

# Mountain View VOICE



**The Joye of surgery**  
Doctor develops alternative to open-leg bypass  
HEALTH & FITNESS | P.25

OCTOBER 12, 2007 VOLUME 15, NO. 40

INSIDE: WEEKEND | PAGE 18

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## Builders should help tenants relocate, EPC says

By Daniel DeBolt

The Environmental Planning Commission recommended last Wednesday that developers take on more of the burden of relocating tenants of low income apartment buildings slated for redevelopment.

The recommendation comes after controversial tenant relocation efforts at 291 Evandale Ave., where 64 low income households are being evicted to make way for 144 condos priced above \$500,000. The City Council decided to use so-called BMR funds — earmarked to create new below-market-rate housing — to help relocate those tenants.

The hitch, however, is that tenants must find another home in Mountain View to qualify. The idea has been unsuccessful so far, helping only two of the 64 households find a new place, according to the Community Services Agency, which is administering the funds.

When commissioners were asked last Wednesday if they supported the continued use of BMR funds in this way, not one raised a hand.

The recommendation came after some residents, including Advocates of Affordable Housing, said the funds were being “frittered away” to help grease the wheels for development while taking away from potential affordable housing projects.

The commission went on to recommend City Council guidelines, rather than requirements, for tenant relocation. Commissioners decided it would be fair if developers, on a

► See **EPC**, page 10



Schoolchildren admire a pumpkin grown in Huff Elementary School's garden.

HARDY WILSON

## Huff kids grow their own Great Pumpkin

GARDEN CLUB RAISES 319-POUND BEAUTY, NAMES IT 'FRANK'

By Theresa Condon

A giant pumpkin named Frank, carefully nurtured since spring by Huff Elementary School students, tipped the scales during a weighing

party last week, demonstrating in the process how fun gardening can be.

Officially tended by students in the Huff Garden Club, the pumpkin was on display for all to see last Friday during an official weigh-

in. But Frank bottomed out the 300-pound capacity scales, which forced students to wait another week for the official measurement. The big gourd later weighed

► See **PUMPKIN**, page 8

## Trustees put foreign language on table

MV WHISMAN VOTES TO INCLUDE IDEA IN ITS STRATEGIC GOALS

By Susan Hong

After an hour-long debate late last week, the Mountain View Whisman school board decided to formalize its interest in exploring foreign language instruction — a first step which could eventually lead to the district teaching subjects like Mandarin Chinese to its elementary school students.

Technically, the move means language will be added to the district's six strategic goals indicating interest in a district-wide foreign language program. The exact wording and placement of the addition has yet to be determined.

Although last Thursday's discussion came with plenty of skepticism — including from

► See **LANGUAGE**, page 8

## Food fight at Los Altos High

DISTRICT HOPES TO OUTLAW POPULAR CATERING TRUCK

By Susan Hong

Hungry Los Altos High School students who prefer the tasty offerings at a catering truck just off campus may have to settle for cafeteria food if school administrators have their way.

The truck began stopping at

the school earlier in the year, and immediately attracted a large following, including some faculty members who like the varied menu offered by Julie Nguyen, the truck's owner.

But district officials are evidently concerned that the cafeteria is losing popularity, and that students may be ignoring the

school's healthier offerings. So they've asked the Los Altos City Council to ban the truck from the school's neighborhood.

That would certainly disappoint the many students who lined up on Tuesday with dollars

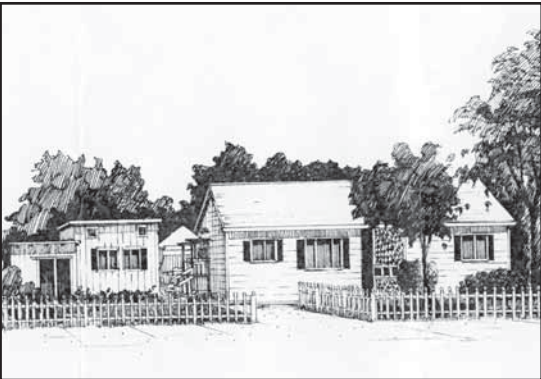
► See **FOOD TRUCK**, page 12



Julie Nguyen

REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990  
Reading between the emotional line makes the difference between finding a house and a home.

**Chuck & Tori Atwell**



**MOUNTAIN VIEW** ■ Cozy 2bd/1.5ba home + separate office in Old Mountain view. Sleek kitchen, hardwood floors, family room + new paint. Large lot. Close to shopping. **\$850,000**

**Jack Earl**



**SUNNYVALE** ■ Well maintained 4-plex showing pride of ownership. 3bd/2bd owner unit with family room + vaulted ceiling in LR. Freshly painted + 1-car garage. **\$1,050,000**

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**LOS ALTOS** ■ 1909 charm and elegance with modern feel and flair! 3bd/2ba with den, formal dining room + HW floors. Rear cottage with 3rd bath. Landscaped yards. **\$1,878,000**

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**SAN JOSE** ■ Beautifully designed for indoor/outdoor living! 5bd/4.5ba home offers 4400+/- sf. Spacious, private 16,000+/- sf lot. Pool, spa + waterfall. **\$1,899,000**

**Cheryl Okuno**



**CAMPBELL** ■ Wonderful townhome! 3bd/2ba end-unit, 1500+/- sf. Hardwood floors, step-down living room, large master suite, + inside laundry. Close to dining + shops. **\$649,950**

**Barbara Silvester**



**SUNNYVALE** ■ Fabulous duplex: 3bd/2ba and 2bd/2ba with dual pane windows, vaulted ceilings, separate garages + private backyards. Cul-de-sac location. **\$1,359,000**

**Susan Sweeley**



**PALO ALTO** ■ Beautifully remodeled 2bd + office, 2 baths + spa tub. Built-ins and storage galore! Wood floors, plantation shutters, indoor laundry, AC, alarm. **\$925,000**

**Lena Manugian**



**LOS ALTOS** ■ Desirable country club location. Charming 2bd/1ba home, 1053+/- sf. Inviting outdoor sitting areas. 6534+/- sf lot. Excellent Los Altos schools **\$1,120,000**

**Cheryl Okuno**



**MOUNTAIN VIEW** ■ Cute 3bd/2ba townhome with remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors, lots of storage, + indoor laundry. This unit is very private + complex has a pool. **\$669,000**

# Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Theresa Condon.

## What do you think about Stanford beating USC?



*"Go local teams! They probably won because I helped build the new Stanford stadium."*

**Jim Jones, with Sabrina,**  
Mountain View



*"I am very happy. I'm a Stanford alum, we've been waiting for this for a couple of seasons. There's a light at the end of the tunnel."*

**Jose Franco,** Mountain View



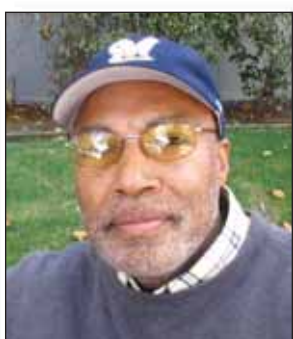
*"I think it's great. It's great for Cal because they were ranked behind USC."*

**Joel Wormer,** San Jose



*"As far as I know it was a good college game. They [USC] just need to work more on their offense and defense."*

**William Ware,** Mountain View



*"It was the best thing that could happen to the Stanford program. It re-establishes Stanford as an up-and-coming powerhouse in the Pac-10."*

**Mawauzo Fikara,** Campbell

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■ CRIMEWATCH

**ATTEMPTED CARJACKING, EL CAMINO REAL/GRANT RD., 10/6**

A woman was driving home northbound on Grant Road when she stopped at a light at El Camino Real. An unidentified man brandishing a kitchen knife leaned into the open driver's-side window and tried to take her keys.

The woman managed to fight him off, rolled up her window and drove away. When she arrived home in Palo Alto she contacted police. She received some minor lacerations on her arms.

The suspect is described as a small Hispanic male in his 20s wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt. An investigation is in progress.

**INDECENT EXPOSURE, MARSHALLS ON GRANT RD., 10/5**

Two women were standing outside the store at noon when a pickup truck pulled up in front of them. The man inside the truck got their attention, and the women realized he was not wearing pants and was masturbating. One woman yelled and he drove away.

The suspect is described as a white male in his 50s with white hair. He was wearing a blue work shirt with a white tab over the chest pocket and driving a tan two-door extended cab Chevy Silverado.

■ POLICE LOG

**AUTO BURGLARY**

1600 Block Villa St., 10/6

**ARSON**

700 Block Burgoyne St., 10/3

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY**

400 Block Castro St., 10/4

**DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

900 Block High School Way, 10/6  
 Shoreline Amphitheatre, 10/6

**DISTURBANCE**

2200 Block Latham St., 10/6

**IDENTITY THEFT**

1900 Block Old Middlefield Rd., 10/4

**INDECENT EXPOSURE**

Marshalls, 10/5

**PETTY THEFT**

600 Block Mariposa Ave., 10/3  
 400 Block S. Rengstorff Ave., 10/5  
 500 Block E. Middlefield Rd., 10/6  
 Molly Magee's, 10/6  
 24 Hour Fitness, 10/6  
 2200 Block California St., 10/6

**ROBBERY**

400 Block Castro St., 10/4  
 E. El Camino Real/Grant Rd., 10/6

**STOLEN VEHICLE**

200 Block Calderon Way, 10/3  
 Ivan/Bryant, 10/3  
 500 Block Clyde Ave., 10/3  
 200 Block Mariposa Ave., 10/5

**SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE**

400 Block Tyrella Ave., 10/4

**SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON**

2500 Block Alvin St., 10/5  
 1600 Block California St., 10/5  
 40 Block Sherland Ave., 10/6  
 300 Block Sierra Vista Blvd., 10/4

**TRESPASSING**

600 Block Showers Dr., 10/3

**VANDALISM**

2200 Block Latham St., 10/4


■ CORRECTIONS

■ Due to an editing error, a letter in last week's opinion section provided an incorrect address for Joe Cree's relocated chopper shop, California Customs. The business is now located at 2081 Bering Dr., Suite U, San Jose, 95131.

■ Last week's InBusiness story on the Web site TheFindGreen.com misstated its name in the headline.

The Voice regrets the errors.

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 Julie Metzger, RN, and Rob Lehman, MD, will teach you how to develop conversations with your pre-teens on the experiences of adolescence. They will also present new ideas and current information on the topics of adolescent development and risk-taking behavior.  
 - Wednesday, October 17
- \* **SIBLING PREPARATION**  
 Designed for children two years of age and older, this class prepares siblings for the emotional and physical realities of the arrival of a newborn.  
 - Sunday, October 21
- \* **BECOMING GRANDPARENTS**  
 Designed for new and expectant grandparents, this class examines the change in labor and delivery practices, the latest recommendations for infant care and the unique role of grandparents in today's society.  
 - Thursday, November 1
- \* **PEDIATRIC WEIGHT CONTROL PROGRAM**  
 This family-based, behavioral and educational weight management program promotes healthy eating and exercise habits for overweight children and their families. More than 80% of children achieve long-term weight loss through this program – and parents lose weight too! The new session starts soon, so call (650) 725-4424 to pre-register. Spaces are limited.

Call (650) 723-4600 or visit [www.lpch.org](http://www.lpch.org) to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



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## Music man

By Don Frances

**W**ALKING AROUND downtown on Tuesday evening, I passed the newly opened Point Castro restaurant, on the corner of Castro and California. Some poor fellow was out on the patio with his guitar, playing songs for a near-empty restaurant.

As a few strains reached my ears, I realized: I know that voice. It was none other than Fred McCarty, a South Bay troubadour who plays gigs all over the Bay Area, including in Mountain View.

McCarty is a singer-songwriter type specializing in country and folk songs. He's a real pro, with a clear, rich voice, melodious picking style and great repertoire. We talked for a bit — about the restaurant, and music, and the weather. I said it looked like rain.

"Oh no, it won't rain," he said hopefully. "At least not till after nine o'clock."

"Well, you're competing with Michael Krasney," I said. "He's giving a talk over at Books Inc."

He looked worried. "What time?"

"About seven-thirty," I said. After a pause I added, "But there probably isn't much overlap."

He settled back in and took some requests: "Folsom Prison Blues," "Wild Horses." He also did a Lyle Lovett song that sounded better than Lyle Lovett. By the time I left, the place was filling up.

McCarty has several CDs for sale (both original music and covers) and is available for weddings, parties, etc. To find out more about him, visit [www.fredmccarty.com](http://www.fredmccarty.com) or call (408) 248-4045.

Better yet, see him at Castro Point, where's he playing every Tuesday on the beautiful patio, starting around 5:30 p.m.

**ON THE WAY** back to the office I stepped into Books Inc. to hear the beginning of Krasney's talk. He was just taking the podium

► See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 6



Connie Portle and Charlie Olsen dance the afternoon away.

DANIEL DEBOLT

## Eagle Shack still rocks

SMILES ALL ROUND AS HIGH SCHOOL HOP RETURNS AFTER 50 YEARS

By Daniel DeBolt

**S**ome of the city's most venerable residents came to the Adobe Building last weekend to help recreate the 1940s Eagle Shack, dancing the afternoon away and sharing stories about the event, the building and the era that brought the region's youth together.

Sunday's dance proved to be a powerful experience for many, who recalled dancing

as teenagers at the Eagle Shack events — held in the very same building — after World War II. The Adobe Building was restored in 2001.

"This was, for us, a very special event," said Bob Weaver, president of the Mountain View Historical Association.

Over 100 people, many in their late 70s, danced to the Los Altos Big Band, which included a few members of the Melody Makers, the original Eagle Shack band. Refreshments were

offered, and a crowd of people chatted outside. Original Eagle Shack membership cards were reproduced and given out. The event was organized by Eugene Sharp, an original member of the Melody Makers.

One of those happily reliving his youth was Charlie Olsen of Sunnyvale, who used to take a bus to the Eagle Shack along with other Sunnyvale teens. On Sunday he was tearing up

► See **EAGLE SHACK**, page 14

## Alza: Don't worry about the beagles

By Daniel DeBolt

**R**esponding to persistent Internet rumors, Alza Corp. has issued a statement denying that it would euthanize dozens of beagles used for testing pharmaceuticals at its soon-to-be-closed Mountain View facility.

The rumors posited that Alza, which announced its closure earlier this year, was seeking adoptive homes for the beagles by a certain date or else

it would have them put down.

A press release on the company's Web site last week did not deny that the dogs existed, instead addressing "inaccurate and misleading information" about beagles in need of a home. The release stated that "There is no public adoption program," and said "the animals will be properly cared for and relocated to a different facility when Alza closes at the end of the year."

The rumors had persisted on

several local listserves and other places, including on the *Voice's* Town Square. One Town Square posting from last week contained a message that it said was being "circulated to various rescue groups." The message claimed, in part, that Alza's "test facility has 40, 16-month-old beagle puppies that *desperately* need good loving homes." ■

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at [ddebolt@mv-voice.com](mailto:ddebolt@mv-voice.com)

■ CITY COUNCIL

## Members take a field trip

OUTING DESIGNED TO ACQUAINT COUNCIL WITH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT SITES

By Daniel DeBolt

**C**ouncil members and city officials hopped on a fancy black shuttle bus Tuesday afternoon to tour both private and public works projects, taking in everything from cracked streets to playing fields to large housing developments.

During a debriefing back at City Hall afterwards, council members unanimously agreed that the tour was helpful in learning from past mistakes and visualizing future projects.

First off was Peacock Avenue, where the council got a first hand look at the "alligator cracking" on one of the worst streets in the city, said senior analyst Mike Fuller. The city is spending \$550,000 to repair this particular street because a simple repaving won't do it.

After stopping briefly to see developments at 276 Sierra Vista Ave. and 1950 Colony St., the bus pulled up to where Permanente Creek crosses Middlefield Road near Highway 101. Seeing cars fly down the off-ramp and onto Middlefield made it clear how necessary a tunnel is for the Permanente Creek Trail.

The bus then drove behind Shoreline Amphitheatre to where a new park maintenance facility would go. A park ranger stopped to see what the strange black bus was doing on the restricted dirt road, but city officials had no problem talking themselves out of this one.

Farther up the road along the back of the golf course was "the six acre site" studied for a 90-foot baseball field. The site is actually 12 acres, but has been known for years as "the six acre site" after a city employee mistakenly named it that.

The site is relatively flat — the 20-foot layer of garbage on which it sits has been settling for 30 years — and users could enter nearby on

► See **CITY COUNCIL**, page 11

You are invited to attend our  
**Admission Open House**

**Saturday, November 10**  
1 - 4 p.m.

OR

**Thursday, December 13**  
7 - 9 p.m.



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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

**Garden Spider**



**October is here**, which means it's time for spider photos. This one was shot in Mountain View by A. Olson, who described it as "a large garden spider that had taken up its residency just outside our front door. Its web was quite large, intertwined on and around a bush and the outside lamp."

If you have a photo taken around town which you'd like published in the Voice, please send it (as a jpg attachment) to editor@mv-voice.com.



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

The City of Mountain View Recreation Division Presents...

**A MONSTER BASH**  
at  
**MUMMYS HOUSE**

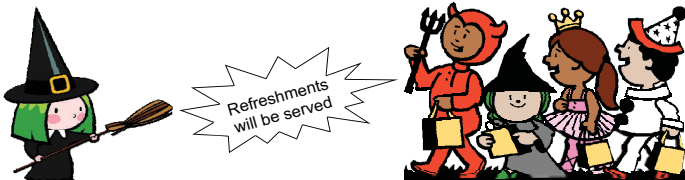
**Sunday, October 28th, 2007**

Come be a part of the Monster Bash Halloween Celebration!



- \* Craft Projects will be offered from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- \* Enjoy the movie on a large screen on the outdoor stage:  
6:00pm - "Wallace and Gromit in The Case of the Were-Rabbit" (rated G)
- \* Please bring your own blankets and lawn chairs.
- \* In the case of inclement weather, events will be moved indoors.

**Mountain View Community Center**  
201 South Rengstorff Ave



For more information  
Please call the Mountain View Community Center at (650) 903-6331

**EDITOR'S DESK**

► Continued from page 5

and people were clapping. Krasney, there to promote his new memoir, was bookish and a wonderful talker. Every sentence was a literary reference of some sort. He was also hilarious. "This face was meant to be on radio," he joked.

**MOUNTAIN VIEW** hit a milestone recently with the 50th anniversary of the formation of Fairchild Semiconductor, the company credited with making Silicon Valley what it is today.

Naturally, the Computer History Museum had a big to-do about it, best described on the museum's own site as follows:

"Celebrating their legendary company that started Silicon Valley and spawned the semiconductor industry, approximately 2,000 Fairchild Semiconductor alumni, known as Fairchildren, and their guests [gathered] at the Computer History Museum Oct. 4-6."

Thus began a "three-day celebration/reunion" to "commemorate the golden anniversary of Fairchild Semiconductor's 1957 founding."

Since I know next to nothing about this slice of local history, I asked Angela Hey, author of our

own "Hey Tech!" column, to fill in some of the blanks for me. (See her terrific column every month in our InBusiness section.)

"Fairchild Semiconductor was a really important company — but it lost its way," Hey explained. She then described the company's history in typical tight-knit fashion:

"Shockley had his lab in Mountain View, but decided not to research silicon-based semiconductors, so a group known as the Traitorous Eight — Julius Blank, Victor Grinich, Jean Hoerni, Eugene Kleiner (founder of Kleiner Perkins venture capital firm), Jay Last, Gordon Moore (Intel Founder), Robert Noyce (Intel founder) and Sheldon Roberts — left and found Sherman Fairchild, who had military contacts and money, and they formed Fairchild Semiconductor — originally to make silicon transistors."

Thus Silicon Valley was born.

**THANKS ONCE MORE** to Joe Sparaco for filling us in, this time regarding a very important yearly event, the Mountain View Firefighters Annual Pancake Breakfast, which came with a Soap Box Derby twist this year:

"We had a great turnout and response to our efforts in supporting the Mountain View Fire Department and the Ann Rusch

Burn Foundation" last Saturday, Oct. 6, he wrote.

Sparaco went on to say that he and other volunteers "helped over 150 children experience the thrill of the Soap Box Derby by giving them rides in five of our fastest race cars.

"We set up the ramps, and one by one helped the kids in the cars, taught them how to steer and brake, then let them roll down a track defined by road cones of about 25 yards in length.

"The families donated \$3 per ride, and at the end of the morning ... the Department had collected in the neighborhood of \$500."

Meanwhile, "The cost for a great breakfast was only \$5, and all proceeds went to the Charity."

**ALICE HOOVER** would like to underscore that the Monta Loma Elementary School PTA is hosting its 4th annual Fall Festival this Saturday, Oct. 13, from 2 to 6 p.m.

"It is fun for all ages," she wrote, and includes "Game booths, silent auction, raffle, Mexican dinner by El Grullense Grill, and more. All proceeds go to the Monta Loma PTA which supports essential student activities and services at the school."

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

■ EDUCATION BRIEF

**FOOTHILL COLLEGE TRUSTEES REAPPOINTED**

Incumbent trustees Betsy Bechtel, Laura Casas Frier and Hal Plotkin of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District have no challengers in

the Nov. 6 election, and will be reappointed to serve additional four-year terms through 2011, the district announced.

Bechtel was first elected in 2003 and currently serves on the board's audit and finance committee. Casas

Frier was appointed in November 2005 to fill the vacancy left by the death of Andrea Lederman. Plotkin was elected in 2003 and is president of the board this year.

— Susan Hong



VERONICA WEBER

## Navy to close bargain stores at Moffett

ACTIVE AND RETIRED MILITARY FAMILIES SAY THEY'LL MISS THE NEX

By Daniel DeBolt

The Navy has announced that its Moffett Field hardware store, department store and barber shop will close Feb. 2 as part of ongoing closures of naval operations at Moffett. A Navy gas station on the base already closed earlier this year.

Few civilians know about the stores, which sit not far from Hangar One alongside a tax-free grocery store, or commissary, that isn't closing. Navy exchange stores, or "NEX" for short, are mostly used by military families, military retirees and reservists. They offer low-priced, tax free goods to locals and "a taste of home" to those living on base, an official announcement said.

According to NEX spokesman Phil Garcia, the stores are not funded by the government, but there is an adequate customer base. There are thousands of retired and reserve military personnel around the South Bay region who use the store, which is also next to 198 homes in the Wescoat Village development, built last year for active duty Army, National Guard and Air Force officers stationed on and around Moffett.

In a letter to Richard Crowley, commander of the Navy Exchange Service, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo wrote that she had heard from numerous constituents who were "devastated" by the announcement, and asked, in "the strongest terms," that the Navy reconsider.

An official statement posted in the store says NASA, the landlord, has long-term plans for the site. But Eshoo said that NASA director Pete Worden wants the NEX to stay.

Garcia, the NEX spokesperson, initially told the *Voice* that

Eshoo's concerns could keep the NEX from closing. But he called back Tuesday afternoon to say that the decision had already been made, and that his previous statements about the closure's uncertainty, which appeared in another area newspaper, were misleading.

The large NEX store sells a variety of merchandise, including jewelry, name-brand clothes, perfume and electronics. A voice on the loudspeaker calls it "your Navy family store." The building is old and far from fancy. On Monday evening there were only a handful of customers.

An employee at the store said the closure was supposed to happen several years ago and that employees had even been briefed at one point about losing their jobs. He said he felt the closure was "unfortunate," but also overdue.

The Navy left Moffett Field in 1994, but justified keeping the stores open for the sake of active duty personnel at nearby Onizuka Air Force Base in Sunnyvale. But Onizuka is scheduled to close in 2011, and the National Reconnaissance Office officially left the base in April after 46 years. Much of the current customer base at the NEX is from retired military employees.

The Army, which plans to bring hundreds of personnel to Orion Park in the next few years, has considered the possibility of bringing its own stores to Moffett, said Jedd Anstey, spokesperson for the Army exchange service.

However, "We haven't even begun analyzing whether we would be able to establish a presence there," Anstey said. "It's my understanding that it isn't happening until 2009-2010, so we've got time." ■

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at [ddebolt@mv-voice.com](mailto:ddebolt@mv-voice.com)



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## LocalNews

### PUMPKIN

► Continued from page 1

in at 319 pounds.

The Garden Club at Huff is supervised by Rachel Ross, a parent volunteer who teaches kids how to care for the plants in the school's organic garden. Students grow a variety of vegetables there, including corn, strawberries, lettuce and string beans.

The idea of growing a giant pumpkin came up when Ross met Jim McLaughlin last year. McLaughlin is a Huff alumnus who started growing giant pumpkins on a dare and found he really enjoyed it.

"I got such a kick out of it," McLaughlin said.

And the secret to growing such big pumpkins? "Lots and lots of water," he said.

He donated several pumpkin seeds of the Atlantic giant variety, which are bred to grow larger than ordinary pumpkins, to Huff last spring. The gardening club took it from there, planting the seeds and adding McLaughlin's recommended ingredient. Students have been watching the pumpkins, and particularly Frank, grow throughout the summer and fall.

Of course, every big pumpkin needs a name, and second grader Eugenia Lee won the naming contest by picking the original Huff's first name.

"Frank is a good name," said fifth grader Alison Rose, 10. "He was the founder of the school so it's nice to have something named after him."

Fifth grader and Garden Club member Yesenia Herrera, 10, agreed, but added, "To me its middle name will be 'Orangey

the Great' because that's what I wanted to call it."

It took several adults to lift Frank onto the scale last Friday, only to find out the scale only measured to 300 pounds.

Fortunately, the suspense didn't last long. McLaughlin drove Frank up to Half Moon Bay last weekend for the World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off. There, Frank was found to weigh a respectable 319 pounds. Fourth grader Cynthia Wang had made the closest guess at 313 1/2 pounds.

Of course, Frank is a lightweight compared to this year's Pumpkin Weigh-Off winner, who shattered previous records at 1,524 pounds. But he's still a big pumpkin.

"I think we'll do it again next year," said Ross, "The kids seemed to get a kick out of it." ▀

E-mail Theresa Condon at [tcondon@mv-voice.com](mailto:tcondon@mv-voice.com)

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### LANGUAGE

► Continued from page 1

board president Fiona Walter and Superintendent Maurice Ghysels — the skeptics ultimately joined the board in a unanimous vote in favor of the addition.

This is not the first time the idea of foreign language instruction has come before the school board. Earlier this year the board heard a presentation from the Yew Chung International School, a foundation which provides Chinese language and cultural instruction.

And last month, while dis-

cussing strategic goals, the district's "leadership team" — which includes trustees, the superintendent and associate superintendent, principals from each school and key district administrators — considered the possibility of implementing a Mandarin language program. At that time, other priorities such as improving math performance and implementing Continuous Improvement won out, and the proposal did not make it into the district's strategic plan.

Three parents who spoke at Thursday's board meeting said they wanted the district to make teaching foreign language a prior-

ity. Parents in Mountain View are currently in the "nascent stages" of putting together a group to promote the idea that children can learn more than one language, said Jane Hsiao, a representative from the Silicon Valley Global Education Foundation.

"We're for the idea of international education in local schools," Hsiao said.

In response to those parents' comments, school board members Philip Palmer and Ellen Wheeler proposed adding foreign language instruction to the strategic goals.

"The longest journey starts with a single step. If we can start down that path, keep our eyes open and don't fall off a cliff, then I'm happy," Palmer said.

But colleagues Walter and RoseMary Roquero hesitated over including foreign language instruction as a strategic goal, saying they did not want to disrupt the process the leadership team had already gone through.

Ghysels said that while he did not want to overload the district with too many priorities, he recognized there was interest in the community to learn foreign languages. He added that the district already has plenty of issues to deal with, including improving both math scores and English language fluency.

"We're putting 110 pounds of potatoes into a 100-pound bag," Ghysels warned. "We need a red-hot subject matter expert that is very good at doing this. We don't have the experience in this area."

Nonetheless, Ghysels eventually supported the idea of putting in writing the district's intent to "explore" foreign language instruction. ▀

E-mail Susan Hong at [shong@mv-voice.com](mailto:shong@mv-voice.com)

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■ OBITUARIES

**WILLIAM G. KEEHN**

William G. Keehn, a 30-year resident of Mountain View and more recently of the Sequoias in Portola Valley, died Aug. 25. He was 86.

Keehn was born in Iowa and graduated from Iowa State. His work as a chemical engineer took him across the country, from Monsanto in St. Louis, to Boeing in Seattle, to Hewlett-Packard in Palo Alto. He retired in 1993.

His interests included reading, classical music, film, ethnic dining and hiking. He shared his love of reading as a commissioner and volunteer at the Mountain View Public Library. He also participated in literacy programs.

He is survived by Kathleen, his wife of 32 years; his brother Richard of Racine, Wis.; sons Andrew of Seattle and Thomas of Vashon Island, Wash.; daughter Janet Davenport of Kennewick, Wash.; and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

**KENNETH KAYE**

Mountain View resident Kenneth Kaye died Sept. 15. He was 64.

Kaye was born in Milwaukee, Wis. on Dec. 27, 1943. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and a law degree from Stanford University.

After serving two years as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, Kaye returned to California in 1973 and set up practice in Menlo Park. He specialized in wills and trusts, and was known as an extremely ethical man who would rather resign from a job than help clients cheat.

He eventually moved his practice to Palo Alto, and then to Los Altos. Kaye played an active role in his community for many years, serving a term as president of the Los Altos Kiwanis Club. He was frequently involved with local organizations, among them the Community Services Agency, Miramonte Mental Health Services and the Los Altos Meditation Program.

A memorial service to honor his memory was held Sept. 18 at the Congregation Etz Chayim in Palo Alto.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Gershuny, and his children Eva and Aaron.

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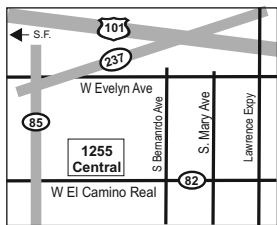
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**EPC**

► Continued from page 1

case-by-case basis, give tenants of very low income apartments

an additional month of free rent, for a total of two months.

Another \$2,000 would be given to households with special needs, such as those with dependant children, seniors or disabled

persons. The \$500 moving allowance currently required by the council was removed from the guidelines.

Also included in the guidelines is a 180-day notice, 60-day sub-

scription to a rental guide, bilingual counseling on moving and a full refund of security deposits.

The guidelines, however, are only meant for "very low income" apartment buildings — a point of concern for commissioner Paul Lesti, who worried the city would be redeveloping many apartment complexes in the future, but that few tenants in those places would qualify as very low income.

"There is a social cost when

people are being displaced from their homes for no fault of their own," Lesti said.

In May the council decided to reconsider the use of BMR funds, and sent the issue to the commission for discussion. BMR funds are also being used to relocate tenants at 2215 Rock St. ■

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at [ddebolt@mv-voice.com](mailto:ddebolt@mv-voice.com)

## Council jumps on climate agreement bandwagon

By Daniel DeBolt

Mountain View on Tuesday became the 692nd city to sign onto the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, which calls for cities to do everything they can to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The agreement asks cities to lower greenhouse gas emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012 as called for by the Kyoto protocol. Mountain View, however, followed the lead of other cities, including Palo Alto, that have not included specific goals. The council has already agreed to take a baseline measurement of its emissions as

part of its new environmental sustainability program, approved in August.

The decision was nearly unanimous, with council member Matt Pear abstaining because he wasn't sure the pros and cons had been looked into. Council members Tom Means, Nick Galiotto and Jac Siegel also had reservations, with Galiotto saying he was fine with an agreement that wasn't prescriptive, but said it was like "window dressing" on the city's numerous efforts.

"Mountain View has been a doing a good job without a feel-good public declaration," Galiotto said. ■



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**CITY COUNCIL**

► Continued from page 5

Garcia Avenue. Fortunately for the ball field plan, endangered burrowing owls have not nested here, Fuller said.

The bus then zipped across town to 300 Ferguson Dr. to view a 106 row home development half finished by Pulte Homes. Of particular interest was the strange maze of private streets through the project, which staff has taken a position against in future developments.

Elaine Costello, community development director, said that at Whisman Station residents have used private streets as an excuse to complain about people walking by their homes. A straightforward grid of public streets, which is being planned at the massive South Whisman development next door, helps to promote a community atmosphere, staff said.

As the bus drove down Middlefield Road it was mentioned that real estate mogul John Mozart was hoping to buy the county's former men's work furlough center, which closed this year. He has also purchased the large former Hewlett Packard campus around the corner.

The bus stopped at 291 Evandale Ave., but officials did not get out for a look at one of the city's most run down apartment complexes, which is slated for redevelopment into 144 condos.

Council members did take a closer look at the new row homes built by Mozart's Classic Communities at 180 Evandale Ave, which council member Nick Galiotto thought were nice structures. But Mayor Laura Macias said they made her wonder whether the city was building enough homes for families with

children, because the homes were elevated and lacked substantial yards.

On the way back to City Hall, council members stopped at several

Evelyn Avenue developments and then at 220 View Street to look at the building under construction there, which some jokingly called the "Spanish fortress."

At 209 to 251 Evandale near Calderon Avenue, a slew of auto shops could be torn down for another Classic Communities development: 96 stacked flats and row houses on

four acres. That project has yet to be approved by council members. ▀

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at [ddebolt@mv-voice.com](mailto:ddebolt@mv-voice.com)



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**■ COUNCIL BRIEF**

**CITY, SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TO DISCUSS MUTUAL  
PROJECTS**

The City Council will meet with the Mountain View Whisman School District on Oct. 17 to discuss areas of mutual interest and collaboration.

The city and the district will make presentations, and comments will be heard from the public.

Past collaborations include the water reservoir under Graham Middle School's new sports field. Future collaborations could include a new youth center.

The Wednesday night meeting will be held at the Silicon Valley Center at 801 California St., Room 101. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.

— Daniel DeBolt

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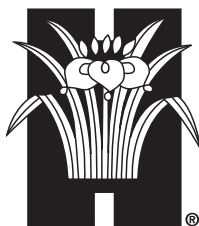
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## FOOD TRUCK

► Continued from page 1

in hand to order cheese steak burritos, fries and sodas from Nguyen's truck, parked on Jardin Avenue next to the school.

Students say the food they get from the truck is better than that offered by the school's cafeteria, which they say is not very appealing. (The cafeteria offered egg rolls, chow mein and milk on Tuesday.) Nguyen, 46 and a Vietnamese immigrant, offers fruit salads, water, Polish sausages, egg salads and BLTs.

"This is real food," said ninth grader Carlos Chavez.

"The cafeteria doesn't have any of this stuff — burgers and hot dogs," said Roger Peterson, a tenth grader.

The students said they didn't know high school officials were trying to prevent Nguyen from selling her food there.

Last April the high school district

proposed to the Los Altos City Council that it pass a "mobile food vendor ordinance," which would ban food-catering trucks from parking within 500 feet of school premises and limit their parking time to 10 minutes, Superintendent Barry Groves said. The council held its regular meeting Tuesday night but took no action on the issue.

The district has a "healthy foods initiative," and students are buying food through Nguyen that the school wouldn't serve, Groves said. It's also a litter problem, he added.

"It does create some issues in terms of supervision and garbage for us," Principal Wynne Satterwhite said, as she monitored students eating near the truck on Tuesday. "When we have 100 kids down here, it means we have to pull one of our campus security persons here to make sure the kids are behaving," she said.

► Continued on next page

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*Photo of Jerry Fugel, (Former Mayor) Matt Neely, Faye Moore, Joanne Saucedo, Jackie Eames, Ron Pasquinelli and Nikki Pasquinelli at a bistro in Rome.*

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► Continued from previous page

When asked why they buy food from the "taco truck," students rattled off a laundry list of complaints about the cafeteria food.

"It's always the same thing," said tenth grader Alex Amaya.

"It has no flavor," said Pressy Mejia, also a tenth grader.

"No one likes the food in there," said Jenny Montalvo, an eleventh grader. "It's kinda crappy."

Los Altos City Council member Ron Packard, who visited the site Tuesday to talk to students, also bought a burrito.

"As far as I can tell no one has gotten sick from the food," Packard said. While the council is leaning towards banning the truck, he said, if students showed up at a council meeting to talk about how much they enjoyed its food, the council would keep an open mind.

Nguyen said she paid about \$120

to purchase a permit from the city to sell food to students. She hired one cook, and began selling the food about eight months ago. She also sells to high school students in Menlo Park and on a good day, she said, she can make more than \$500.

Nguyen also did not know Los Altos school officials were trying to ban her truck.

"I just stop here for the children," she said. "They say good food. They like my food." She used to park down the street and students would follow her down the street to eat, she said.

"If I had a contract with them then I can go in there with them all day," Nguyen added, pointing towards the school. "Maybe better."

A couple teachers, staff and



SUSAN HONG

administrators also visited Nguyen's catering truck and bought food.

"It works out real good. The kids just like it with all the diversity. The price is better and the food is better than the cafeteria," said one employee of the high school who did not want to give his name. ▀

E-mail Susan Hong at [shong@mv-voice.com](mailto:shong@mv-voice.com)

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**EAGLE SHACK**

► *Continued from page 5*

the dance floor with friend Connie Portle. Olsen is known for his family's cherry orchards, some of which remain today.

"It was like a meeting place," said John Hirschtek of the old Eagle Shack. It was the place to go with your buddies on a Saturday night, he said.

The Adobe Building also housed the National Guard for several years. Hirschtek joined the guard at 16, lying about his age, as did many other Mountain View High School students during those days. So on a Tuesday in the late 1940s, Hirschtek could be found at National Guard training sessions there, learning to fire large artillery pieces like the 105mm Howitzer.

Then on Saturday nights, he would be back at the Adobe Building as a regular 16-year-old, dancing the night away at the Eagle Shack.

If it happened in Mountain View, it happened at the Adobe Building, said Betty Lamica Evans. She even remembered getting polio shots there. She also talked about how great it was to grow up in Mountain View a half century ago, when the city had only a few thousand people.

"These days, people spend a lot of time in front of a screen," she said, instead of in face-to-face interac-

*"Now we have a sense of what really matters in life."*

BETTY LAMICA EVANS

tion. That includes "hugging a person you grew up with," she said, hugging her friend Victor Penna.

"We were all involved in each other's lives," she added. "We were all on the same level, regardless of income."

"A lot of us worked with fruit [in the orchards] while we were kids," she said. Penna, for example, worked on his family's 10-acre farm in Mountain View. "We lived through that," Evans said. "So now we have a sense of what really matters in life."

"To have a good life you don't need a lot of money," Penna said. "If you've got your health and your freedom, you've got everything."

At the end of the event Sharp asked the crowd, "You guys want to do this again?" They responded with a resounding "Yes!"

"Alright. Same here," Sharp said. "Goodnight everybody." ▀

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

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- EDITORIAL
- YOUR LETTERS
- GUEST OPINIONS

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Staff Writers Daniel DeBolt, Susan Hong

Intern Theresa Condon

Contributors Angela Hey, Sheila Himmel, Forrest Linebarger, Elaine Rowland

Photographers Norbert von der Groeben, Marjan Sadoughi

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## EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

### Veteran needs help, not jail

The sad case of former Army captain and Los Altos resident Sargent Binkley is a good example of how the military bureaucracy can unwittingly ruin a loyal soldier's life, even one who was wounded in the line of duty.

Binkley is a West Point graduate who became addicted to painkillers and confessed last year to robbing two drug stores, including one in Mountain View, to get the medication he craved. He now faces a 12-year minimum sentence for his crimes, which he says resulted from his effort to numb the pain from post traumatic stress disorder and a hairline hip fracture that went undiagnosed for three years by the Veterans Administration.

Binkley's story is remarkable, but probably not unique, especially as more and more soldiers who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan return to the States after near-lethal attacks in those troubled countries. Often they come home traumatized and needing months or years of therapy, which they may or may not receive from the country that called them to service.

Despite that growing tragedy, we doubt if many West Point alumni and former Army Rangers are facing long jail terms for committing robbery to obtain the prescription drugs that they needed to overcome the impact of PTSD and a fractured hip. And what makes Binkley's case even more compelling is that only after his parents paid for an additional MRI test did a private doctor find the hip fracture their son had cited all along as the reason for his unbearable pain.

Luckily for Binkley, some of his old football teammates from the Mountain View Marauders, a local Pop Warner football team, are lobbying for him. Better yet, his Los Altos family has the means to give him a good legal defense. (Binkley has dual trials going in both Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.)

We hope VA officials will testify at his trials that there might have been a different outcome if Binkley had had the proper care, and if his hip fracture had been diagnosed earlier.

As Sargent Binkley's case demonstrates, the VA must redouble its efforts to make sure thousands of injured soldiers who come home needing treatment for debilitating injuries — both physical ones and emotional ones, like PTSD — are cared for before they return to civilian life.

If they are not helped, these men and women are likely to emerge later as our outcasts, much as happened following Vietnam, unable to overcome war's worst nightmares even after coming home.

## LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

### THANKS FOR THOUGHTFUL SUPPORT OF DAY WORKERS

Editor:

What a delightful surprise to read the well thought, factually supported guest opinion prepared by Bruce England ("Illegal immigrants do indeed pay taxes," Oct. 5) in rebuttal to Jack Stone's letter of Sept. 28.

As an 11-year supporter of the Day Worker Center in Mountain View, it is especially heartening to read such a beautifully written piece from a community member such as Mr. England, who to my knowledge has no connection to the center. So, thank you Bruce England for taking the time and effort to offer your kind and truthful words in support of those who are the most vulnerable among us.

John F. Rinaldi  
Dana Street

### CHLORAMINE CAUSED DIGESTIVE PROBLEMS

Editor:

Your Sept. 28 editorial, "It is time to test chloramine," is so right on. Those of us who are affected by chloramine in our tap water know what happens if we use chloraminated water.

I have severe digestive tract problems. My symptoms include extreme belly bloat, loss of energy, diarrhea and excruciating pain. These digestive problems started shortly after chloramine was added to the Hetch Hetchy water supply where we live in Sunnyvale.

After thorough testing through March 2006, my doctors found no cause for my symptoms. In

April 2006, I was doubling over with pain every time I drank tap water. I decided to try bottled spring water. With the very first glass I had no pain.

I noticed in late 2006 that I had pain and bloating if I ate out, used certain canned or processed foods and even some medications. I discovered I was ingesting chloramine — not only by how my body was reacting but also by calling the companies that manufactured the products, and then cities where the products were processed. After I eliminated exposure to chloramine in food and medication I recovered from all but the belly bloat, which is improving slowly.

I am so grateful for the coverage the Voice has given to chloramine — most of all, for your forthright opinion and for taking our government agencies to task for their such negligence and irresponsibility regarding this entire issue.

Darlene Nappi  
Sunnyvale

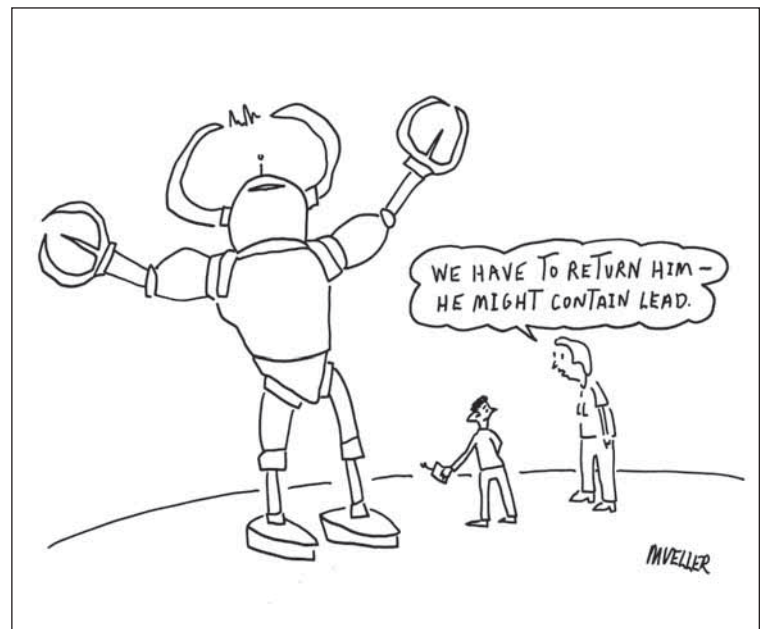
### COUNCIL VOTE COULD MEAN MORE HOUSING

Editor:

Last week's Voice headline "Council slashes Rengstorff Project" is correct but misleading. The council workshop session opened the door in favor of an increase in housing units under the present zoning.

This will encourage developers to buy properties in the area, then demolish them and request to build the maximum units

► See **LETTERS**, page 17



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### ■ GUEST OPINION

## Day workers are helping Trinity Church

By Jim Doughty

I read the recent letter from Jack Stone a number of times and find myself feeling sadness and concern for him ("Day workers do ruin the neighborhood," Letters to the Editor, Sept. 28).

I have occasion to spend some time at the Trinity United Methodist Church at Hope and Mercy streets. Most of the workers keep busy inside the large room that has been given to them to use. Those who need a smoke are outside, and they are careful to put their cigarette butts in containers placed there for that purpose.

About a dozen of the workers have been put to work on the church itself — painting, adding new doors and railings and sprucing up the children's play area. I do admit that when it began operating, I was concerned about the potential impact of the center on its environment. I need not have been concerned — everyone

in the organization is working to minimize the impact.

I wonder if Mr. Stone has taken time to visit the Web site for the center ([dayworkercentermv.org](http://dayworkercentermv.org)). Here are some interesting facts from the site:

■ The workers register each day at the center for work — they

paid — if they go back to Mexico at the end of their work stint, they could not collect Social Security benefits anyway.

■ The workers pay the same taxes we do as consumers, including state sales tax, property taxes and utility taxes (if they are paying for housing), and vehicle taxes if they own

one. Their property taxes pay their share of school expenses. Regarding teaching the kids English, the schools have accepted the fact that these kids are here and will be here in greater numbers as time goes on. So the schools have had to get organized and prepare to teach English

as a second language. The center also has ESL classes for the workers when they are not working.

If the workers have not completed their documentation process, it is a problem federal officials will have to handle. Mountain View is not obliged to assist in this matter at all. ▣

*Jim Doughty lives on Ednamary Way.*

*About a dozen of the workers have been put to work on the church itself — painting, adding new doors and railings and sprucing up the children's play area.*

do not just simply come and hang out. A mobile health center comes once a week to cover medical needs of the workers. I have seen it and I am impressed with the work it is doing.

■ Most of these workers earn maybe \$15,000 per year. State and federal income tax on that amount is minimal at best. Their Social Security taxes are not being



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## ■ GUEST OPINION

**'Broken in every way'**

MORNING FORUM  
SPEAKER SAYS STATE'S  
EDUCATION SYSTEM  
NEEDS OVERHAUL

By Marcia Allen

*Editor's Note: The following is a synopsis of a talk given at the Morning Forum of Los Altos. The Morning Forum has over 500 members, many from Mountain View. Members meet on first and third Tuesdays from September through June. The organization is volunteer-run and more than 50 years old.*

That "The California school funding system is broken in every way and needs a major overhaul" was the thesis of a talk by Dr. Michael Kirst, presented to the Morning Forum on Sept. 18.

Dr. Kirst is an emeritus professor of education at Stanford University, and has written widely on many topics in education. He was involved in a large study called "Getting Down the Facts," and is now working on "Getting Beyond Getting Down the Facts," which will make recommendations to the state Legislature.

California class sizes above the fourth grade are among the largest in the nation, and have a low level of support staff and financing. Adjusting for the cost of doing business, our state ranks around 40th in financing for education. Eighty-two percent of our school financing comes from the state, 10 percent from the federal government, and the rest coming from localities by way of measures such as parcel taxes.

It is going to be difficult to increase funding, as the state economy is projected to be flat in the future. But the big question, according to Dr. Kirst, is: Would we get better results if we just gave more money to education? Dr. Kirst does not think so, and pointed out many other problems with our education system in addition to the poor financing, among them:

1. The system has no underlying rationale, and the amount of spending is based on what a

district was spending in 1972.

2. It is incredibly complex and cannot be explained in any transparent way. Almost no one understands the entire system.

3. The system does not deliver equal or adequate education.

4. It is a nonsensical historical accretion. There is no adjustment for different costs in different parts of California, nor is there recognition for the difficulties of schools where there are language problems. Forty-nine percent of the school population is Latino, and of these, 25 percent don't function in English.

5. The system is more centralized than almost any other state system. The state controls what the students should do and how to do it.

Even if we were to increase spending by 5 percent, it would only result in a 1 percent increase in classroom spending. How could this be? As the speaker explained, the other 4 percent goes into pensions, healthcare, worker's compensation, energy costs and step increases. (In reference to steps, Dr. Kirst said there was no evidence that more education of teachers improves classroom results.)

Dr. Kirst had a number of recommendations to improve K-12 education:

1. Replace the single salary schedule which pays teachers the same for all specialties. You cannot get math and science teachers in Silicon Valley for this pay.

2. Have some form of teacher "merit" pay. This is exceedingly hard to design. Many states are paying more for more pupil attainment, but we don't have methods to do this.

3. Adjust state financing for students needs and combine the 100 categorical programs into a fewer number.

4. Phase in state aid increases. The governor has declared 2008 "The Year of Education." Perhaps some of these reforms will be made. ■

*Marcia Allen is a former president of the Morning Forum of Los Altos.*

When I asked if they felt any responsibility for the congested traffic conditions (F-graded intersections and stop-and-go traffic in the diamond lanes on Highway 101), they did not respond. If council members do not have a plan to solve the traffic problems, they should not make it worse by continually adding more housing.

**Godfrey Baumgartner**  
Betlo Avenue

**LETTERS**

► Continued from page 15

allowed by the zoning.

The council only mentioned a real traffic congestion problem in passing (and failed to address daily traffic and other major problems) while spending most of the discussion time on architecture and whether it fit the neighborhood.

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MARJAN SADOUGH

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Welcome to the sticks

JAPANESE GRILL SUMIKA  
TURNS UP THE HEAT IN LOS ALTOS

By Sheila Himmel

Approach Sumika with a clear head. Each menu item is relatively inexpensive for very good food, but it's easy to order too much and pay the price, especially if Sumika's enticing wine and sake come into play.

Sumika is celebrating its first anniversary of bringing Japanese-style upscale small plates to Los Altos. Find it — with some difficulty if you're not familiar with this V-shaped downtown — off the Central Plaza parking lot between Second and Third streets. A modest vertical sign marks the spot that once held popular Jocco's.

With banquettes lining the front room, Sumika seats about 48 people. You may want all 48 to be there, so you can't hear the soundtrack of a high-pitched woman singing old Beatles hits like "It's Only Love." It's very "Lost in Translation."

Sumika's signature kushi-yaki is like the more commonly known Japanese grill method called yakitori, except that it goes beyond chicken to include vegetables, beef and pork. All are two-bite pieces on small plates topping out at \$4.50.

To avoid disappointment: Do not go to Sumika for sushi.

► Continued on next page

### Sports Page



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MARIAN SADOUGH

**Chef Tatsumori Honma** flips over a bamboo skewer.

► Continued from previous page

In Japan, says owner Kuniko Ozawa, yakitori is more popular than sushi, especially as gathering spots for students and business people.

Do not say, "Chef, I'd rather grill it myself." Unlike Juban in Menlo Park, with barbecues set into the tables, Sumika has four Japanese chefs taking turns over hot imported coals. Ozawa found head chef Yoshikuri Maruyama at Taka-sen, a renowned yakitori restaurant in Japan that is owned by her brother's best friend.

Kushi-yaki dishes run from \$2.50 for grilled quail eggs and shiitake mushrooms to \$4.50 for Kobe-style beef. Your various skewers are arrayed on a metal platter that resembles a hot foosball game. Available organic chicken parts include thigh, breast, heart, liver, skin and wings. Chicken meatball (\$3.50) looks a fat cigar, but it's light and spicy. Crisp asparagus rolled in slices of pork (\$3) is a winner. All of the above are excellent without further ado, but a teriyaki-style sauce is available.

Adgedashi tofu (\$7) is creamy on the inside, with a fried but soft coat. Bean sprouts, carrots and fish flakes, dancing in the heat, dress it up.

Really red miso soup (\$4) is a surprisingly bittersweet, rich broth stocked with clams. Azawa calls it "adult miso."

Three items on Sumika's menu are starred. Take them seriously.

Sumika's Famous Organic Fried Chicken (\$7) lives up to its boast.

The Sumika salad (\$9.50) is a Mount Fuji of greens, tall and substantial. Peanut-sesame dressing unites tangy mizuna lettuce, crunchy cabbage and juicy tomatoes with cute little discs of pickled baby corn.

Oyako-don (\$12) is a hearty yet sophisticated rice and chicken entree. Just before serving, an egg is cracked in, so instead of scrambled egg it becomes like a creamy risotto sauce.

Ozawa advises four or five yakitori plates per person, if you're going to make a meal of them. An alternate route takes one or two small plates and then a rice dish.

► See **SUMIKA**, page 20

pasta \* panini \* zuppa \* insalate \* panzerotti \* fine wines

pasta \* panini \* zuppa \* insalate \* panzerotti \* fine wines

pasta \* panini \* zuppa \* insalate \* panzerotti \* fine wines

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Sumika patrons browse the menu last Friday evening.

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**SUMIKA**

► Continued from page 19

I'd recommend stopovers at red miso soup, fried chicken, fried tofu and house salad. But then, I ate too much. ■

■ **DINING NOTES**

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MOVIE TIMES

- 3:10 TO YUMA (R)** ★★★★★ Century 12: 12:55 & 7:20 p.m.  
**ACROSS THE UNIVERSE (PG-13)** ★★★★★ Century 16: 12:40, 3:50, 7 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: 12:45, 3:50, 6:55 & 9:55 p.m.  
**THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES BY THE COWARD ROBERT FORD (R)** ★★★★★1/2 Century 16: 12:45, 4:20 & 8 p.m.  
**THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (PG-13)** ★★★★★1/2 Century 20: 1:50, 4:40, 7:45 & 10:25 p.m.  
**THE BRAVE ONE (R)** ★★ Century 20: 1:10, 4:10, 7:20 & 10:10 p.m.  
**THE DARJEELING LIMITED (R)** ★★★★★ Palo Alto Square: 1:50, 4:20 & 7 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 9:30 p.m.  
**DEATH AT A FUNERAL (R)** ★★★★★ Century 20: 12:05, 2:25, 4:50, 7:10 & 9:35 p.m.  
**EASTERN PROMISES (R)** ★★★★★1/2 Century 16: 3:45 & 10:20 p.m. Century 12: 3:50 & 10:10 p.m.  
**ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE (PG-13)** Century 16: 12:25, 1:30, 3:10, 4:15, 6:55, 7:35, 9:35 & 10:15 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 1:25, 2:40, 4:05, 5:20, 7, 8, 9:45 & 10:35 p.m.  
**FEAST OF LOVE (R)** ★★★★★ Century 12: 1:05 & 7:25 p.m.  
**FEEL THE NOISE (PG-13)** Century 12: 12:35, 3, 4:20, 5:30, 8, 10 & 10:30 p.m.  
**THE FINAL SEASON (PG)** Century 12: 1, 4, 7:45 & 10:25 p.m.  
**THE GAME PLAN (PG)** Century 16: 1:10, 3:55, 7:15 & 9:55 p.m. Century 12: 1:30, 2:45, 4:15, 5:40, 7, 8:30 & 9:45 p.m.  
**GOOD LUCK CHUCK (R)** Century 12: 4:10 & 9:55 p.m.  
**HAIRSPRAY (PG)** ★★★★★ Century 20: 7:45 & 10:30 p.m.  
**THE HEARTBREAK KID (R)** ★★1/2 Century 16: 12:30, 1:55, 3:20, 4:55, 7, 7:45, 9:45 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 12:05, 1:20, 2:50, 4:20, 5:50, 7:25, 8:55 & 10:20 p.m.  
**IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOON (PG)** ★★★★★ Palo Alto Square: 2 & 7:10 p.m.  
**IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH (R)** ★★★★★ Century 20: 1:40, 4:35, 7:35 & 10:15 p.m.  
**INTO THE WILD (R)** ★★★★★ Century 16: 12:25, 1:15, 4:35, 7:05 & 7:55 p.m. Century 20: 12:20, 2, 3:35, 5:25, 6:50, 8:40 & 10:05 p.m.  
**THE JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB (PG-13)** ★★★★★1/2 Century 12: 12:40 & 7:10 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 4:30 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 9:35 p.m.  
**THE KINGDOM (R)** ★★★★★1/2 Century 16: 1:50, 4:30, 7:20 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 1:15, 3:10, 4:30, 7:15, 8:50 & 10:15 p.m.  
**LUST, CAUTION (NC-17)** ★★★★★ Guild: 12:30, 4:15 & 8 p.m.  
**MICHAEL CLAYTON (R)** ★★★★★1/2 Century 16: 12:30, 1:25, 3:25, 4:25, 6:50, 7:40, 9:40 & 10:25 p.m. Century 12: 12:30, 2, 3:30, 5, 7:15, 9 & 10:15 p.m.  
**MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY (G)** ★★ Century 12: 3:20 & 9:50 p.m.  
**MY KID COULD PAINT THAT (PG-13)** ★★★★★ Aquarius: 2:45, 5, 7:30 & 9:40 p.m.  
**THE NANNY DIARIES (PG-13)** ★1/2 Century 20: 12:35 & 6:15 p.m.  
**OFFICE SPACE (R)** Aquarius: Fri. & Sat. at midnight.  
**OUTSOURCED (R)** ★★★★★ Aquarius: 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:25 p.m.  
**RATATOUILLE (G)** ★★★★★ Century 20: 2 & 5 p.m.  
**RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION (R)** Century 20: 12:10, 2:30, 4:55, 7:30 & 9:50 p.m.  
**THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING (PG)** Century 16: 1:40, 4:45, 7:40 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40 & 10:05 p.m.  
**STARDUST (PG-13)** ★★1/2 Century 20: 7 & 10 p.m.  
**SUPERBAD (R)** Century 12: 12:50 & 7:05 p.m.  
**SYDNEY WHITE (PG-13)** Century 20: Noon, 2:35, 5:10, 7:55 & 10:25 p.m.  
**UNDERDOG (PG)** Century 20: 12:25, 2:35 & 4:45 p.m.  
**WE OWN THE NIGHT (R)** Century 16: 12:20, 1:20, 3:15, 4:05, 6:45, 7:30, 9:30 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 12:55, 2:15, 3:45, 5:05, 6:35, 7:50, 9:25 & 10:30 p.m.  
**WHY DID I GET MARRIED? (PG-13)** Century 16: 1, 4, 7:10 & 10 p.m. Century 12: 12:45, 2:15, 3:45, 5:20, 7:30, 9:15 & 10:20 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)

For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the Aquarius, Guild and Park, visit [www.LandmarkTheatres.com](http://www.LandmarkTheatres.com)

- ★ Skip it
- ★★ Some redeeming qualities
- ★★★ A good bet
- ★★★★ Outstanding

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MOVIE REVIEWS



**THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES BY THE COWARD ROBERT FORD** ★★★★★1/2

(Century 16) Brad Pitt is flat-out magnificent as the psychotic Jesse James, a Southern loyalist-cum-guerilla in a Civil War without end. Pitt inherits the sheer lunacy of James, eyes lit with the fire of ethical vacancy and speech breathy with madness. The James Gang is on a roll, pulling off a staggering number of lucrative stage, bank and train robberies. There's not a man alive who doesn't want Jesse's head as the essential trophy, and young Bob Ford (Casey Affleck) is head of the line. As baby brother to James Gang member Charlie Ford (Sam Rockwell), the whiney sycophantic Bob has a provisional "in." He wheedles his way into Jesse's inner circle and studies the legendary madman like a blueprint. The narrative is measured and thoughtful with a ruminative voice-over filling in the details of James' background and state of mind. As the gang gradually splinters, loyalties are called into play and betrayal runs rampant. Capricious, meditative and absorbing. *Rated: R for strong and graphic violence. 2 hours, 40 minutes.* — J.A.

**EASTERN PROMISES** ★★★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 12) The narrative begins with a simple tragedy: a dazed 14-year-old girl collapses and dies in childbirth at a London hospital with only a Russian-language diary left as a clue to her identity. Hospital midwife Anna Khitrova (Naomi Watts) is troubled by the girl's mysterious death and determines to locate the baby's relatives. Her amateur investigations lead her to an elegant eatery in London's Russian ghetto, where she befriends charmer Semyon (Armin Mueller-Stahl) who agrees to translate the diary, an offer slyly suggesting that Anna has landed smack in the middle of a vory-v-zakone (Russian mafia) hornet's nest. Through kingpin Semyon, Anna is uneasily acquainted with the man's volatile, alcoholic son Kirill (Vincent Cassel) and Kirill's driver-cum-bodyguard Nikolai Luzhin (Viggo Mortensen) who is worming his way into and up through the ranks of the family "business." Murder, drugs, child prostitution, torture — it's all part of a crime drama as tightly wound as a ticking bomb. *Rated: R for violence, profanity, nudity and sex. 1 hour, 36 minutes.* — J.A.

**FEAST OF LOVE** ★★★★★

(Century 16, Century 12) The nucleus of this ensemble picture is quaint Portland coffee shop Jitters, owned by middle-aged romantic Bradley Thomas (Greg

► Continued on next page

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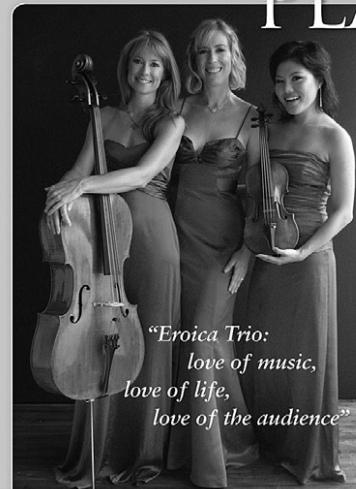
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**Community Workshop Recreation Plan-First Draft Review**

A Community Workshop will be held to review the Recreation Plan-First Draft, answer questions and to receive public comment. The Recreation Plan contains recommendations for recreation programs, services and facilities and will help guide the City over the next ten years.

Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2007  
 Location: Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff  
 Time: 7:00 p.m.

Interested persons may attend the meeting and present comments. A copy of the Recreation Plan-First Draft is available on-line at: <http://www.mountainview.gov/civica/filebank/blobload.asp?BlobID=3893>, and the Community Center 201 South Rengstorff, Mountain View, CA 94039-7540. Written comments may be directed to Community Services Department, P.O. Box 7540, Mountain View, CA 94039, Attn: Recreation Plan-First Draft, or by e-mail to: [james.teixeira@mountainview.gov](mailto:james.teixeira@mountainview.gov). Questions may also be directed to (650) 903-6331.

► *Continued from previous page*  
Kinnear). Bradley's innocent naivete blinds him when his wife Kathryn (Selma Blair) falls for a female softball player at a post-game gathering. When Kathryn leaves him, Bradley turns to the

companionship of a lovable dog that was meant as a gift for Kathryn and to the guidance of Jitters regular Harry Stevenson (Morgan Freeman). Harry enjoys an undying love with his loyal wife and projects an air of wisdom and


generosity. But the death of his son is an internal wound that refuses to heal, forcing Harry into an early retirement. Meanwhile, Oscar (Toby Hemingway) and Chloe (Alexa Davalos), two young Jitters clerks, embark on a storybook

romance. But Oscar and Chloe face adversity as their relationship blossoms. Although "Feast" is sometimes depressing, a natural side effect when touching on issues such as infidelity and death, it is also uplifting and tender. *Rated: R for*

*strong sexual content, nudity and language.* 1 hour, 42 minutes. — T.H.


**THE HEARTBREAK KID** ★★1/2  
(Century 16, Century 20) Ben Stiller reunites with raunch-comedy aficionados Bobby and Peter Farrelly for this riotous chuckler about misguided romance. Although the edgy humor provides plenty of side-splitting moments, "Heartbreak" ultimately cracks beneath a lackluster storyline. Stiller is Eddie Cantrow, the owner of a sporting goods store in San Francisco. Although Eddie's father Doc (Jerry Stiller) and pal Mac (Rob Corddry) urge him to settle down, Eddie can't quite find the right girl. Enter Lila (Malin Akerman), a gorgeous environmentalist with a seemingly sweet nature. Eddie and Lila fall for each other fast and after just six weeks the two are walking down the aisle and preparing for a romantic honeymoon in Mexico. On the long car ride down south, Eddie begins to realize he's made a horrible mistake. Lila has some annoying habits, is downright abusive sexually and really isn't all that bright. To make matters worse, Eddie finds himself enamored with the free-spirited Miranda (Michelle Monaghan). Farrelly fans will leave the theater with sore stomach muscles and plenty of memorable one-liners, but others may want to avoid "Heartbreak." *Rated: R for strong sexual content, crude humor, language and a scene of drug use involving a minor.* 1 hour, 55 minutes. — T.H.

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**IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH** ★★★★★  
(Century 16, Century 20) A phone call informs Hank Deerfield (Tommy Lee Jones) that son Mike (Jonathan Tucker), who just returned stateside after a tour in Iraq, has gone AWOL. With hardly a word to his wife (Susan Sarandon), the former MP climbs into his truck and drives from Tennessee to Fort Ruid in New Mexico. Hank quietly questions Mike's military buddies and pockets his son's camera phone, gathering the clues to allow him to unravel the truth behind a grisly find: his son's charred, dismembered body found scattered in the brush near the base. The murder mystery propels the plot, revealing macho posturing between the Army investigators (Jason Patric, James Franco) and the local cops (Josh Brolin) for jurisdiction of a case that both groups would rather bury. Hank coaxes Emily Sanders (Charlize Theron), a police detective routinely belittled by the men on the force, to help him. The deceptively simple story of a parent's grief over the death of a son and his need to discover what happened slowly builds into a penetrating inquiry about the casualties of war. *Rated: R for violent and disturbing content, language and some sexuality!*

nudity. 1 hour, 54 minutes. — S.T.

**INTO THE WILD** ★★★★★  
(Century 16) Sean Penn steps behind the camera to craft one of the most powerful films of the year. With tremendous skill and imagination Penn unspools a great American tragedy, the true story of 22-year-old establishment dropout Chris McCandless (Emile Hirsch). McCandless was freshly graduated from Emory University with a promising future at Harvard Law when he ditched his privileged lifestyle in favor of an unforeseen odyssey into the wild. McCandless cashed in his college fund and abruptly donated all \$24,000 to Oxfam. Thus

the ties were cut, from his judgmental parents (William Hurt and Marcia Gay Harden) and his sister/partner-in-crime, Carine (Jena Malone). McCandless hit the road with a vengeance; his car was found abandoned in the Arizona desert and his parents notified law enforcement to no avail. From the mean streets of Los Angeles and the Southwestern deserts to the wheat fields of South Dakota and beyond, McCandless ultimately found himself exactly where he wanted to be: completely off the grid in the isolated wilderness of Alaska. Hirsch is nothing short of a revelation, his fervent commitment to the project both painful and profound. *Rated: R for language, nudity*

and mature themes. 2 hours, 27 minutes. — J.A.

**OUTSOURCED** ★★★  
(Aquarius) To squeeze more profit, an American catalogue company fires its Seattle sales force and outsources its customer call center to India. Perfectly cast as a middle-management everyman, Josh Hamilton ("Sex and the City" and "Kicking and Screaming") plays Todd Anderson as an unassuming nice guy who reluctantly agrees to train the replacements in the outskirts of Mumbai. Keenly observed cultural differences — and a cliché or two — surface as soon as Todd lands in chaotic Mumbai. Instead

of adopting a pessimistic outlook, Todd embraces the wisdom of his trainees, particularly the competent Asha (Ayesha Dharker of "The Mistress of Spices"), who advises him to learn about India. His personal journey may follow a predictable path, but accompanying him on the road to fulfillment is satisfying. "Outsourced" is an indie charmer that may become the sleeper of Seattle. *Rated: PG-13 for some sexual content. 1 hour, 43 minutes. — S.T.*

MOVIE CRITICS

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

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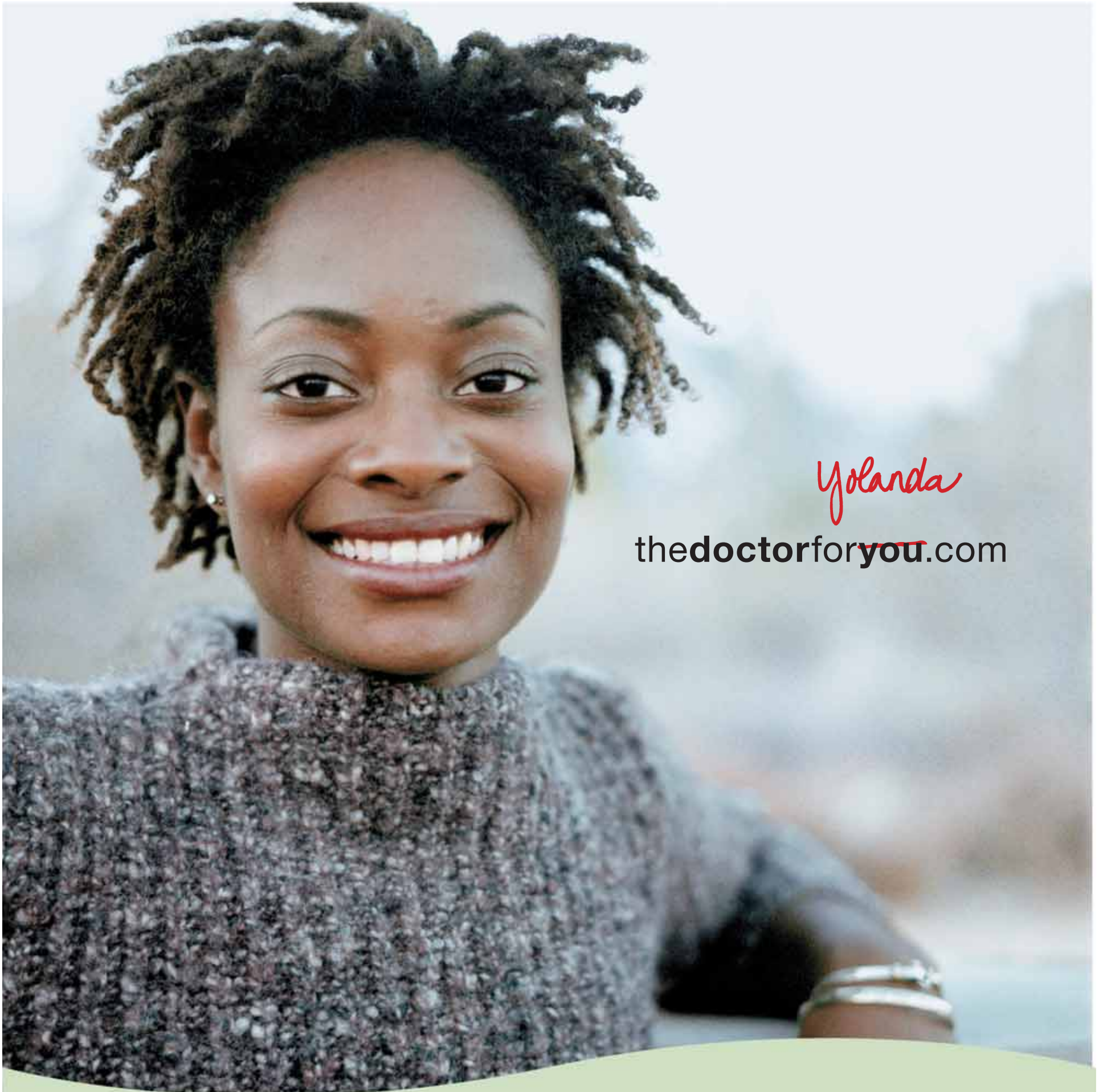
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