAR (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 12:40, 2, 3:20, 4:35, 6:15, 7:25, 8:50 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:20, 1:10, 2:15, 3, 3:50, 4:50, 5:40, 6:30, 7:35, 8:20, 9:10 & 10:15 p.m.

THE MARINE (PG-13) Century 16: 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:40 & 9:50 p.m. Century 12: 12:30, 1:40, 2:50, 4, 5:10, 6:20, 7:30, 8:40 & 9:50 p.m.

OPEN SEASON (PG) Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 1:35, 3:35, 5:35, 7:35 & 9:35 p.m. Century 12: 12:05, 1, 2:25, 3:05, 4:40, 5:20, 7, 7:45, 9:10 & 10 p.m.

THE QUEEN (NOT RATED) ★★★★ Palo Alto Square: 2, 3, 4:20, 5:20, 7, 8, 9:25 & 10:15 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 12:35 p.m.; Sat. also at 11:35 a.m.

SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS (PG-13) ★★ Century 12: 12:20, 3:20, 5:40, 8 & 10:20 p.m.

THE SCIENCE OF SLEEP (R) Century 16: 5:25 & 7:55 p.m. Century 20: 4:55 & 7:30 p.m.

SHORTBUS (NOT RATED) ★★ Aquarius: 2:50, 5:10, 7:40 & 10 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 12:40 p.m.

STEP UP (PG-13) Century 20: 12:15, 2:40, 5, 7:20 & 9:45 p.m.

THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING (R) Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 1:45, 3:50, 5:55, 8 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 12:10, 1:05, 2:25, 3:20, 4:30, 5:25, 6:45, 7:45, 9 & 9:55 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)
CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)
GUILD: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)
SPANGENBERG THEATRE: 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto (354-8263)
 For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the Aquarius, 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.


MOVIE REVIEWS
THE DEPARTED ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 12) Director Martin Scorsese's latest masterpiece defies the crime-fiction genre and throws more curves than a Major League pitcher. Wily Irish mobster Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson) is wanted man number one for the Boston State police. The unhinged gangster stays one step ahead of the men in blue thanks to Colin Sullivan (Matt Damon), a mole in the department who's worked for Costello since childhood. On the other side of the spectrum is undercover cop Billy Costigan (Leonardo DiCaprio), an honorable yet hot-tempered young officer who manages to infiltrate Costello's crew thanks to a helping of suspect family history. Sullivan and Costigan quickly find themselves in a cat-and-mouse game to try and unmask the other. Sullivan uses every detective tool at his disposal to identify Costigan but gets no help from the surly sergeant (Mark Wahlberg as Dignam) responsible for Costigan's undercover assignment. Meanwhile, Costigan does his best from inside the seedy underworld to track down Sullivan and blow the whistle. Deceptions, double-crosses and deaths ensue. With the help of slick writing, an A-list cast and plenty of twisted surprises, Scorsese scores again. *Rated: R for strong brutal violence, pervasive language, some strong sexual content and drug material. 2 hours, 29 minutes.* — T.H.

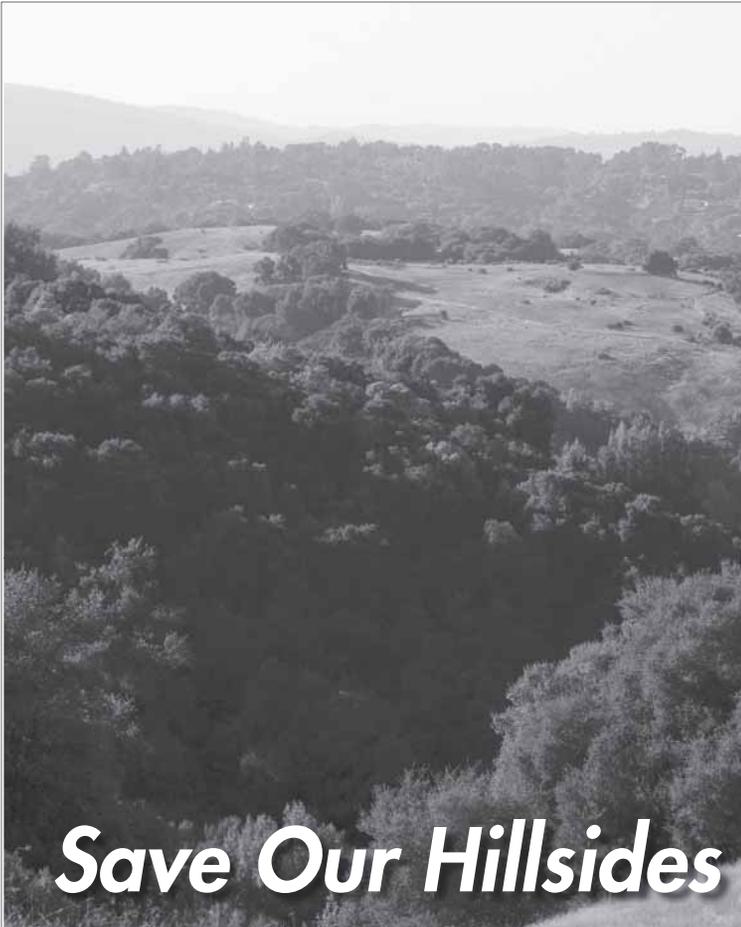
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

★★★
 (Century 16, Century 12) The concept is so absurd it's hardly worth putting down on paper: two workers at Super Club, a Costco-esque megastore, compete to win employee of the month in an effort to woo the hot new checker. The workers in question are Zack (Dane Cook) and Vince (Dax Shepard). Zack is an easygoing box boy beloved by his fellow employees but unrecognized by management. Vince is the world's most arrogant checker, a flashy suck-up who entertains patrons with his speed and style. Vince has earned employee of the month 17 straight times and looks to make it a record 18. Zack couldn't care less — until gorgeous new checker Amy (Jessica Simpson) joins the Super Club team. According to her file, Amy only dates the employee of the month (she has high standards) and Zack and Vince soon find themselves competing to earn the award in hopes of bedding her. Cook serves up some tasty laughs but "Employee of the Month" feels processed. *Rated: PG-13 for crude and sexual humor, and language. 1 hour, 43 minutes.* — T.H.

FLYBOYS ★★

(Century 12) Had "Top Gun" been directed by a curator at the Smithsonian Museum, "Flyboys" would have been the outcome. Palo Alto native James Franco stars as Blaine Rawlings, a Texas "cowboy" who volunteers to help the French fight the Germans following the

► *Continued on next page*



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► *Continued from previous page*

foreclosure of his family's ranch. Rawlings joins a crew of brave and brash Americans eager to take flight and oppose the brutal German onslaught. The group, dubbed Lafayette Escadrille, was made up of Americans who volunteered for the French military prior to U.S. involvement in World War I. Taken under the wing of Capt. Thenault (Jean Reno), Rawlings and his fellow fighters learn the ups and downs of aerial battle and are soon soaring in the skies and exchanging gunfire with fierce German pilots. Meanwhile, Rawlings finds himself smitten with a beautiful French farm girl (Jennifer Decker as Lucienne). "Flyboys" is a nice reminder of the once great relationship America and France shared, but the disappointing epic can't quite get off the ground. *Rated: PG-13 for war action violence and some sexual content. 2 hours, 19 minutes.* — T.H.

GRIDIRON GANG ★★★

(Century 20) The Rock no longer exists. Dwayne Johnson has finally shed the identity that turned him into a wrestling legend and earned the right to go by his real name. Johnson often brings a sympathetic humanity to his roles, which is plainly evident in his portrayal of real-life probation officer and football coach Sean Porter. Based on a true story, "Gridiron Gang" follows Porter and his colleague Malcolm Moore (Xzibit of "Pimp My Ride" fame) as they launch a football program at grim juvenile detention facility Camp Kilpatrick. The troubled residents of the camp mostly come from the

violent gang life of East L.A. Willie Weathers (Jade Yorker) saw his cousin murdered in front of him. Shocked with grief, Willie lands in the camp after killing his abusive stepfather in a moment of rage. Coach Porter and the fledgling football program may be Willie's only chance at a better life. Despite some seen-it-before pigskin scenarios, "Gang" tackles difficult issues revolving around the brutality of gang life. *Rated: PG-13 for startling scenes of violence, mature thematic material and language. 2 hours.* — T.H.



THE GUARDIAN ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Kevin Costner turns in a fine performance in this passable action film that treads the salty waters of the United States Coast Guard. Costner is Senior Chief Ben Randall, the most decorated swimmer in the history of the USCG. When a tricky at-sea rescue goes fatally awry, Ben gets cold feet and reluctantly accepts a position training the next wave of top guns in the Guard's A-school. Among the freshman plebes is an idealistic candidate determined to topple Randall's high water marks. He's Jake Fischer (Ashton Kutcher), a cocky

state swim champ with more attitude than brains. The two are oil and water from the get-go, relentlessly testing each other to the limits of their endurance and their patience. Not surprisingly the pair ultimately team up on a dangerous rescue mission, forced to defend each other's lives with nautical know-how. Although "Guardian" lays down the cliches with a trowel and follows an all-too familiar pattern (think "Officer and a Gentleman," "Top Gun," etc.) the energetic performances and a neat twist at the end breath some life into an otherwise stale genre. *Rated: PG-13 for language and adult themes. 2 hours, 16 minutes.* — J.A.

JET LI'S FEARLESS ★★

(Century 12) Although "Fearless" again highlights Jet Li's phenomenal martial-arts prowess, it's a lackluster send-off to cinema's most bankable kung-fu star since Bruce Lee. China, early 1900s. Huo Yuanjia (Li) becomes a revered fighter when he bests a slew of challengers in hand-to-hand combat. The efforts earn Yuanjia a devoted following in his Jin Wu Sports Foundation, a brotherhood of eager students and supporters. A personal tragedy sends Yuanjia on a downward spiral of suicidal tendencies. The value of his Jin Wu brothers and battle glory are replaced by limitless grief and self-loathing. Yuanjia soon abandons the foundation and reaches the brink of death before being rehabilitated by a blind peasant woman (Betty Sun as Moon) and learning the ways of peace. When Yuanjia gathers the strength

to return to his old school, he finds it virtually abandoned. He realizes he must return to competitive fighting, this time not for glory, but for honor. Li fans will appreciate the excellent choreography and Li's calm confidence, but "Fearless" lacks the imagination necessary for a must-see experience. *Rated: PG-13 for violence and martial-arts action throughout. 1 hour, 44 minutes.* — T.H.

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE ★★★

(Aquarius, Century 20) The Little Miss in question is sunny 7-year-old beauty pageant hopeful Olive Hoover (Abigail Breslin), a darling dumpling whose cantankerous grandpa (Alan Arkin) is coaching her in a flashy talent number. Life is not a bowl of cherries in the Hoover household. Dad Richard (Greg Kinnear) struggles to get his shaky motivational speaking career off the ground, pushing his nine-step, no-excuses tutorial with forced brio. Mom Sheryl (Toni Collette) flutters motherhen-like over an eccentric brood that also includes Sheryl's brother Frank (Steve Carell), fresh from a suicide attempt over the loss of his gay lover. All systems are go when Olive unexpectedly nabs a spot in the penultimate Little Miss Sunshine competition, kick-starting familial frenzy. The gang is hastily packed into a last-legs VW van in Albuquerque, headed for the sunny climes of Redondo Beach, California. The ensemble acting is first rate, each and every player coming through with vibrant characterizations that mesh with thespian ease. "Sunshine" can be safely crowned a

comic winner. *Rated: R for language and sexual content. 1 hour, 41 minutes.* — J.A.

SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS ★★

(Century 12) There are men in the world who lack the courage to ask out the gorgeous girl next door or stand up to abusive co-workers. Roger (Jon Heder of "Napoleon Dynamite") is one of those men: a New York City parking enforcer who faints in the face of confrontation and can't muster the nerve to tell his neighbor Amanda (Jacinda Barrett) how he feels about her. Possible salvation arrives when Roger learns of an unconventional class that teaches men to be more aggressive, take charge and "become lions." The class's teacher, Dr. P (Billy Bob Thornton), is a no-nonsense purveyor of tough love. While surrounded by a handful of similar wet-noodle fellows (including Horatio Sanz of SNL fame), Roger readies for some hard lessons from Dr. P so he can finally take a chance with Amanda — and his life. It feels like the filmmakers put "Old School" and "Napoleon Dynamite" into a cinematic blender and hit frappe in hopes of making a delicious shake. They ended up with a tasteless one. *Rated: PG-13 for language, crude and sexual content, and some violence. 1 hour, 40 minutes.* — T.H.

■ **MOVIE CRITICS**

S.T.-Susan Tavernetti,
J.A.-Jeanne Aufmuth, J.S.-Jim Shelby,
T.H.-Tyler Hanley



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Goings On

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

■ HIGHLIGHT

DESSA ROSE

Presented by TheatreWorks. Directed by Robert Kelly. A tale of pride and perseverance from the creators of Ragtime. Through Oct. 29; \$20-\$60; Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays-Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 and 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 and 7 p.m. Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View.

SPECIAL EVENTS

"STEALING AMERICA: VOTE BY VOTE"

Documentary film brings together dramatic behind the scenes perspectives from the 2004 Presidential election. Filmmaker, Dorothy Fadiman will be present to answer questions after the screening. Co-sponsored with The Peninsula Peace and Justice Center. Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. donations accepted. Cubberley Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

50TH MTN. VIEW HIGH SCHOOL CLASS

OF 1956 REUNION Oct. 21, 6-11 p.m. Contact Joanne Massiczek Del Greco (408) 269-2142 or tangoed@aol.com; Loretta Bell Merry 967-6070 or Loretta merry@sbcglobal.net. Michael's at Shoreline, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. www.michaelsatshoreline.com

ANXIOUS TIMES Stanford University presents a roundtable forum moderated by newsman Ted Koppel, hosted by Stanford President John Hennessy. Oct. 14, 9-11:15 a.m. \$10. Maples Pavilion, 655 Campus Dr., Stanford. Call 725-

2787. www.stanford.edu/roundtable

RALLY AROUND THE RIBBON Breast Cancer Fund Raiser Sat., Oct. 14, 5-9 p.m. Features Fat Chance Belly Dance, palm reading, music, singing, raffles, auction and more. See website for tickets. \$20 advance/\$25 at door. Redwood City Art Gallery, 2625 Broadway, Redwood City. Call 369-4096. www.goddessinthegarden.com

SALLY RIDE SCIENCE FESTIVAL For girls in grades 5-8 featuring a street fair with experiments, food, music, and fun; a chance to meet and listen to astronaut Janice Voss; and workshops given by women ranging from veterinarians to aerospace engineers. Parents and teachers welcome to attend. Oct. 21, 11 a.m.-4:15 p.m. \$18 advance registration required. NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Mountain View. Call (800) 561-5161. www.SallyRideFestivals.com

nese tradition of viewing flowers in season. Ceramics and sculpture by Shigemi Sanders and watercolor painting by Miyoko Mizuno through Oct. 21. Hours: Tue.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos.

500 YEARS OF ART Highlights from a collection of over 600,000 original prints include works by Audubon, Besler, Gould, Hiroshige, Hondius, Piranesi and others, dating from 1490-1920. Genres include architecture, maps, birds, botanicals, manuscripts, children's illustrations, and more. Through Oct. 19, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Lyons Ltd. Antique Prints, 10 Town and Country Village, Palo Alto. Call 325-9010. www.lyonsltd.com

AJNA LICHAU San Francisco Art Institute graduate's debut solo show featuring photography, video and installation work. Through Oct. 14, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Spur Projects, 888 Portola Road, Portola Valley. www.Spur-Projects.com

FAN HO 100 PHOTOGRAPHS A journey through Hong Kong during the 1950's and 1960's. Exhibit coincides with the release of Modernbook Editions' publication of a new

book by Fan Ho, "Hong Kong Yesterday." Through Nov. 2. Free. Modernbook Gallery, 494 University Ave., Palo Alto. Call 327-6325. www.modernbook.com

JOCK STURGES "IN COLOR" Recent color photographs by photographer Jock Sturges. Through Nov. 26, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Stellar Somerset Gallery, 539 Bryant St., Palo Alto. www.stellarssomersetgallery.com

MATTHEW RADFORD "RANDOM EMPIRES" British artist Matthew Radford is known for his figurative work and monumental crowd scenes. Through Oct. 15. Hours: Wed.-Sat., 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun., noon-5 p.m. and by appointment. Free Chelsea Art Gallery, 440 Kipling St., Palo Alto. Call 324-4450. www.chelseartgallery.com

PEOPLE AND PLACES Oil landscapes of the Peninsula by Keven Warnock and figurative oil painting of everyday activities by Sandra Cochran. Through Oct. 14. Free. Gallery House, 320 California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 574-4654.

SCALENE Photography exhibition by Alejandra Chaverri Oct. 17-Nov. 20; artist's reception Oct. 21, 3-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Free. Keeble & Schuete, 290 California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 493-2657. www.achaverri.com

SOCIETY OF LOCAL ARTISTS' FALL SHOW Juried by Marian Parmentor, SFMOMA Artist Gallery Director. Exhibition on display Thu.-Sat., through Oct. 28; artists reception Oct. 8, 6-8 p.m. Art21 Gallery, 539 Alma St., Palo Alto. Call (888) 330-6177 ext. 104. www.svlocalartists.org

TERCERA GALLERY Featuring new tables by Chris Bowman, new jewelry by Kristin Lora and Brooke Marks-Swanson through Nov. 2. Tuesday-Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tercera Gallery, 534 Ramona St., Palo Alto. Call 322-5324. www.terceragallerypaloalto.com

THE MAIN GALLERY "The Male Mystique," pastel paintings by Terri Wilson Moore and "Breathing Crows and other Poems," sculpture and monotype by Nina Koeppke. Through Oct. 15. Gallery hours: Wed.-Fri., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The Main Gallery, 1018 Main St., Redwood City.

AUDITIONS

PENINSULA POPS ORCHESTRA OPENINGS For advanced players of all instruments. Rehearsals Tuesdays, through Dec. 31, 7-10 p.m. Call for appointment. Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero Road Room M1, Palo Alto. Call 856-8432. www.peninsulapops.org

BENEFITS

3RD ANNUAL TRUE COLORS LUNCHEON Presented by Achievekids, a school for students with developmental and or emotional disabilities. Oct. 18. Free; reservations required. Crowne Cabana Hotel, 4290 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 494-1200 ext. 160. www.achievekids.org/

FIFTH ANNUAL THEATER ARTS DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISER French wine, hors d'oeuvres, raffle prizes and entertainment by Canada College Theater Arts students. Supports the Canada College to purchase equipment and services that support student actors. Oct. 19, 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$20. Redwood City Women's Club, 149 Clinton St., Redwood City. Call 362-2700. www.canadacollege.edu

HOLIDAYS ON A HIGH NOTE The Foothill Auxiliary to Family Service Agency of San Mateo County's annual home entertaining event featuring holiday table settings and festive floral presentations from the Bay Area's best designers. Connie Oakson and Kren Ramussen to present. Benefits Family Service. Oct. 16, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. \$85. Menlo Circus Club, 190 Park Lane, Atherton. Call 403-4300, ext. 4401. www.familyserviceagency.org

INDIAN CUISINE, ITALIAN OPERA Fund-

ART GALLERIES

"HANAMI" Two Bay Area artists are featured in this exhibition honoring Hanami, the Japa-

public hearing on Water Resources Protection Ordinance, Repeal of Ordinance 83-2, and Adoption of a Resolution Adopting the District's Water Resources Protection Manual

Santa Clara Valley Water District

- Proposed Resolution adopting a Negative Declaration for an Initial Study for the proposed Water Resources Protection Ordinance adoption
- Proposed Ordinance adopting the Water Resources Protection Ordinance
- Proposed Resolution adopting the Water Resources Protection Manual

DATE: Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2006, 10 a.m.

Santa Clara Valley Water District, Headquarters Board Room
5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose
(one block south of Blossom Hill Road)

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) is considering the passage of a Draft Ordinance repealing the existing Ordinance 83-2 and adoption of a Resolution adopting the District's Water Resources Protection Manual. The Ordinance would revise and repeal Ordinance 83-2, which was last revised in 1985, and would establish the process to obtain Encroachment Permits for Modifications on District rights-of-way. It also establishes a procedure for the administration and issuance of such Encroachment Permits.

The Ordinance repeals Ordinance 83-2, under which the District required and issued permits for certain activities on certain streamside parcels.

The Resolution would adopt the District's Water Resources Protection Manual (Manual), which would serve as the basis for the District's evaluation of Encroachment Permit applications. The Manual implements the model guidelines and standards recommended by the Santa Clara Valley Water Resources Protection Collaborative (Collaborative) following a review of the District's existing regulations.

The application of the District's standards will be solely on its facilities and properties. Municipal organizations currently have land use authority and police powers and have the ability to impose and enforce development standards and issue permits as needed within their jurisdiction. Each Municipal Organization can implement resource protection standards using the Collaborative products and documents as a model. The agency who exercises the land use authority will be subject to the requirements of CEQA on a project specific basis.

The project location encompasses the entirety of Santa Clara County and its 15 incorporated cities and towns, including Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga, and Sunnyvale.

The documents are available for review at the Clerk of the Board of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118. Electronic copies are also posted electronically at the District's website www.valleywater.org (click on the "CEQA public review documents" link under "district quick links" on the home page).

At the public hearing, all persons may appear and be heard.

For more information on this public hearing, please contact **Michelle Meredith** with the Clerk of the Board's office at **(408) 265-2607, ext. 2557**.

Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate persons with disabilities wishing to attend this public meeting. To RSVP for the meeting, request accommodations for disabilities or for additional information on attending this hearing, please contact the Clerk of the Board Office, Santa Clara Valley Water District, (408) 265-2600. Interpreters for this meeting can be arranged. Please call (408) 265-2607, ext. 2659 at least three days prior to the hearing.

Este aviso es para informarle sobre una reunión pública del Distrito de Aguas del Valle de Santa Clara (Santa Clara Valley Water District). Estamos convocando al público a que nos den sus comentarios para ayudarnos a planificar este proyecto. Si necesita servicios especiales para personas con discapacidades, un intérprete en español o más información sobre la reunión, por favor llámenos al menos tres días antes de la reunión al (408) 265-2607, extensión 2659.

Thông báo của Nhà Cấp Nước Santa Clara Valley (Santa Clara Valley Water District) về buổi họp dành cho công chúng. Chúng tôi đang thu thập ý kiến của công chúng để giúp chúng tôi lập kế hoạch cho dự án này. Xin liên lạc với chúng tôi ít nhất ba ngày trước buổi họp nếu quý vị cần các giúp đỡ đặc biệt cho người khuyết tật, hay nếu quý vị cần thông dịch viên tiếng Việt, hoặc nếu quý vị muốn biết thêm chi tiết về buổi họp. Xin gọi cho chúng tôi ở số (408) 265-2607, số chuyển tiếp (ext) 2632.

Santa Clara Valley
Water District

Santa Clara Valley
Water District

raiser for Mountain View City Council Candidate Kal Sandhu. Indian cuisine, wine, and Italian Opera by Tenor Vincent Chambers. Oct. 14, 2-4 p.m. \$50. Monsoon Indian Cuisine, 110 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 988-0904. www.electkalsandhu.com

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH Peninsula Beauty Supply will donate a percentage of proceeds from selected products during October. Peninsula Beauty Supply, Palo Alto, Mountain View, Redwood City. www.cbhp.org

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH Brighton Collectibles features an exclusive Breast Cancer Bracelet, designed for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2006. Brighton Collectibles will make a contribution to Community Breast Health Project for each bracelet sold. Through Oct. 31. Brighton Collectibles, Stanford Shopping Center, Palo Alto. www.cbhp.org

WILDLIFE RESCUE FALL GALA & SILENT ACTION Fri., Oct. 13, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts from A.G. Ferrari, Thomas Fogarty Wines. Educational animals will be on site. \$100. Thomas Fogarty Winery, Skyline Blvd., Woodside. Call 494-SAVE. www.wildliferescue.ws

WINE TASTING BENEFIT The Palo Alto branch of the American Association of University Women is hosting a wine tasting of 3 varieties Sun., Oct. 15, 4 p.m. to benefit the educational fund. \$15; includes light snacks. Private Home, 295 Pettis Ave., Mountain View. Call 964-1574.

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

DYEING FINE FIBERS Workshop covers dye chemistry and how it affects wool and silk fibers to create vibrant colors. Oct. 19. \$85. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org

NUNO FELTING A process melding loose fiber, usually wool, into a sheer fabric. Create flexible, lightweight wearable art or a decorative piece using Merino wool on silk. Oct. 20, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$85. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org

STANFORD DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP A Stanford University study of Diabetes Self-Management. Learn to manage your symptoms and avoid or delay complications. Saturdays, through Oct. 28, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. El Camino Hospital, Park Pavilion, room K, 2400 Grant Road, Mountain View. Call 1-800-366-2624.

CLUBS/MEETINGS

FOUNTAINBLUE SPECIAL WORKSHOP: MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS Provide background about the value of mergers and acquisitions, as well as tools and advice on how to navigate an event. Thu., Oct. 19, 8:30-11 a.m. \$40/\$30 members/\$50 at the door. Fenwick & West, 801 California, Mountain View. Call 996-3987. www.fountainblue.biz/events/specialworkshops.html

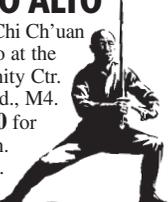
COMMUNITY EVENTS

MOUNTAIN VIEW ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE Musical and dramatically performances Oct. 15, 3-4:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View Academy, 360 S. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Call 967-2324. www.mtnviewacademy.org

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TAIJIQUAN TUTELAGE OF PALO ALTO
Our classes in T'ai Chi Ch'uan are held in Palo Alto at the Cubberley Community Ctr. 4000 Middlefield Rd., M4. Call 650-327-9350 for detailed information. Established in 1973. www.ttopa.com



and modern set dances to live music. Beginners welcome; no partner required. \$9. First, third and fifth Wednesdays, through June, 8-10 p.m. Flex-It Studios, 425 W. Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. Call 493-6012. www.bacds.org/series/english/mountain_view/

SUNDAY MORNING BAREFOOT BOOGIE A volunteer dance cooperative, hosts a 2-hour barefoot boogie. A mix of world music, rock and folk. All ages welcome; under 16 with adult supervision. Sundays, through Oct. 27, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$10-\$20. Flex-It Gym Dance Studio, 425 W. Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. Call 326-8331.

HEALTH

NATURAL SOLUTIONS FOR A SLUGGISH THYROID Drs. Allen and Sharon Dubner, will discuss how a sluggish thyroid can result

in fatigue, weight gain, constipation, cold limbs, ridged nails, slowed mental activity and metabolic problems. Oct. 19, 7:30-9 p.m. \$8. East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 988-9800. www.eastwest.com

LIVE MUSIC

MUSICAL SOUND HEALING Musician Paradiso uses a healing method using keyboard, didgeridoo, theremin and percussion. Oct. 18, 7:30-9 p.m. \$10. East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 988-9800. www.eastwest.com

ON STAGE

"BAT TALES" Music, dance, comedy, storytelling combine for all ages. Music: Gershwin,

Tina Turner, Strauss waltzes. Leslie Friedman, is featured dancer and director. Sun., Oct. 15, 3-4:30 p.m. \$20/\$15/\$10. Mountain View Masonic Lodge, 890 Church St., Mountain View. Call 969-4110.

"LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT" A play by Eugene O'Neill. Thu.-Sat., through Oct. 22. See website for details. \$10-\$25. Pear Avenue Theatre, 1220 Pear Ave. Unit K, Mountain View. www.thepear.org

TALKS/AUTHORS

"PLAYING THE QUANTUM FIELD" With author, Brenda Anderson. Oct. 13, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 988-9800. www.eastwest.com

"RELATIONSHIP ENERGETICS: ELIMINATING UNCONSCIOUS NEGATIVE PAT-

TERNS" With Larry Harris, master energetic healer. Oct. 13, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 988-9800. www.eastwest.com

MYSTERY AND MAYHEM: THREE AUTHORS Wed., Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. Mark Coggins "Candy from Strangers"; John Billheimer "Stonewall Jackson's Elbow"; Hailey Lind "Shooting Gallery: An Annie Kincaid Mystery." Co-hosted by Sisters in Crime. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 324-4321. www.keplers.com

MORE LISTINGS

For a complete listing of local events, see our website at www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

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Wednesday, October 18, 7 to 9 pm,
El Camino Hospital, back of the cafeteria,
ground floor of main hospital building.
To register and for more information,
call **(800) 216-5556.**

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