

Mountain View VOICE



Help the helpers
Worker Center could use a boost | P.5

NOVEMBER 23, 2007 VOLUME 15, NO. 46

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Christmas may come early for Hangar One

DECISION DUE IN EARLY DECEMBER ON WHETHER NAVY WILL DEMOLISH MOFFETT ICON

By Daniel DeBolt

The Navy, which has kept the public guessing about whether it will demolish historic Hangar One at Moffett Field, is scheduled to announce its decision in early December.

"If all goes well, it [the decision] will go out in early December," said Navy spokesperson Darren Newton in a phone interview last week. It was the same thing he said to dozens of people at the last Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board meeting Nov. 8.

After saying last year that it had decided to demolish the huge hangar, the Navy stepped back from that position after a

There will "either be lots of cake or lots of rope."

BOB MOSS

huge public outcry and strong criticism of its analysis, and has spent the last year re-evaluating its decision.

The December decision will be subsequently discussed at the Jan. 10 advisory board meeting, which may be a big party — or an angry meeting reminiscent of what happened the last time the Navy said it would tear down the hangar.

There will "either be lots of cake or lots of rope," joked RAB co-chair Bob Moss.

The Navy may have already given it away: At a recent RAB meeting, Newton leaned over and told Moss, "We're going to have the official response back in a month or two and I think you'll be happy with it," Moss recalls.

Nevertheless, Moss said, "It's very hard to read what they are going to do."

Newton's predecessor, Rick Weissenborn, told the RAB earlier this year that

► See **HANGAR**, page 6



HARDY WILSON

Mountain View High School seniors Michael Cabigting, Meng Sun, Norma Coffey and Nicholas Geier all gather in the school's career center last Friday to check out a new computer program for assisting students in applying to college.

Crunch time for college applicants

PROCESS MORE STRESSFUL THAN EVER, WITH UNIVERSITIES FILLING UP FASTER

By Alexa Tondreau

This may be the month of turkey, cranberry sauce and stuffing, but it also marks another important occasion: College applications are due for California state schools, meaning students will be working overtime during the holiday weekend to get their apps in.

Both the University of California and the California State University systems have reported skyrocketing application numbers in recent years. According to the U.S. Department of Education, last year California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, better known as Cal Poly, had the sixth lowest

acceptance rate in the country, behind Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford and Columbia universities, respectively.

No one knows better than Mountain View High School's college counselor Laurel Brock just how hard it has

become to get into California state schools. She also worries about the psychological and emotional impact it has on students who fear that, despite their hard

► See **COLLEGE**, page 9

High schoolers decry intolerance

By Theresa Condon

The hundreds of students, parents and local residents who attended the "Not In Our School" event at Los Altos High last week made a powerful statement about their attitudes toward prejudice and intolerance.

Mountain View, Los Altos and Saint Francis high schools all joined forces with Oakland-based nonprofit The Working Group to produce the event, which featured a documentary film about hate crimes and an open dis-

► See **INTOLERANCE**, page 8

INSIDE

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During her stay at Packard Children's, Katie made new friends and set her sights on a future profession as an oncology nurse. And from what we've seen, she's got the drive to achieve anything she puts her mind to. Visit www.lpch.org for more information.

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

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

How will you burn off those Thanksgiving dinner calories?



"Chasing after Simon."
Matthew and Simon Kagle,
Mountain View



"I'll continue my nightly walks."
Tracy Spletzer, Santa Clara



"I'll play a lot of drums."
Alex Lautenberger, San Francisco



"Riding my bike."
Lee Morgan, Cupertino



"We don't eat a lot of food at Thanksgiving. It's just a regular meal."
Kevin Lemguyen, San Jose

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■ CRIMEWATCH

NARCOTICS POSSESSION, 400 BLOCK BARCELONA CT., 11/13

A man entered a stranger's house through the front door, which was unlocked, and told the occupant that people were after him. The occupant did not know the man and called police.

Police arrested Craig Bell, 46, and found him to be under the influence of a narcotic. Police also allegedly found narcotics on him. He was arrested on these and other charges.

ATTEMPTED AUTO THEFT, 2000 BLOCK LATHAM ST., 11/18

Officers responded to a report of an auto theft in progress around 11 p.m. Sunday. They found a man closing the door of someone's car, and confirmed that the car's owner did not know the suspect.

Police arrested Arron Lopez, 26, on charges of attempted auto theft, possession of a methamphetamine pipe and several warrants.

■ POLICELOG

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

700 Block E. El Camino Real, 11/13

AUTO BURGLARY

1800 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 11/12
1400 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 11/12
200 Block Orchard Ave., 11/13
100 Block Promethean Way, 11/13
YMCA, 11/13
200 Block Central Ave., 11/13
500 Block Cypress Point Dr., 11/15

BATTERY

1100 Block Boranda Ave., 11/12
Crittenden School, 11/14
Graham Middle School, 11/14
1000 Block Washington St., 11/15

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

300 Block Villa Robleda, 11/12

DISTURBANCE

1700 Block Hackett Ave., 11/13
2600 Block Miller Ave., 11/15
E. El Camino Real/Grant Rd., 11/17
100 Block Del Medio Ave., 11/18

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Molly Magee's, 11/18

800 BLOCK LEONG DR., 11/18

FORGERY

400 Block Fairchild Dr., 11/14

GRAND THEFT

200 Block E. Middlefield Rd., 11/14
Library, 11/14
100 Block Calderon Ave., 11/15
El Camino Hospital, 11/15
800 Block Heatherstone Way, 11/16
200 Block Martens Ave., 11/16
500 Block Showers Dr., 11/16
1400 Block Bonita Ave., 11/17
Walgreens, Rengstorff Ave., 11/17
100 Block Calderon Ave., 11/18
600 Block National Ave., 11/18

IDENTITY THEFT

1900 Block Latham St., 11/18

OBSCENE/ANNOYING PHONE CALLS

400 Block Ortega Ave., 11/16
2100 Block Old Middlefield Way, 11/17

PETTY THEFT

600 Block W. El Camino Real, 11/12
400 Block San Antonio Rd., 11/12
300 Block Showers Dr., 11/12
400 Block N. Whisman Rd., 11/13
500 Block Showers Dr., 11/13
200 Block Easy St., 11/14
Wal-Mart, 11/14
3500 Block Truman Ave., 11/15
1600 Block Begen Ave., 11/16
Best Buy, 11/16
500 Block Walker Dr., 11/17
900 Block El Monte, 11/18

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

W. El Camino Real/Ortega Ave., 11/12

STOLEN VEHICLE

500 Block W. Middlefield Rd., 11/12
200 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 11/15
500 Block Cypress Point Dr., 11/17
700 Block Continental Ct., 11/18
200 Block Latham St., 11/18

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

300 Block Higdon Ave., 11/13

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

Broderick Way/Casey Ave., 11/13
1900 Block Montecito Ave., 11/15
Rite Aid- Grant Rd., 11/17

TRESPASSING

300 Block Escuela Ave., 11/15

VANDALISM

800 Block E. El Camino Real, 11/12
1000 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 11/12
1600 Block W. El Camino Real, 11/12
900 Block El Monte Ave., 11/13
Eagle Park, 11/13
300 Block Easy St., 11/14
California St./Castro St., 11/14

■ CORRECTIONS

■ A story in last week's *Voice*, "Research Park to be built on TCE plume?" incorrectly stated that the main TCE plume under Moffett Field is not being cleaned up. The Navy has been using a "pump and treat" system to clean this site for several years.

■ A story in last week's *Voice* on the dispute over a lunch truck at Los Altos High School, "Burgers, fries and civics," misstated the date of a Los Altos Town Council meeting to be held at the high school this fall. The council has not yet determined a date for that meeting.



Fire works

By Don Frances

EARLIER THIS week — Tuesday morning at 8:30, to be exact — Mountain View firefighters began distributing 275 bags of food to local low-income seniors.

“They are working in conjunction with the Brown Bag program run by Second Harvest Food Bank at the Senior Center,” explained Jaime Garrett, a spokesperson for the fire department.

This is one of several charitable efforts made by our fire department each holiday season (another big one is the annual Pancake Breakfast). Anyone with stories, pictures, accolades, etc. regarding this week’s event is encouraged to send them in.

IVAN JOHN sent this tidbit which he says indicates “proactive steps taken by community volunteers to advance healthy lifestyles in our city”:

“A collaborative effort between the city’s recreation department, Mesa de la Comunidad, Friends of Mountain View Tennis and the Mountain View Tennis Club, together with a secure and significant support role from the Mountain View Police Activities League (PAL), has culminated in a unique instructional tennis program.”

The result, “Net Gain,” was launched earlier this month at the Rengstorff tennis courts. The six-week program offers two dozens teens “increased access to an after-school activity,” particularly for “those in the under-represented Latino community.”

I’M BEGINNING to think Angela Hey, the *Voice*’s ace tech columnist, is actually a spy.

“I’m in Singapore,” she wrote in an e-mail Monday. “So far I’ve seen two stores selling unlocked iPhones!”

What was she doing there? “I’m giving a talk on Google tonight for a public lecture sponsored by the Republic Polytechnic” — a convenient cover for Hey’s clandestine operations. ■



HARDY WILSON

Alberto Resenidiz of Mountain View rakes leaves in front of Trinity United Methodist Church last Friday. Day workers like Resenidiz have been helping to fix up the church.

Worker Center faces challenges ahead

By Daniel DeBolt

In the large hall at Trinity United Methodist Church downtown, day workers sit in rows of chairs while waiting for work. Some watch television in Spanish, others learn English in an adjoining room where the sunlight pours through stained-glass windows.

The Mountain View Day



Worker Center has existed at various locations since it began in Los Altos in 1996. On a daily basis it matches day laborers with employers, such as homeowners and contractors. And

for some newly-arrived Mexican immigrants it serves as the first point of acculturation.

Most homeowners who use the center have said they much prefer the “controlled environment” over the mad shuffle of picking up workers on the street, said Steve Olsen, president of the worker center’s board.

► See **DAY WORKER**, page 11

One-year permit at Trinity United

DAY WORKER CENTER SURVIVES, BUT MAY HAVE TO MOVE AGAIN SOON

By Daniel DeBolt

The city granted the Mountain View Day Worker Center a one-year permit for its new downtown location last Wednesday, all but guaranteeing the center a home for the next 12 months. But with no long-term site or funding source lined up, its future remains uncertain.

The center’s new site, Trinity United Methodist Church on Hope and Mercy Streets, is spacious — much larger than the old space at Escuela Avenue and

California Street — and it even includes a kitchen.

Neighborhood opposition to the center has boiled down to a few outspoken residents expressing concerns about crime, loitering and the politics of illegal immigration. (Mountain View police said worries over crime are refuted by police reports from the old site.)

The city, however, found no significant impacts from the move, said associate planner Melinda Dennis. Neighbors have been largely supportive, she said.

The city’s permit has placed several requirements on the center, including business hours of 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. six days a week, bike racks for workers and proper signs out front. Also, the mobile health clinic is allowed there only two days a week, and the car wash fund raisers done at the old site won’t be allowed in the public parking lot.

The city will replace street signs directing employers to the old site with signs to the new center. ■

■ EDUCATION

Districts seek leg up for Latino students

By Alexa Tondreau

In an effort to boost the academic performance of Latino students, local elementary and high school officials invited students and community leaders to a forum last week to discuss the issue.

Students from grades seven through 12 gathered at Los Altos High School in a forum that gave them the opportunity to hear stories from adult Latinos who excelled despite difficult circumstances, and also to share their own stories about what works in their classes and what doesn’t.

Officials from both the Mountain View-Los Altos High School and Mountain View Whisman Elementary School districts have been troubled by higher dropout rates and low test scores for Latino students.

“Everybody knows a gap exists,” said Brigitte Sarraf, associate superintendent at the high school district. “But everything we heard from the students and from teachers is that in order to make inroads, we don’t want to focus too much on the deficiencies. We want to keep it really positive.”

Superintendent Barry Groves of MVLA said the issue is one the district is eager to address.

“It’s a high priority for our school district. I believe this sort of event will help staff focus on the needs of our students and the tremendous impact teachers have on the success of our students,” he said.

Groves said he hoped students were inspired by the stories from community leaders and graduates of local schools, and are moved to follow in their footsteps.

► See **LATINO**, page 10

■ SEEN AROUND TOWN



Golden ginkgo

Martin Donald of Hamilton Avenue sent in this picture of a ginkgo tree "just turning to gold." The tree, he said, is located on Middlefield Road between Thaddeus and Rengstorff.

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.

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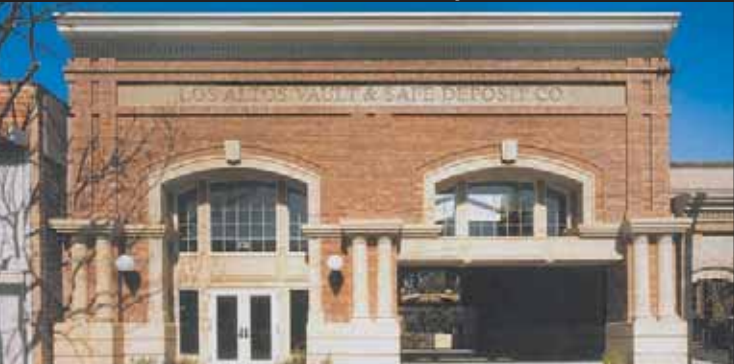
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HANGAR

► Continued from page 1

a decision had to be made by the summer. A temporary coating is peeling off the hangar's toxic siding which, when combined with winter rains, could be a recipe for increased runoff of toxic PCBs.

The delayed announcement "may mean they are going to demolish it and they don't care about sealing it," Moss said. "Or it may mean they can't make up their minds."

The Navy was initially supposed to release the decision earlier this year in the spring, but has rescheduled the announcement numerous times. "Every time they give us a date, it slips," Moss said.

Meanwhile, the Save Hangar One Committee, a group dedicated to preserving the hangar, has had success in presenting an alternative to the toxic siding.

In particular, the group's architect, Linda Ellis, has been educating the public on a Teflon fiberglass covering that could serve as a new siding. However, the Navy won't let her inside the hangar to confirm once and for whether the idea would work.

At the RAB meeting earlier this month, Navy spokesman Newton

The current campaign to re-skin the hangar hinges on its feasibility. The committee has gathered 1,500 signatures in support of the fabric covering.

"You have to see what the inside of hangar looks like before you can intelligently make a decision" as to how the fabric will work, Moss said. "I'm not convinced that we know that it will."

The revised environmental evaluation and cost analysis will lay out several options for the hangar, telling the complete story behind whatever position taken by the Navy. Last year its costs were disputed because the estimates for demolition and restoration differed substantially from NASA's, whose numbers made restoration seem much more feasible.

More information is available at www.savehangarone.org.

Several government officials have been allowed inside.

said it was the Navy's position that the public is not allowed onto the site. But while the Navy is responsible for cleaning up the site, it is NASA that now owns the hangar.

Several government officials have been allowed inside. Wayne Donaldson, director of the State Historic Preservation Office, recently visited the hangar and said he was "more determined than ever" to save it.

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

NEWS BRIEFS

COUNTY APPROVES \$75K FOR HOMELESS SHELTERS

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors last week approved \$75,000 to help open cold weather shelters operated by one of Silicon Valley's largest emergency service providers.

EHC Lifebuilders, a nonprofit that provides services to homeless people, operates two cold weather shelters in Gilroy and Sunnyvale at the National Guard armories.

The shelters, scheduled to open Monday, operate nightly from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., according to EHC Lifebuilders CEO Jennifer Loving.

EHC has seen a steady drop in donations over the last five years and has recently cut programs or passed many of its services on to other nonprofits.

The Sunnyvale National Guard Armory is located at 620 E. Maude Ave. The shelter not only provides shelter but also hot meals, medical assistance and other services. For more about EHC, visit www.ehclifebuilders.org.

HIT-AND-RUN VICTIM IDENTIFIED

The 60-year-old victim of a fatal hit and run found last Monday night at the intersection of El Camino Real and Escuela Avenue in Mountain View has been identified as transient Walter Ford Schneider, according to the Santa Clara County Coroner's office.

A plea to the public for potential witnesses to come forward has not yet yielded results, Mountain View police spokeswoman Liz Wylie said.

Investigators are interested in talking to anyone who may have been walking or driving in the El Camino Real and Escuela Avenue area at approximately 7 p.m. that Monday, Nov. 12. Anyone who may have witnessed the accident or who has information about it is asked to call Officer Tim Minor at 650-903-6344.

— Bay City News

CITY BRIEFS

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR OK'S NEW MAYFIELD PLAN

Zoning administrator Peter Gilli recommended last week that the City Council approve a new master plan for Mayfield that increases park space by a half acre and reduces building heights to three stories along Whitney Drive and parts of Mayfield Avenue.

The city is buying .39 acres of park space to add to what was a one-acre park near Diablo Avenue. It will bring the project's total park space, in two parks, to 3.53 acres on the 26-acre site.

Gilli also recommended developer Toll Brothers' detailed plan for its first phase, area one, which is 42 single-family homes adjacent to the existing neighborhood. The company proposes to start a year long demolition process in June 2008, after detailed plans for areas two, three and four come before the council next year. The master plan is set for a council hearing in December.

The project at 100 Mayfield Ave. calls for a total of 450 homes in Mountain View and another 45 on the Palo Alto side.

— Daniel DeBolt

RESIDENTS, PET SITTERS FIGHT OVER DOG PARK

If some residents get their way, pet sitters who show up at the Shoreline dog park with up to a dozen dogs each will be forced to go elsewhere — or limit the size of their pack to three.

Shoreline dog park users like Chris Hildebrandt say the .78-acre dog park isn't big enough for both them and the pet sitters. The sitters typically use the park between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and Hildebrandt says most come from other Peninsula cities. According to a staff report, most of those cities, with the exception of Sunnyvale and Palo Alto, have already imposed similar restrictions at their dog parks.

Caught off guard by the controversy, the parks and recreation commission tabled the issue Wednesday. Commissioners heard testimony from three people who work as pet sitters, upsetting local residents who thought the restrictions would be a slam dunk. The commissioners did, however, recommend a new height limit for dogs in the "small dog" area of the park: 18 inches.

'NUTCRACKER' RETURNS

The Pacific Ballet Academy is staging its 17th annual performance of "The Nutcracker" at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts this weekend. Performances will be held Fri-

day and Saturday, Nov. 23 and 24, at 1 and 6 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 25 at 12:30 and 4 p.m. Tickets are \$18-23. Call (650) 903-6000 or order online at www.ci.mtnview.ca.us/mvcpa.

— Theresa Condon



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INTOLERANCE

► Continued from page 1

cussion forum about similar issues in the community.

The film, a KQED documentary titled "Not in Our Town: Northern California," chronicled actions against hate crimes taken by communities around the region. It covered the murder of Gwen Araujo, a Newark transgender teen killed at a party; the arson of synagogues in Sacramento; the murder of a gay couple in Redding; a burning cross placed in the front yard of an African-American woman in Anderson; and the vandalism of gay literature at the San Francisco Public Library.

The film focused on those communities' efforts to prevent further hate crimes and to honor the victims. From public marches to city signs declaring "No room for racism, hate or violence," each town found ways to stand against the hateful actions of others.

As for the young viewers at

the event, the film surprised many of them.

"I'm here because we get extra credit" for attending, admitted Saint Francis junior David Brown, "but I'm glad I came. I never thought something like this could happen in a town like mine. This movie really showed that it could."

During the discussion period that followed the film, people stood up one after another and spoke of their personal experiences with intolerance and prejudice.

For Mountain View senior Nikki Pritchard, who is president of the Gay/Straight Alliance at her school, the evening was a chance to bring issues to light that are usually overlooked.

"I thought the personal stories about racial prejudice were very powerful," she said. "As a white person I have not had those experiences. Our community is predominantly white so it's important that those stories be shared."

Saint Francis senior Evan Sanders also thought the evening was a success. Sanders,

who is trying to bring the Gay/Straight Alliance to his school, was inspired by the dialogue about gender discrimination.

At Saint Francis, he said, gays and lesbians "can't speak for themselves because it is a Catholic school, so they need to be spoken for. The whole conversation [tonight] makes me want to push harder for this."

The Working Group is a media company that addresses issues of race, diversity and intolerance. It created "Not in Our Town," a national program, in 1995 after a rash of white supremacist attacks in Billings, Mont. prompted residents to take action.

In that incident, a brick was thrown through a window at the home of a boy who had placed a menorah on the sill. In response, the local newspaper printed paper menorahs that neighbors displayed in their windows to show support for anyone harassed by prejudice. ■

E-mail Theresa Condon at tcondon@mv-voice.com

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COLLEGE

► Continued from page 1

work, there may not be a place for them.

Although they remain among the most popular choices for students because of their cheaper price tag, high ranking and location close to home, state schools "are nobody's safeties anymore," Brock said.

UC and CSU schools can cost nearly \$25,000 less per year than private colleges or other state schools, which makes them highly appealing. The problem, Brock explained, is that they are everybody's first choice.

"We had a college lecturer come and speak to students, and he said the reason it is so hard to get into college these days is that everyone is applying to the same 20 schools," she said.

Because there is no guarantee of getting into the most popular schools — even with near-perfect grades and SAT scores — students often apply to between 10 and 20 schools, Brock said. With so many applications to complete, graduating high school students and their families are faced with significantly more work, and stress, this time of year.

"It's really very labor intensive, and it's a lot of work for a child to do alone," Brock said. Mountain View High has even hired a lecturer who specializes in teen stress management to speak to students at the end of the month, Brock said.

Additionally, this year the district installed a state-of-the-art computer program called "Family Connections" at both high schools and with student log-in availability from home. The program helps students organize their application materials, track where last year's seniors were accepted and what their academic profile looked like, and it provides in-depth information about what certain colleges are looking for — for example, if they weigh SAT scores more heavily than grades. It also helps students learn about financial aid opportunities at specific schools.

When students require extra one-on-one assistance, Brock will often recommend them to counselors in the community, including Elaine Sigal, a Mountain View-based independent college advisor.

Sigal, who has been in the business for over 25 years, works with students over multiple sessions to help them figure out where they should apply based on their specific needs and wants. Then she'll help them complete the applications, including brainstorming and editing their college essays, and will also tutor students for SAT preparation — everyone hires SAT tutors now, she said.

"The competition has increased dramatically. Everybody is scared they aren't going to get in. In the whole country, there is no system like the UC and CSU. I can understand why everybody is excited by those schools," she said.

While she would not disclose her hourly rate, Sigal did say most advisors charge anywhere from \$100 to \$350 per hour.

Both Brock and Sigal see it as their mission to introduce students to schools they may not have considered, or even heard about, but which might offer them an educational experience that better fits their needs.

Brock said schools in California that deserve more regard include the Claremont College school system, and Whittier and Occidental colleges. As for out of state schools, she's a big fan of Albertson College of Idaho, which offers a "first rate liberal arts education," she said.

Sigal cites location, student body size, available majors, campus atmosphere and extracurricular opportunities as the best criteria to consider when choosing a college. She added that the community college system in California is underused.

"A lot of kids are not taking advantage of the community college system, which guarantees admission into a four-year state school if you maintain good grades, which is unheard of in most states. I think it's an incredible opportunity for students," she said.

Both agree that keeping an open mind to lesser-known colleges will lead to more options come spring time, when acceptance letters are mailed out.

"People have to start looking past the big name schools," Sigal said. "They may not even be the best fit anyway." ▀

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

Big bucks for college-bound kids

HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOES ALL-OUT TO IMPROVE STUDENT SUCCESS RATE

By Alexa Tondreau

The foundation that raises funds for Mountain View's high school district has set its sights high this year: \$675,000, a record fundraising goal with nearly every dollar going to the district's college counseling services for students.

New and existing programs that support students' preparation for college will receive all of the money raised by the Mountain View-Los Altos High School Foundation. These include increased funding for the college and career centers, the district's new "Family Connections" college advising computer program, plus payment of PSAT

fees for all high school sophomores and juniors.

Long-term targets for the foundation include raising funds to support lower class sizes in English and math and to expand tutorial centers.

The foundation was motivated to enhance college services in order to "help our students prepare for college and navigate through the complexity of the admissions process," according to the organization's Web site.


Superintendent Barry Groves said the foundation's efforts are an indispensable part of the district's success and its student achievement.

"Because of the funding provid-

ed by this organization, we have smaller classes, academic tutoring, improved library services, online access to class assignments and grades, and an outstanding college and career center," Groves said. "In addition, this year we are able to fund our initiative in helping students achieve success after graduation."

The foundation is seeking donations equaling \$700 per student this year. Among other methods, it collects donations through its annual phone-a-thon and through partnerships with companies providing matching funds. ▀


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



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LATINO

► Continued from page 5

Javier Alcala, who currently works as a supervising deputy district attorney for the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, is a graduate of Mountain View's educational system, having gone through Landels Elementary, Graham Middle School and Mountain View High School. Alcala told students he came from a poor family with parents who had only an elementary school education, and now he supervises attorneys who grew up in privileged backgrounds and attended Ivy League schools.

"I asked them to consider how that happened, what it took for me to get there," Alcala said. "I told them I realized as a young student that school is not about being the most popular or getting the girlfriend. It's about getting an education that will help lead to other things. My message was: Keep your eye on the ball."

Alcala said he can "see himself in these students," and knows how critical it is to get on, and stay on, the right path from an early age.

Community leader Oscar Garcia, a graduate of Los Altos High School, couldn't agree more. He thinks the key is getting to kids as young as possible in the elementary grades.

"I look at it this way — if you plant a seed in the ground to grow a tree, eventually you have to put ties on the tree to keep it straight. If you wait too long to do that, you'll never get the tree to grow straight, it just won't happen. It's the same thing with these kids."

Garcia, who is president of Mountain View's Mesa de la Comunidad advocacy group, said when he went to school he was always the lone Latino in his honors and Advanced Placement classes. Latinos still represent a small minority in these groups, Garcia said, a fact he finds "disheartening."

"Thirty years later you would have thought the institution had addressed the issue," he said.

Wednesday's gathering was a good first step, he said, in part because students can start to feel they are being heard. Garcia said he can relate to students who reported feeling conflicted about their backgrounds in the larger context of their school and peers.

"You get teased a lot, and I can remember feeling ashamed of being Mexican. Now all of that has changed. First and foremost, you have to find a way to be proud of who you are," he said. ▀

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

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The draft 2007 First Five-Year Review Report for Site 22 at former Naval Air Station Moffett Field documents the implementation and performance of the Navy's selected remedy during the past five years. Site 22 is a closed landfill where the Navy constructed a cover in 2003 as part of the remedy.

The draft 2007 First Five-Year Review Report is available for public review in the information repository:

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For more information regarding Site 22, please contact Mr. Darren Newton, Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator, at (619) 532-0963 or darren.newton@navy.mil.

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DAY WORKER

► Continued from page 5

Recently the center moved from its longtime location of Calvary Church at Escuela Avenue and California Street. Since then it has been struggling to attract the same number of workers. Its previous location was closer to where workers gather on the street near the San Antonio shopping center.

"We would never choose to be so far from San Antonio," Olsen said. "But the downtown location has a lot of potential."

This includes proximity to possible employers downtown, and events like the Art and Wine Festival, which use day worker labor.

"We had somewhere around 70 workers per day at the old site," Olsen said. "Right now we're a little under that. The question is, in the early spring, if we can get back up to that level."

The key to the center's future success will be to maintain funding, attract workers and attract employers,

such as the contractors who pick up day workers at the San Antonio shopping center.

"These are busy, take-charge people who are comfortable picking up people in a truck," Olsen said. "Frankly it's about power — people are jumping in the car without even negotiating a fee. That puts you into a position of power. If we could get into the heads of contractors and make them more aware" of the Day Worker Center, then "workers will come where the jobs are."

A large chunk of the center's current funding will run out by 2010, organizers say — the \$75,000 a year

it receives from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. That grant goes a long way toward funding the full-time staff — director Maria Marroquin, a grant writer and one part-time office assistant.

Currently the center pays \$36,000 a year in rent at Trinity United. Janitorial services and landscaping are part of the center's lease with the church. It also receives \$25,000 a year in donations — including from the Voice's Holiday Fund.

In May, the Mountain View City Council held a study session where the city was

asked to start thinking about helping to fund the center. Olsen hopes this will lead to a collaborative effort with Los Altos, Palo Alto and the county. This fiscal year, the city gave money to the center for the first time: \$10,000 for an outreach program.

That program has the city's police department working with day workers from the center to be liaisons with workers on the street, educating them about their rights, "the do's and don'ts of being on the street," and the services available at the center.

Members of Trinity United say they're enjoying the presence of the workers, who are helping to spruce up the building and grounds. On a recent visit, fresh red and black paint was going on the wood trim of the church with help from the day workers. The presence of the workers has also jump-started work on the once-dilapidated playground, which will be completely replaced soon. Workers helped a contractor build a new fence around it earlier this year. ■

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

"Frankly it's about power — people are jumping in the car without even negotiating a fee. That puts you into a position of power."

STEVE OLSEN

Members of Trinity United say they're enjoying the presence of the workers, who are helping to spruce up the building and grounds.

About the Holiday Fund

Voice readers who want to increase the impact of their charitable donations this season can give to the Holiday Fund, which helps arrange dollar-for-dollar matching grants that can double the size of contributions to seven local nonprofit agencies.

This year, the Wakerly Family Foundation, the David and

Lucille Packard Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation will match, to the extent possible, all contributions to the Voice Holiday Fund on a dollar for dollar basis. Last year, Voice readers gave more than \$27,000, which after matching grants created a total contribution of \$54,534, or more than \$9,000 for each of the six nonprofit

agencies included in the Holiday Fund.

This year, all funds donated by Voice readers will be held and dispersed to the agencies by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation in February or early March. No fees are assessed by the Foundation, so that 100 percent of every contribution will go to the nonprofit agencies.

How to Give

Your gift helps children and others in need



Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar, to the extent possible, and will go directly to the nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year, readers contributed \$27,000, which was matched dollar for dollar for a total of

\$54,534 — more than \$9,000 for each agency.

No administrative costs are deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies listed here.

This year, the following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

- **PARTNERS FOR NEW GENERATIONS**
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- **THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS COUNCIL**
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- **MOUNTAIN VIEW ROTACARE CLINIC**
Provides uninsured community residents with medical care and medications and is frequently the last resort for this under-served clientele.
- **DAY WORKER CENTER OF MOUNTAIN VIEW**
Provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages. Serves 50 or more workers per day with job-matching, English lessons and guidance.
- **THE SUPPORT NETWORK FOR BATTERED WOMEN**
Operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline, a safe shelter for women and their children and offers counseling and other services for families facing this problem.
- **COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS**
Provides hands-on arts and music projects in the elementary classrooms of the Mountain View-Whisman School District. Nearly 40 percent of the students are low-income and 28 percent have limited English proficiency.
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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

A new shade of green

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who is the greenest of them all?

During a lively City Council discussion of the recently proposed "Hawthorne Park" project, a Sierra Club member made an impassioned plea for the council to approve the project, which calls for up to 69 three-story row house units squeezed around a right-of-way for the Hetch Hetchy aqueduct.

The developer would leave that right-of-way as a bike trail to serve the neighborhood there, and its configuration fits the maximum number of units on an odd-shaped site, while saving enough space for a small park and the bike trail. This is why the Sierra Club apparently likes the project: trail; high density; central location — all of which, it is believed, will help keep cars off the road and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Nonetheless, nearby neighbors howled about having their rear yards blocked off by a wall of housing 500 feet long. No action was taken at the meeting, but three council members argued that the space around the aqueduct would be better used for a neighborhood park, while others touted the bike trail.

Jac Siegel and Ronit Bryant joined Mayor Laura Macias in questioning use of the Hetch Hetchy land, in part due to a restriction which bars building permanent structures directly over the aqueduct. Instead, they argued, the project should be redesigned, or the city should preserve as open space the entire six-acre lot at 450 N. Whisman Rd.

All of this sets up a classic confrontation in Mountain View. It is certainly "green" to build housing that keeps people out of

their cars. And it's also "green" to preserve the city's dwindling open space, which is a habitat for local flora and fauna.

The choice is not a new one for the council, which until last year's election routinely approved such projects on the theory that it's the city's obligation to provide as much housing as possible in jobs-rich Mountain View. A similar argument was made by Sierra Club member Tamara Colby, who said, "The housing crisis is out of control. We have a severe housing-jobs imbalance. We need to open our hearts to our community — we need to share with others or we will all bake," from the global warming caused by commuters' carbon emissions.

The big question for council members is whether this project is the best use of land in the neighborhood, which is starved for parks. And the council must at least listen to nearby neighbors, who have legitimate concerns about a 500-foot-long wall of row houses near their properties.

Perhaps the best answer is a compromise. Lower and more varied roof lines could go a long way toward making the project more palatable to neighbors and city officials. (In fact, some council members indicated that they would not approve anything higher than 27 feet, which would effectively reduce the project to two stories.)

Given that the property is worth \$20 million or more, we doubt if the city can purchase it outright. But, with the Hetch Hetchy open space, and some smaller homes around the periphery, this development could provide much-needed housing in the city, as well as some open space for its residents and the surrounding area. It could be a win-win, if the advocates on either side are able to compromise.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

RESPONSE ON HOSPITAL SALARIES FALLS SHORT

Editor:

In response to El Camino Hospital board member Wes Alles' guest opinion last week, "Hospital salaries match those of other jobs," I am not prepared to let this issue rest.

What is most troubling about Mr. Alles' response is that it emphasizes the process of hiring an outside consultant (Clark Consultants) as a justification for bloated salaries, but does not offer hard data. Since El Camino Hospital is a public entity, I challenge and request under the Public Records Act that Mr. Alles disclose the full details of the Clark compensation survey data to any interested citizen — so that we can analyze the data and make our conclusions about whether the consultant's peer compensation data is appropriate, or is somehow biased and weighted to favor the highest paid nonprofits.

I believe that Clark made a rec-

ommendation that the survey's peer group median salaries for all executive positions be adjusted upward by 23 percent to reflect the higher cost-of-living market for El Camino Hospital. What they failed to account for in this adjustment is the fact that a significant percentage of the 70-hospital peer group is already in high cost-of-living markets, so they are in effect double counting and artificially inflating the hospital's median salary levels.

Specifically, if Mr. Alles is so convinced that the board did all the right homework and made the right decision to support further raising the salaries of hospital executives, then he should be willing to:

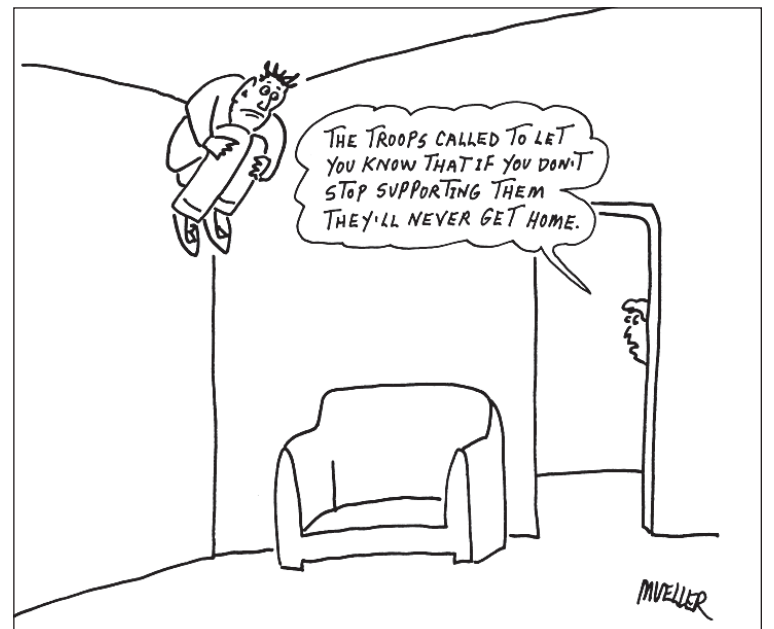
■ Release the details of the Clark study's findings showing not only the names, locations and sizes of peer hospitals, but the details of executive salaries at each of those hospitals. This file could be posted on the Voice Web site.

■ Explain in detail why for-profit hospital and for-profit industry

compensation was not factored into the comparative analysis for executive compensation, since most of the hospital's top 10 executive jobs are generic, like finance and accounting; business development; fund raising; public relations; purchasing (vendor management); and human resources.

Additional information would allow taxpayers to make up their own minds about the justification for the hospital's executive compensation levels and annual percentage increases in compensation.

Bill Kreppick
Meadow Lane



■ GUEST OPINION

Undocumented aliens, round 2

THE PROBLEM WITH ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IS IN THE LEGAL STRUCTURE, NOT THE PEOPLE COMING HERE

By Jim Doughty

I see that Jack Stone is venting about “illegal aliens” again (Letters to the Editor, Nov. 9). Mr. Stone, I am an immigrant. I entered this country, I went through the immigration process and I am now a naturalized American citizen. I am fortunate that I had intelligent parents to guide me along the path and an accepting country that welcomed me with open arms.

What is the difference between then and now? One word — fear. Most of the fear is due to

an overactive imagination on the part of our government.

During the first four years of my life, I lived in a war zone — the Orkney Islands of northern Scotland. One German U-Boat had already attacked and sunk a British battleship. We endured the fear, concern and heightened awareness of being attacked again at any time. We had an enemy with whom we had declared war. We were well aware of the ravages inflicted on London and Coventry — that people were dying and lives were being changed forever.

Are we at war with those folk who cross our southern borders? Of course not. I wonder, then, just why we are treating them as undesirables, who deserve nothing more than to be bulldozed out of our country. That raises an image for me of another event in recent history involving “undesirables” — an image that makes me sick.

I prefer to call these people “undocumented aliens”; the word “illegal” is just too harsh for this situation. I see them

fulfilling a role in our economy that no one else will take — the lower-level dirty work that is physically and emotionally demeaning to most of the rest of us. Do you think that engineers from India could indiscriminately come into the U.S. and take over positions that U.S. citizens now hold? Not a chance. Or that an Austrian could become president of the United States?

Our economy has done a good job of absorbing people who have come in from Mexico. Where I see the problem is that immigration laws now just do not work in this situation — they have to be modified to reflect the needs of our society in the years 2007 and beyond.

Can we get creative and use technology of some sort to keep track of 12 million people; and can we get off the mindset that it takes a long time to process the documentation for all these people? I know I did not have to have my background checked when I came in. If an immigrant commits a crime while here, let him or her deal with the consequences. Let's not get hung up on a shoplifting incident from 20 years ago.

This change will take time — at least until we can get a more responsive Congress and President into office. Then, and only then, can we get the horse before the cart and see that the immigration “problem” is in the legal structure, not the human beings who bear no ill will against us at all. They just want to improve their own situation.

Jim Doughty lives on Ednamary Way.

Most of the fear is due to an overactive imagination on the part of our government.

If an immigrant commits a crime while here, let him or her deal with the consequences.

Open House Event

Prospective Families, you are invited! Visit us online or call for more information.

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Photo of Trine Syverinsen, holding daughter, Matilda Wheban, standing in front of Bryggen, a world UNESCO heritage site in Bergen, Norway.

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

■ MOVIE TIMES

■ BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT



MARJAN SADOUGH

A plate of pan-seared sea scallops lemon with herbs and summer vegetable risotto.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Subtle sophistication

NEIMAN MARCUS' NM CAFE OFFERS RELAXED AMBIANCE, SILK-STOCKING MENU

By Dale F. Bentson

Neiman Marcus is currently celebrating its 100th year in business, but at the local store, housed on the third floor at Stanford Shopping Center, NM Cafe is going about its business like always: uncomplicated but stylish.

NM Cafe offers a broadly appealing menu with deference to diners of every age. The decor of light wood paneling, white linen-draped tables and top-notch tableware conveys subtle sophistication, and the restaurant's spaciousness allows for relaxation and conversation in an unhurried environment.

The restaurant is divided into four small, interconnected dining rooms, several of which can be closed off for private functions. There is a small coffee bar for those preferring an espresso over lunch. Manager Craig Kuwabara keeps the dining room organized while chef Ryan Hallowell deftly administers the kitchen. Both are California Culinary Academy-trained chefs.

The food was generally high caliber, although I took exception to a couple of desserts. Upon being seated, I was quickly brought a Paul Bunyan-sized

► Continued on next page

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► Continued from previous page

popover with strawberry butter. (The strawberry butter was a tad girlish for my taste but the huge popover was delicious without.) A lackluster demitasse of chicken consomme was served as an amuse bouche.

Two soups were offered daily. The tasty everyday tomato-basil bisque (\$6.50 cup) was thick and rich with bits of tomato solids. The soup du jour was invariably cream of broccoli during my visits (\$6 cup). It was on the thin side and stingy on flavor.

There are half a dozen large salads on the menu. The grilled fillet (\$20) was served on gem-like hearts of Bibb lettuce, fresh mozzarella, tomatoes and circles of sweet red onion topped with a just-tangy-enough blue-cheese dressing. The beef was fork tender, the lettuce crisp and luminous.

I also liked the jumbo lump crab cake salad (\$17.50). Lump crab meat is from the body section (not the claws) of East Coast blue crabs. The tasty cake lay atop a bed of tender julienne vegetables and was tossed with creamy lemon vinaigrette. I hope the kitchen switches to local, sweeter-tasting Dungeness crab now that the season, fingers crossed, is upon us.

NM Cafe offers a variety of traditional sandwiches: club, lobster, triple grilled cheese, tuna and hamburger. I was

partial to the grilled ribeye (\$15.75), served open faced on broad slices of rye bread. Muenster cheese, crimini mushrooms and red onions complimented, with mustard aioli and ketchup sauces on the side. A crisp pile of fries accompanied.

Of the main courses, the sea scallops (\$19) were delicious. Meaty and firm, they were perfectly seared. The scallops nestled on an appealing vegetable risotto with lemon and herbs. The white plate, white scallops and white rice speckled with slivers of colorful vegetables rendered the plate as artistic as it was delicious.

The tempura cod filet (\$18) was also satisfying. It struck me as an updated version of fish and chips with better quality fish, chips that had segued into fingerling potatoes and a dipping sauce with Asian overtones. I liked both the concept and the execution.

The desserts, though, seemed hatched from a different kitchen. The chocolate ganache cake (\$6.50), which I waited 20 minutes for, was a miniature uninspired Bundt-shaped devil's food cake marooned in a viscous sea of unappealing chocolate sludge. The berry yogurt parfait (\$5.50) was equally dreary.

Better was the vanilla cake (\$6.50) with the warm breath

► See **NEIMAN MARCUS**, page 16

DINING NOTES

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Molly Shelby brings water for some customers at NM Cafe in Stanford Shopping Center.

NEIMAN MARCUS

► Continued from page 15

of the oven still on it. This cake was served a la mode with strawberry sauce over the top.

Service was thorough, if uneven. On two visits, two different waitpersons solicited my order for each course. The second server was invariably surprised that someone else already had my order. Since this happened on more than one visit, there appears to be an unresolved communications

problem somewhere. Yet, other than long waits for desserts, service was prompt.

Coffees, teas and a disappointing "corporate chosen" wine list — there were but nine wines and a couple of champagnes on it, many with screw caps but all available by the glass — concluded the beverage selections.

People-watching was a delicious side dish: The chic and fashionable of all ages prowled the aisles, scurried to and from the adjacent restrooms and relaxed after a morning's shopping indulgence. ■

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MOVIE TIMES

AMERICAN GANGSTER (R) ★★1/2

Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 3:20, 6:45 & 10:20 p.m. Century 12: 12:45, 1:50, 2:55, 4:10, 5:15, 7:55, 8:50 & 10 p.m.

AUGUST RUSH (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 1:55, 4:40, 7:20 & 10 p.m. Century 12: Noon, 1:30, 2:45, 4:15, 5:30, 7, 8:15 & 9:50 p.m.

BEE MOVIE (PG) ★★1/2

Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 1:45, 4:20, 6:55 & 9:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:40, 1:55, 3:05, 4:20, 5:35, 6:55 & 9:15 p.m.

BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD (R)

Century 16: 2:25 & 7:35 p.m. Century 20: 12:50 & 7:40 p.m.

BELLA (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 12: 12:10, 2:35, 4:55, 7:25 & 9:55 p.m.

BEOWULF (PG-13) ★★★★★

Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 2:15, 5, 7:45 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:50, 1:30, 2:15, 3:35, 4:15, 5, 6:20, 7, 7:45, 8:25, 9:05, 9:45 & 10:30 p.m.

DAN IN REAL LIFE (PG-13) ★★★★★

Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 4:55 & 10:15 p.m. Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 2, 4:40, 7:15 & 9:40 p.m.

ENCHANTED (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 12:55, 2, 3:35, 4:45, 6:50, 7:30, 9:30 & 10:15 p.m. Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 1:05, 2, 3:40, 4:35, 6:15, 7:10, 8:50 & 9:45 p.m. Also at 12:15, 2:50, 5:25 & 8 p.m. (with Spanish subtitles).

FRED CLAU (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 2:25, 5:10, 7:50 & 10:35 p.m. Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 2:20, 5:05, 7:55 & 10:35 p.m.

GONE BABY GONE (R) ★★★★★

Century 12: 3:50 & 10:25 p.m.

HITMAN (R) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 12:50, 3:15, 5:35, 8 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 12:50, 2:20, 3:10, 4:40, 5:35, 7, 8, 9:20 & 10:30 p.m. Also at 1:35, 3:55, 6:15 & 8:40 p.m. (with Spanish subtitles).

I'M NOT THERE (R) ★★★★★

Century 16: 12:45, 3:55, 7 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 12:35, 4, 7:20 & 10:25 p.m.

INTO THE WILD (R) ★★★★★

Century 20: 12:20, 3:40, 6:55 & 10:10 p.m.

LIONS FOR LAMBS (R) ★★★★★

Century 16: 12:30 & 7 p.m. Century 12: 1, 3:20, 5:40, 8 & 10:20 p.m.

LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (R) ★1/2

Century 16: 3:30 & 9:25 p.m. Century 20: 12:45, 3:55, 7:10 & 10:20 p.m.

LUST, CAUTION (NC-17) ★★★★★

Guild: 12:30, 4:15 & 8 p.m.

MARGOT AT THE WEDDING (R) (NOT REVIEWED)

Aquarius: 1:30, 2:40, 3:45, 5, 6, 7:15, 8:20, 9:30 & 10:20 p.m. Sat. & Sun. also at 12:15 p.m.

MICHAEL CLAYTON (R) ★★★★★1/2

Century 16: 1:50 & 7:25 p.m. Century 12: 12:05 & 7:05 p.m.

THE MIST (R) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 1:10, 4:10, 7:10 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 1:25, 3, 4:25, 6, 7:25, 9 & 10:20 p.m.

MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (G) ★1/2

Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 2:20, 4:50, 7:15 & 9:45 p.m. Century 12: 12:15, 2:40, 5, 7:20 & 9:40 p.m. Also at 1:15, 3:45, 6:15 & 8:40 p.m. (with Spanish subtitles).

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) ★★★★★

Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 1, 2:30, 4, 5:30, 7:05, 8:30 & 10 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1:30, 3, 4:20, 6, 7:20, 9 & 10:15 p.m.

THIS CHRISTMAS (NOT RATED) ★★★★★1/2

Century 16: 1:20, 4:15, 7:05 & 9:55 p.m. Century 12: 12:30, 2, 3:15, 4:45, 6, 7:30, 8:45 & 10:15 p.m.

MOVIE TIMES COULD NOT BE CONFIRMED AS OF PRESS TIME.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

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

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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

AMERICAN GANGSTER

★★★1/2

Ridley Scott pumps up the volume with a gritty, glitzy valentine to the anarchic American drug wars. Superstars Russell Crowe and Denzel Washington bring heat to their central roles as a dogged Jersey supercop and the bad-to-the-bone Harlem dealer he's determined to shake down. Based on the true story of drug lord Frank Lucas (Washington), "Gangster" charts Lucas' trajectory from small-time businessman to millionaire kingpin. Along the way Lucas spouts family values and integrity, sticking close to his roots while viciously gutting the fools who stand in the way of his American dream. For his part, detective Richie Roberts (Crowe) is marking time as a clean cop in a dirty vice melting pot. Ultimately his gutsy maneuvers and upstanding ethics catch the eye of the big brass and Richie is assigned his very own drug enforcement task force. An explosive face-off is inevitable as all roads lead to Lucas. Scott brings nothing new to the table, relying on ripe clichés to cobble together a wannabe epic. Charismatic A-listers throw Scott a bone but bottom line, it's been-there, done-that. *Rated: R for excessive violence and language. 2 hours, 37 minutes. — J.A.*

BEE MOVIE ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Graduating from three days of college, Barry B. Benson (voiced by Jerry Seinfeld) and his buddy Adam (voiced by Matthew Broderick) trade their mortarboard caps for corporate hardhats. New graduates select from an unappealing array of menial offerings, from honey stirrers to crud pickers. The bred-for-adventure pollen jocks are elite exceptions. In an act of rebellion, Barry goes out with them on a pollen run. Although colorful and liberating, the journey through New York City endangers the inexperienced little insect. Florist Vanessa (voiced by Renee Zellweger) saves his life. In return, Barry breaks a bee law and talks to a human. Their friendship opens Barry's eyes to the many ways that people exploit bees: stealing honey, glorifying bears such as Winnie the Pooh, and the appropriation of bee culture by celebrities such as Sting (voiced by Sting). Barry seeks to correct these injustices, which leads to a boring trial. Hoping for teaching moments in animated films may be asking too much, even though today's honeybee colonies are in crisis. *Rated: PG for mild suggestive humor, and a brief depiction of smoking. 1 hour, 30 minutes. — S.T.*

BEOWULF ★★★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) This breathtaking animated epic is a virtual thrill ride that grips you from the get go. The film opens with cheer, as drunkard King Hrothgar (voice of Anthony Hopkins) holds a jubilant feast in his mead hall. High in the mountains, the disfigured and enormous creature Grendel (Crispin Glover) is tortured by the celebratory sounds. Hrothgar and his terrified followers are desperate for a hero to rid them of Grendel. Enter Beowulf (Ray Winstone). Beowulf and a handful of fierce men intend to kill Grendel and bring joy back to the hall of Hrothgar.

► See **MINI REVIEWS**, page 18

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MINI REVIEWS

► Continued from page 17

A battle ensues that pits Beowulf against Grendel and leaves the creature with only one arm and on the brink of death. Grendel's mother (Angelina Jolie), a seductive and powerful dragon witch, mourns when Grendel dies and swears vengeance on Beowulf. A meeting between the two leads to a chance for Beowulf to become king, an opportunity he can't refuse. Years pass by and the name of Beowulf spreads across the land like fire. But a mistake from his past soon catches up to him, leading to a pulse-pounding climax. *Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of violence including disturbing images, some sexual material and nudity. 1 hour, 53 minutes. — T.H.*

LIONS FOR LAMBS ★★★
(Century 12, Century 16) Thought-provoking and poignant, director Robert Redford's intelligent drama explores the "war on terror" from several diverse vantage points. In Washington, D.C., journalist Janine Roth (Meryl Streep) is invited to meet one-on-one with popular Republican Senator Jasper Irving (Tom Cruise). Irving, wearing a flag on his lapel and flashing a plastic smile, begins to detail a clandestine new plan to win the war on terror as Roth listens dubiously and scribbles notes. In California, a passionate university professor (Redford as Stephen Malley) challenges a promising young student (Andrew Garfield as Todd) to realize his potential. Todd is intelligent and articulate but has steadily lost faith in the U.S. government and his own aspirations. And in Afghanistan, two of Malley's former students (Michael Pena and Derek Luke), now Army recruits, prepare to experience Irving's plan firsthand. It's a film released during a tumultuous time not as entertainment but as cinematic food for thought. Redford wasn't trying to score an Oscar nod or compete with popcorn blockbusters — he was trying to raise awareness. Mission accomplished. *Rated: R for some war violence and language. 1 hour, 28 minutes. — T.H.*

LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA ★1/2
(Century 16, Century 20) Trying to adapt Gabriel García Márquez's rich and revered novel to the screen was a futile exercise. Whereas the novel conveys what characters feel, think, remember and forget, the movie merely shows what they do. Despite the talents of Academy Award-winning screenwriter Ronald Harwood ("The Pianist"), only the pale ghost of the Nobel Prize-winner's love story lingers on screen. Dr. Juvenal Urbino (Benjamin Bratt) teeters on a ladder and falls to his death. His widow Fermina (Giovanna Mezzogiorno) sinks into a swamp of grief, and the romantic Florentino Ariza (Javier Bardem) — who has loved her for 51 years, nine months and four days — declares his undying devotion once again. The principal cast members look like actors pretending to play elderly characters instead of making us believe they are. The acting doesn't improve when the film flashes back a half century. A few humorous scenes offer comic relief on the big screen, while the masterpiece about love and life can only be found on the printed page. *Rated: R for sexual content/nudity and brief language. 2 hours, 18 minutes. — S.T.*

► See **MINI REVIEWS**, page 19

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Nicole Kidman stars with Jack Black and Jennifer Jason Leigh in "Margot at the Wedding."

Fun family feuds

KIDMAN GOES BALLISTIC IN 'MARGOT AT THE WEDDING'

By Jeanne Aufmuth

Noah Baumbach ("The Squid and the Whale") knows his way around an honest exploration of family and friendship, and "Margot at the Wedding" serves to reinforce the point.

Baumbach begins by pairing Nicole Kidman and his real-life wife, Jennifer Jason Leigh, as squabbling sisters on the edge. Margot (Kidman) is a neurotic Manhattan type-A who sucks up her pride and sets off for the wedding of thorny, estranged sister Pauline (Jason Leigh) with teenage son Claude (Zane Pais) in tow.

From the moment she sets foot on the family homestead, Margot is caustically passing judgment on the status quo, condemning

MOVIE REVIEW

Pauline's intended (Jack Black as chubby underachiever Malcolm) and generally raking everyone over the coals.

The sisters' complex relationship is a breeding ground for emotional sores both fresh and healing. Childhood stings, parental abuses, even the run-down state of the family home coalesce in a gale force of competition and dread.

Margot's own marriage is troubled enough to restlessly rekindle a long-lost spark with next-door neighbor and fellow author Dick Kosman (Ciaran Hinds). Malcolm and the ubiquitous babysitter make mischief while the neighbors turn ugly over a bordering tree they want to cut down — the very

tree that will shade Malcolm and Pauline's wedding vows. A bad omen if ever there was one.

Baumbach goes heavy on the discourse, thick on speechy sentiment that serves to annoy as much as impress. Handheld camerawork is calculatedly jerky, and the lighting is pure ambience — so "natural" (i.e. dark) I squinted through much of the run time.

Kidman steps out of the box and nails her chaotic sib with savage wit and fuss. Black, Jason Leigh and newcomer Pais two-step in loosely choreographed sync; the results are peculiar and pleasing.

MOVIE NOTES

Stars: ★★★

Rating: R for nudity and profanity

Run Time: 1 hour, 32 minutes

MINI REVIEWS

► Continued from page 18

MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM

★1/2

(Century 12, Century 16) Welcome to the wacky and oh-so-weird world of "Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium," a misguided fantasyland chock full of loose screws. Mr. Magorium (Dustin Hoffman) is the 243-year-old mad scientist cum proprietor of a magically frenetic toy emporium that's more migraine-inducing than captivating. His second in command (Natalie Portman as Molly Mahoney) is along for the ride, scotching her dreams of concert pianist to engage children and adults alike in the wonders of play. Reality check arrives in the form of buttoned-down accountant Henry Weston (Jason Bateman), who isn't in sync with the enchantment, hired by Magorium to determine the emporium's value so that Magorium might pass it along to Mahoney and finally take leave of this world. Visually "Magorium" is the ultimate picnic; chaotic colors and

motion without bounds. But writer/director Zach Helm presents his holiday offering as a Message Movie and it's a mess. Believe in yourself, find your sparkle, rise to the occasion that is your life. Blech. *Rated: G as in "good" for all ages. 1 hour, 34 minutes.* — J.A.

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN ★★★★★

(CineArts) Loveable loser Llewelyn Moss (Josh Brolin) is hunting antelope when he finds himself wrong place wrong time: In the middle of a shady drug deal gone bad. A ghostly tableau of stripped-down pickups, bullet-ridden point men, a stash of heroin and a satchel containing \$2 million. Hello opportunity! But there's a new law in town in the form of a homicidal psychopath sporting an unbecoming pageboy and wielding a killer cattle stun gun (Javier Bardem as chilling Anton Chigurh). The implacable Chigurh wants his cash back and will stop at absolutely nothing to get it. The third player in this captivating triad

is world weary local sheriff Ed Tom Bell (Tommy Lee Jones) who slowly, laconically, puts the pieces together; a step behind but progressively gaining ground. Mature, brilliant filmmaking at its finest. *Rated: R for language and very intense violence. 2 hours, 2 minutes.* — J.A.

MOVIE CRITICS

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

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■ HIGHLIGHT

Media Predicts '08: What's Hot- What's Not

An evening gala where industry trendsetters and chroniclers share the what they consider the most influential and cutting-edge technologies for the coming year. Wed., Nov. 28, 5-9:30 p.m. Members \$89-99, nonmembers \$105-120, affiliates \$105, students \$55. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. <http://www.siliconprsa.org/events/blockbuster.shtml>

ART GALLERIES

"Eugene Carriere and his circle" Features the work of the painter and printmaker Eugene Carriere (1847-1906) and fellow artists and critics. Works by Odilon Redon, Auguste Rodin, Felix Bracquemond and others. Through Dec. 12, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thu. until 8 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, Just off Palm Drive, at Museum Way and Lomita Drive, Palo Alto. www.museum.stanford.edu/visit/public_tours.html

"Long Shadows" Group exhibit explores play of light. 31 artists provide their own interpretation through painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, photography, collage and jewelry. Runs Nov. 20 to Dec. 24. Tue.-Fri. 11-5 p.m.; Sundays in Dec. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. www.gallery9losaltos.com

Palo Alto Art Center: Fall 2007 Exhibitions Art & architecture converge as a broad theme connecting "A Model Building" and "From Dwellings Forward: Metalwork by Marilyn Da Silva." Art Dialogues (free docent-led tours) every Sat., 2 p.m. Through Dec. 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. 1-5 p.m. Sun. 7-9 p.m. Thu. Free. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2366. www.cityofpaloalto.org

Sacred Art Reception November 3rd - January 3rd Featuring art by Ang Sang, Zhangping and Prem Lama. "Prem Lama is known for his Thangka painting style. His accurate depictions of Tibetan Buddhist symbology have helped to preserve the ancient art form." Sat., Nov. 24, 7-9:30 p.m. Free. Sacred Art - Artist Reception, 370 S. California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-324-2517. <http://www.avalonyoga.com/gallery.html>

Surfaces and Layers: Fiber Art Exhibition Art Exhibition in CSMA's Mohr Gallery. Fiber art of Camille Ahern, Joan Schulze and Emily Stewart. Sponsored by Heritage Bank of Commerce. Through Nov. 25, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org

Tour de France Oil paintings from a spring tour of France by plein air artist Diana Jaye. Gallery closes at 3 p.m. on Sundays. Exhibit runs through Nov. 30, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. www.viewpointsgallery.com

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

All Saints' Yoga Kundalini style yoga, combining asana (physical poses), breathing exercises and meditation. Practice is best done on an empty stomach or light-snack. Bring a mat and blanket, and wear comfortable, easy-to-move-in clothes. If floor work is difficult, exercises can be modified to do in a chair. Saturdays, through Nov. 24, 8-9 a.m. \$5/person donation to the church. All Saints' Episcopal Church - Parish Hall, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. www.asaints.org/parishlife/activities/yoga.html

CLUBS/MEETINGS

Issues with food? Food Addicts In Recov-

ery Anonymous is for individuals recovering from addictive eating and anorexia based on the 12 steps of AA. No dues/no fees/no weigh-ins. Sundays. 7-8:30 p.m. Free. St. Marks Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto.

Monday Night Out Lesbian, Gay, bisexual and transgender group with supporters and friends. Discussion, social events, education and spiritual development. Mondays through December 17, 7 p.m. Offerings accepted. Unity Palo Alto Community Church, 3391 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-966-8290. www.unitypaloalto.org

Reading the World Book Club A discussion of "What is the What" by Dave Eggers. Wed., Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m. Free. Books Inc. Mountain View, 301 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-428-1234. www.booksinc.net

Scrabble: All Levels, Mondays, Free The Palo Alto Scrabble Club is open to all levels of players and is free. The club is sanctioned by the National Scrabble Association and provides all equipment and score sheets. Mondays, ongoing. 6-10 p.m. Free Boston Market, 3375 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 650-326-6243. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pa-scrabble>

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Anxiety and Stress in Teens The Mountain View High School PTSA announces a workshop with Dr. Pilar Bernal (child and

adolescent psychiatrist, Kaiser San Jose). Students, parents and the community are invited. Wed., Nov. 28, 7-9 p.m. Free. Mountain View High School, 3535 Truman Ave., Mountain View.

CONCERTS

Palo Alto Philharmonic Concert II Second concert of the 20th Anniversary season. "Prelude to Die Meistersinger" by Richard Wagner, "Age of American Passions" by Stephen Paulus and "Symphony No. 5 in Eb major, Op. 82" by Jean Sibelius. Sat., Dec. 1, 8 p.m. \$17 general; \$15 senior; \$8 student. Cubberley Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. <http://www.paphil.org>

The Paly Choirs Alumni Concert The Palo Alto High School Choirs will perform with their alumni. Hear the Paly choirs sing their favorite songs to celebrate the holiday season. Sat., Nov. 24, Free. Stanford Shopping Center. Call 650-326-0407.

DANCE

English Country Dancing Traditional and modern set dances to live music in a contemporary social atmosphere. Beginners welcome. All dances taught, no partner required. First, third and fifth Wednesdays through June. 8-10 p.m. \$9 (students \$5). Flex-It Studio, 425 Evelyn Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-493-6012.

Ballroom Dancing Foxtrot and quickstep will be taught Fri., Nov. 23, 8 p.m. Lessons for beginning and intermediate levels, no experience and no partner necessary. General dance party 9 p.m.-midnight. Singles and couples welcome. Free refreshments. Dressy casual attire. 8 p.m.-midnight \$7. Cubberley Community Center Pavilion, 4000 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto. Call 650-856-9930. www.readybyte.com/fridaynightdance

Live Music Contra Dance Thanksgiving Dessert Pot Luck Caller: Eric Black. Band: Whirlin' Merlin (Margaret Davis, Karl Franzen, Kristoph Klover Kris Yenney). Free beginners class 7:30 p.m. Bring something sweet to share at the break. Sat., Nov. 24, 8-11 p.m. Admission \$10, members \$8; students \$5. 1st Church Palo Alto 2FI, 625 Hamilton & Byron, Palo Alto. Call 650-965-9169. www.BACDS.ORG/NEWCOMERS

ENVIRONMENT

Stop in and Explore Nature Center. Displays about natural communities, larger-than-life pond strata mobiles, pond, picnic

tables. Through Nov. 25, noon-5 p.m. Free. Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, Parking at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. www.openspace.org

EXHIBITS

"Sections of the Fabric Orchestra" Cay Denise MacKenzie, quilt artist and former musician, composes visual music using fabric. Gallery open during ITP library hours. Through Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Free. Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, 1069 E. Meadow Circle, Palo Alto. Call 650-493-4430 ext. 254. www.itp.edu

Keeble & Shuchat Photography Sepia-tone photographs, color prints of Henry Coe Park and digital abstractions by Anna Marie Aguiar are on display in The Gallery. Through Nov. 28, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Keeble & Shuchat Photography, 290 California Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-327-8996. www.kspphoto.com

Melanie Lacy Kusters: "Migration" Lacy Kusters' installation based on pillows and human hair highlights the dialogue between personal history and domestic environment. Through Dec. 20, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free. Serra House, 589 Capistrano Way, Stanford. Call 650-725-0371. <http://gender.stanford.edu>

SBAWCA Member Art Exhibition "Just For Fun." SBAWCA (South Bay Area Women's Caucus for the Arts) has created an exhibition of art that explores the lighter, joyful side of life. Through Nov. 29, 2-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos Library, 15 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 707-280-5501. www.sbawca.org

Stanford Art Spaces Stanford University "3 Artists." Textiles & mixed media by Marion Coleman, paintings by Mary K. Connelly, and mixed media by Kamal Al Mansour. Through Nov. 29, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Stanford Art Spaces, Center for Integrated Systems 420 Via Palou, Stanford. Call 650-725-3622. <http://cis.stanford.edu/~marigros>

Toys from the Attic MOAH presents an eclectic collection of the toys from the past. Through Feb. 24, Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-1004. www.moah.org

FAMILY AND KIDS

"Aladdin" Los Altos High School Drama Department presents "Aladdin." Performances run Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 7-9 p.m. \$5 in advance; \$8 at the door. Los Altos High School, 201 Almond Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-960-8301.

After School Special Puppet show, "The Wizard's Sneeze." After the show, kids can make their own snowman. For K-5th graders only. Program sponsored by the Friends of the Palo Alto Library. Wed., Nov. 28, 3:30-4:15 p.m. Free. Children's Library, 1276 Harriet St., Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2436.

Solar Viewing at Foothill College Observatory Foothill College Observatory is open on Saturdays for solar viewing (observing the sun through special filters). Many details of the ever-changing sun are observed, including sunspots, prominences, filaments and fleeting solar flares. 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Foothill College Observatory, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos. Call 650-493-4742. <http://www.foothill.edu/ast/saturday.htm>

Stargazing at Foothill College Observatory Foothill College Observatory's 16" telescope is open to the public every clear Friday night. 9-11 p.m. Free. Foothill College Observatory, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos. Call 650-493-4742. <http://www.foothill.edu/ast/fhobs.htm>

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jazz and vocals featuring Mike Bastian on drums. Wed., Nov. 28, 6:30-9:30 p.m. | Tapas, 445 Emerson St., Palo Alto. www.itapaspalalto.com

The Corner Laughers in Mountain View Indie-pop band The Corner Laughers will perform Sat., Nov. 24, 8 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 415-246-0090. mspace.com/cornerlaughers

ON STAGE

"Keep the Yuletide Gay" "Keep the Yuletide Gay" tells the story of five friends gathering for their annual Christmas dinner and gift exchange gone horribly wrong. Warning: Adult language and situations. Nov. 29-Dec. 30, 8-10 p.m. \$10 - 25. Dragon Theatre, 535 Alma St., Palo Alto. Call 510-326-8197. www.theatre.org

"The Last Night of Ballyhoo" "In December 1939, the Freitag family of Atlanta awaits the premiere of 'Gone With the Wind' and Ballyhoo, the social event of the year for young Jewish singles in this romantic comedy by Alfred Uhry." Nov. 29-Dec. 22, 8 p.m. \$22-32. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-941-0551. www.busbarn.org

Swami Beyondananda: An Evening of Cosmic Comedy The Swami is the author of "Driving Your Own Karma," "Duck Soup for the Soul," and "Swami for Precedent: A 7-Step Plan." Sat., Nov. 24, 8-9 p.m. \$15 in advance, \$20 day of event. East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St., Mountain View.

OUTDOORS

Calling All Junior Naturalists Explore nature. Learn to observe, take field notes, make drawings, play games and more. Bring a small notebook and pencil. Meets the first Saturday of every month. Must pre-register at Lucie Stern Community Center or enjoyonline.cityofpaloalto.org. Through Dec. 1, 9:30-11 a.m. \$5 Palo Alto residents / \$6 non-residents. Pearson-Arastradero Preserve, 1530 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2423. enjoyonline.cityofpaloalto.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

Holiday Bazaar and Mixer Jewelry, soaps, cosmetics, books, candles, scarves, kitchen accessories and gift certificates. Light refreshments will be served. (Not affiliated with the church.) Thu., Nov. 29, 5-8 p.m. Free. St Timothy's Episcopal Church, 2094 Grant Rd., Mountain View. Call 650-428-0950.

Media Predicts '08: What's Hot-What's Not An evening gala where industry trendsetters and chroniclers share the what they consider the most influential and cutting-edge technologies for the coming year. Wed., Nov. 28, 5-9:30 p.m. Members \$89-99, nonmembers \$105-120, affiliates \$105, students \$55. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. http://www.siliconprsa.org/events/blockbuster.shtml

SPORTS

Thanksgiving Holiday Girls' Basketball Clinic Middle School/Junior High Girls' basketball clinic covering all aspects of the basic fundamentals as well as advanced techniques for the elite player, including scrimmage play. Instruction will be provided by a professional staff, featuring Coach Ruben Luna who has created programs for NBA players. Sun., Nov. 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$75. Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 408-243-3787. mspace.com/skilldevelopment

SUPPORT GROUPS

ADHD Discussion-Information Group

Adults with ADHD and parents of children with ADHD. Sponsored by CHADD Silicon Valley. Third Wednesday of the month. 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$5 suggested donation; free to CHADD members. The Friends Meeting House, 957 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 208-445-7115. www.health.groups.yahoo.com/group/SiliconValleyCHADD/

TALKS/AUTHORS

Changing Realities of Humanitarian Assistance Nancy Aossey, CEO and President of International Medical Corps, will discuss 21 years on the front lines dealing with major emergencies at a public meeting. Peninsula Chapter and the Los Altos Public Library at the library. Tue., Nov. 27, 7-9 p.m. Free. Los Altos Public Library, 13 S. San Antonio Rd, Los Altos.

Cultural Heritage in Kosovo/o: Violence, Healing and Legislation Ana Bezić, Doctoral Candidate, Anthropology Department, Stanford University. Wed., Nov. 28, noon-1:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. Stanford University, Encina Hall West, Room 208, Stanford. Call 650-725-2563. http://creees.stanford.edu/events/index.html

Frederick Marrazzo at Books Inc. Frederick Marrazzo discusses his book "Italians in the Santa Clara Valley." Tue., Nov. 27, 7:30 p.m. Free. Books Inc. Mountain View, 301 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-428-1234. www.booksinc.net

Meet author Tess Uriza Holthe Mountain View Reads Together concludes its month-long discussion of "When the Elephants Dance" with a special appearance by author Tess Uriza Holthe. There will be an opportunity to ask questions after her talk. Thu., Nov. 29, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. Mountain View High School Theater, 3535 Truman Ave., Mountain View. www.mvreads.org

The Changing Realities of Humanitarian Assistance: Commentary from 21 Years in the Field International Medical Corps has been on the front lines of major emergencies for the last 20 years. Relief organizations provide critical health care in emergencies and train local health care workers in challenging environments. Tue., Nov. 27, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Los Altos Public Library, 13 South San Antonio Rd., Los Altos. Call 415-293-4656. http://www.itsyourworld.org

VOLUNTEERS

Historic Home Docents Rengstorff House seeks friendly volunteer docents to provide guided tours on the history and architectural heritage of this example of Victorian Italianate architecture. Weekly, bi-weekly or monthly three-hour shifts are currently available. Rengstorff House, 3070 N. Shoreline, Mountain View. Call 650-903-6073. http://www.r-house.org

Interpretive Tour Leaders Develop and lead outdoor nature walks, this spring and beyond. City of Mountain View, 3070 N. Shoreline, Mountain View. Call 650-903-6073. http://www.ci.mountainview.ca.us/

Volunteer guide opportunity Volunteer to introduce children to nature, an organic garden and farm animals. No experience needed. Training is provided. Opportunities ongoing. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos. Call 650-949-8655. www.hiddenvilla.org

Volunteer Rangers Shoreline at Mountain View seeks volunteer rangers to educate the public and assist visitors at the 750-acre wildlife/recreation area and nearby Stevens Creek Trail. Flexible scheduling for gatehouse, bicycle and/or foot patrol positions. City of Mountain View, 3070 N. Shoreline, Mountain View. Call 650-903-6073. http://www.ci.mountainview.ca.us/

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CASE STUDY OF THE WEEK

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Scoliosis is usually associated with a deformity that evokes images of the "Hunchback of Notre Dame", but, like so many things, it is a matter of degree. When a scoliosis is first starting in a youngster, 4 degrees is significant. It predicts serious impact upon her health.

At age 20, a 21 degree angle may not sound so serious. But, since a scoliosis increases, on average, at the rate of 1 degree per year, 30 years later we have a very serious problem that could be irreversible.

Fortunately, we have some new technologies that enable us to deal effectively with many of the scoliosis conditions that were previously afforded only temporary relief.

For Jan, her scoliosis angle reduced from 21 degrees to 9 degrees in 4 months, the equivalent of reversing 12 years of degenerative changes.

Check your spine, and check your child's spine, while it is reversible.

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So, the next time you have an item to sell, barter, give away or buy, get the perfect combination: print ads in your local newspapers, reaching more than 150,000 readers, and unlimited free web postings reaching hundreds of thousands additional people!!

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

Pregnant? Considering Adoption
Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 1-866-413-6293 (AAN CAN)

Writers Wanted

The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The eight-week program (June 22 - August 17, 2008) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in all-weekly style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3,000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit <http://aaj.aan.org>. You may also email us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by February 8, 2008. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDA)

Dancer Dejour Retail Store
Retail Sales Manager Part-FullTime with on the job training. Call 408-621-4100

Discover Mono Print Painting
and Inspiration Coaching w/Andrea Fono. www.fonoart.com

Festival of Trees!

Friday Night Chess

Go Carbon Neutral for \$50!

Heifer Project Rummage/Bake Sale
Benefit HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL Sat, 11/24 8:00-1:00 Good stuff! Clothes, books, household goods. Instant Karma Christmas shopping! 1550 Emerson St, PA

Issues with food?

JKD Self Defense School

One Stop Dance & Theater Store

Palo Alto Soccer Club tryouts

The Palo Alto Soccer Club will be hosting its annual open tryouts for u10-u14 boys and girls during the first three weekends of December. U15 and older will try out separately in the spring of 2008. Teams will be coached by professional, licensed coaches. For younger players there is a youth development league. Please visit the website (www.pasoccerclub.org) for more information on dates, times, location and updates.

Public Speaking Jitters? Then...

U-10 boys soccer team forming
The Stanford Fire for boys who will be 10 years old as of 7/31/08. Tryouts: Nov 27, Nov 29, Dec 1, and Dec 2. Info: <http://stanfordfire.googlepages.com/home>

Want an Employee Referral?

130 Classes & Instruction

Adult Spanish Lessons

Instruction for Hebrew
Bar and Bat Mitzvah For Affiliated and Unaffiliated George Rubin, M.A. in Hebrew/Jewish Education 650/424-1940

Taekwondo in Mountain View

133 Music Lessons

A Piano Teacher
Children & Adults
Ema Currier (650)493-4797

Barton-Holding Music Studio
Roger Emanuels, cello and Laura Barton, vocals. Lessons for all ages. 650/965-0139

Hope Street Studios

In Downtown Mountain View
Most Instruments, Voice
All Ages, All Levels
650) 961-2192

Jazz & Pop Piano Lessons

Learn how to build chords & improvise. Bill Susman, M.A., Stanford. (650)906-7529

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mccoolpiano.com 5 min walk fr. Burgess gym

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Piano Lessons in Palo Alto

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saxophone and clarinet lessons

Singing Lessons

Working professional, experienced teacher, conservatory trained. 650/924-0299

Violin - all styles, all ages.

MV & Cupertino. MM, Eastman; tchg credential; former 'SJ Symphony. 408/446-5744

135 Group Activities

Art and Fun

Celebrate family and friends' creative spirits. 650/868-4171

Art Holidayworkshops for kids! - 650/7990235

Art Parties/Princesses, Pirates!

Art: Gingerbreadhouse

BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP - \$1

Moms, Get Fit!

PARENT OF A TEEN???

Reiki for the community

Scrabble-Bstn Mkt-Mon Evg-Free

Trouble with food?

140 Lost & Found

Found Cat - longhair calico

Lost Keys - Stanford/Palo Alto

LOST: Slate Mantelpieces
Mauve/red 4' slate mantels (2). Curved, beveled edges. Lost from 1650 Waverley, Palo Alto, Nov., 1997. Reward.

Runaway Cat!

145 Non-Profits Needs

Coast Guard Auxiliary

150 Volunteers

Support Tropical Reforestation!

Are you feeling depressed?

Children's Art Docents

DEPRESSION?

feeders needed for cat colonies

Gallery Shop Volunteer

Mentor a Great Young Person!

NASA Needs Volunteers

Read to Children

Readers for Visually Impaired

You Can Help Animals

155 Pets

Cats Available for Adoption

Cats Available For Adoption www.stanfordcatnetwork.com

Hybrid Yellow Retriever Puppies - \$400/each.

Lost Cat
Lost tabby cat, College Terrace, Palo Alto. Brown/grey spots and stripes, red collar, blue tag. Please call 650-320-8140 if seen.

For Sale

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\$1,000 Gift!
Donate Car: IRS Deduction, Any Condition, Lost Title OK, Help Kids. Espanol. 1-888-307-3682. (Cal-SCAN)

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Cars from \$500! Tax Repos, US Marshal and IRS Sales! Cars, Trucks, SUVs, Toyota's, Honda's, Chevy's, more! For Listings call 1-800-298-4150 xC107. (AAN CAN)

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Donate Vehicle

running or not accepted! Free Towing. Tax Deductible. Noahs Arc - Support No Kill Shelters, Animal Rights, Research to Advance Veterinary Treatments, Cures. 1-866-912-GIVE. (Cal-SCAN)

Donate Your Car

Children's Cancer Fund! Help Save A Child's Life Through Research and Support! Free Vacation Package. Fast, Easy and Tax Deductible. Call 1-800-252-0615. (Cal-SCAN)

Audi 2001 A6 Avant Wagon

V6 2.8 liter engine. Automatic transmission. Quattro AWD. Slightly less than 66K miles. Great condition, exterior color is cashmere gray. Includes all standard features plus leather seats, sun roof, Bose sound system, and dual power seats. All service records are available. Call for more information, 650-851-4717.



Audi 2004 ALLROAD

2004 Audi Allroad AWD Quattro 2.7T Wagon 43k Miles Warranty - \$25999 (650)704-4557

Chrysler 2002 PT Cruiser Limited - \$7995

Ford 1998 Expedition - \$7195

Ford Mustang 1968 In line 6 Mustang - \$4500.00

Honda 1982 Accord - \$1000

Honda 2003 Pilot EX - \$17,950

Honda CR-V EX '04

Roof rack, tan/tan. 40K miles. Excel. cond. 1 owner. \$18,000. 650/462-9309

Subaru 1999 Outback - \$5499

203 Bicycles

Cannonball with Double Springs

Like new woman's, med tire, 26", \$300. 650-938-4694

210 Garage/Estate Sales

PA: 3001 Emerson, 11/24, 8-12
x-El Carmelo. Kids' BR furn., desk, vanity, mirror, dresser.

PA: 495 Ferne Ave.,

Sat. Nov. 24, 830am-2pm
x-San Antonio. Sony lrg screen TV, dresser, toys, clothing, Dyson vac, 2 printers, desk.

Palo Alto, 2002 Barbara Drive, Nov. 25 8am

220 Computers/Electronics

Air Purifier - \$300.00

Pioneer CS-66 3-way Speakers - Best Offer

Sony CMRX100 Analog cellphone - Best Offer

UNLOCKED Silver Motorola Razr V3 - \$125.00

230 Freebies

Baby Runner/Stroller - FREE

Black Leather Sofa - U pick up

fireplace cover - FREE

FREE MULCH - FREE

Futon frame + mattress — double - FREE

inkjet/fax/copy/scan - FREE

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Treadmill - FREE

235 Wanted to Buy

Antique dolls

Reliable Used Car

240 Furnishings/Household items

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Full Bed - \$50.00

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Mission Entertainment Armoire - \$1600 obo

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moving sale - \$Neg

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245 Miscellaneous

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Professional Nanny: 408.309.9544

340 Child Care Wanted

Afternoon Nanny Wanted

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Live in Housekeeper/Nanny wanted

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Part Time Childcare

I'm looking for afterschool care for 9 year old boy. Must have car and references. 650-804-5491

PT Nanny wanted (T and F)

Seek loving FT nanny

Family in West Menlo Park with baby boy age 3.5 months. Need help Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm, english, drivers license, clean records, cpr, experience, references required. Start mid Dec/early Jan. Competitive comp. Call Jim at 415-845-8115. thx!

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Palo Alto

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Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 7-25-07.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on October 10, 2007.
(Voice Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2007)

OptiSEM
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 501063
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, OptiSEM, 2515 Marell Way, Mountain View, CA 94043:
OPTISEM, LLC
2515 Marell Way
Mountain View, CA 94043
CA
This business is being conducted by a limited liability company.
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 8/14/07.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on October 18, 2007.
(Voice Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2007)

KUDOS PRESS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 501121
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Kudos Press, 457 Carneros Ave., No. 3, Sunnyvale, CA 94086:
KEVIN W. FOX
457 Carneros Ave., No. 3
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
This business is being conducted by an individual.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on October 19, 2007.
(Voice Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2007)

IMPERIAL SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 501170
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Imperial Software Technology, 2) IST, 883 N. Shoreline Boulevard, Suite D-220, Mountain View, CA 94043:
PACIFIC IMPERIAL, INC
883 N. Shoreline Boulevard, Suite D-220
Mountain View, CA 94043
California
This business is being conducted by a corporation.
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 9/22/2006.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on October 22, 2007.
(Voice Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2007)

NEW SAFFRON CLUB
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 501437
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, New Saffron Club, 2700 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 94040:
SHAH SIZZLER, INC.
State Of California
This business is being conducted by a corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on October 29, 2007.
(Voice Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2007)

PRESCOTT PROPERTIES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 501884
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Prescott Properties, 1430 WildRose Way, Mountain View, CA 94043:
PRESCOTT MILLER
1430 WildRose Way
Mountain View, CA 94043
This business is being conducted by an individual.
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 9-13-02.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 7, 2007.
(Voice Nov. 16, 23, 30, Dec. 7, 2007)

ELEGANT FLOORS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 501885
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Elegant Floors, 922 San Leandro Ave., # A, Mountain View, CA 94043:
ELEGANT THREAD INC.

SPARKT
SPARKT MARKETING
SPARKT DESIGN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 502051
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, 1) Sparkt, 2) Sparkt Marketing, 3) Sparkt Design, 2255 Showers Drive # 321, Mountain View, CA 94040:
EILEEN MCSWEENEY
2255 Showers Drive # 321
Mountain View, CA
This business is being conducted by an individual.
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 11/1/2007.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 13, 2007.
(Voice Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 2007)

PENINSULA CENTER FOR IMPLANTOLOGY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 501954
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Peninsula Center for Implantology, 105 South Drive, Suite 200, Mountain View, CA 94040-4317:
JOE A PROVINCES
11585 Old Ranch Rd.
Los Altos Hills, CA 94024
This business is being conducted by an individual.
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on July 01, 2007.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 9, 2007.
(Voice Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 2007)

THE NEW-U SALON
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 502126
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, The New-u Salon, 867 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 94040:
PHONG ANH TRAN
570 Keyes St. #205
San Jose, CA 95112
This business is being conducted by an individual.

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 10-29-07.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 14, 2007.
(Voice Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14 2007)

AIM LIBRARY & INFORMATION STAFFING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 501211
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, AIM Library & Information Staffing, 843 Castro Street, Mountain View, CA 94041:
AIM STAFFING, INC.
843 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94041
California
This business is being conducted by a corporation.
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on October 23, 2007.
(Voice Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 2007)

997 All Other Legals

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
No. 107CV097858
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner KRISTINA E. PEREYRA and CHRISTOPHER K. VIAGGI filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
SPENCER GRANT VIAGGI to SPENCER GRANT PEREYRA VIAGGI.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: December 18, 2007, 8:45 a.m., Room 107.
Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE.
Date: October 31, 2007
/s/ Mary Ann Grilli
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(Voice Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2007)

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE File No. 8081.20202 Title Order No. 3417201 MIN No. 100095600060105815
Loan No. 0002343887 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 10/05/05. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank,

check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in 85102 to the Financial code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to satisfy the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any inaccuracy of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. Trustor(s): OFELIA GARCIA, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN
Recorded: 10/13/05, as Instrument No. 18621099, of Official Records of Santa Clara, California. Date of Sale: 11/29/07 at 10:00 AM Place of Sale: At the Market Street entrance to the Superior Courthouse, 190 North Market Street., San Jose, CA The purported property address is: 229 PALO ALTO AVENUE, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94041 Assessors Parcel No. 154-09-039, 154-09-021 The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$675,802.34. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Date: 11/09/2007 NORTHWEST TRUSTEE SERVICES, INC., as Trustee Linda Mayes, Authorized Signatory 505 N. Tustin Avenue, Suite 243 Santa Ana, CA 92705 Sale Info website: www.USA-Foreclosure.com reinstatement and Pay-Off Requests: (866) 387-NWTS THIS OFFICE IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE FEI # 1002.78280
(Voice 11/09, 11/16, 11/23/2007)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
No. 107CV098292
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner MELINDA ANN NASIF and KENNETH MICHAEL SCRUGGS filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
KATHERINE ANN SCRUGGS to KATHERINE ANN NASIF.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: December 18, 2007, 8:45 a.m., Room 107. Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition

in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE.
Date: November 6, 2007
/s/ Mary Ann Grilli
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(Voice Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 2007)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE AND OF INTENTION TO TRANSFER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE(S)
(UCC Sec. 6101 et seq. and B & P Sec. 24073 et seq.)
Escrow No. 11436-AK
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale of assets and a transfer of alcoholic beverage license(s) is about to be made. The name(s), Social Security or Federal Tax Numbers and business address of the seller(s)/licensee(s) are: GOLDEN WOK ENTERPRISES INC, 895 VILLA ST, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94041
Doing business as: GOLDEN WOK RESTAURANT
All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the seller(s)/licensee(s) within the past three years, as stated by the seller(s)/licensee(s), is/are: NONE
The name(s), Social Security or Federal Tax numbers and address of the buyer(s)/applicant(s) is/are: YUSHANG KAO AND YO JU KAO, 895 VILLA ST, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94041
The assets being sold are generally described as: FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, GOODWILL, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, INVENTORY AND ON SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE, LICENSE NO: 47-378359 and are located at: 895 VILLA ST, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94041
The type and number of license to be transferred is/are: Type: ON SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE, License Number: 47-378259 now issued for the premises located at: SAME
The bulk sale and transfer of alcoholic beverage license(s) is/are intended to be consummated at the office of: ABC ESCROW, 17383 SUNSET BLVD, STE A310, PACIFIC PALISADES, CA 90272 and the anticipated sale date is DECEMBER 18, 2007
The purchase price or consideration in connection with the sale of the business and transfer of the license, including estimated inventory, is the sum of \$200,000.00, which consists of the following: DESCRIPTION, AMOUNT: PROMISSORY NOTE: \$200,000.00
It has been agreed between the seller(s)/licensee(s) and the intended buyer(s)/transferee(s), as required by Sec. 24073 of the Business and Professions code, that the consideration for transfer of the business and license is to be paid only after the transfer has been approved by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.
Dated: NOVEMBER 9, 2007
GOLDEN WOK ENTERPRISES INC, Seller(s)/Licensee(s)
YUSHANG KAO AND YO JU KAO, Buyer(s)/Applicant(s)
PCTS LA135776
MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE 11/23/07

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
No. 107CV098292
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner MELINDA ANN NASIF and KENNETH MICHAEL SCRUGGS filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
KATHERINE ANN SCRUGGS to KATHERINE ANN NASIF.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: December 18, 2007, 8:45 a.m., Room 107. Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, 191 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition

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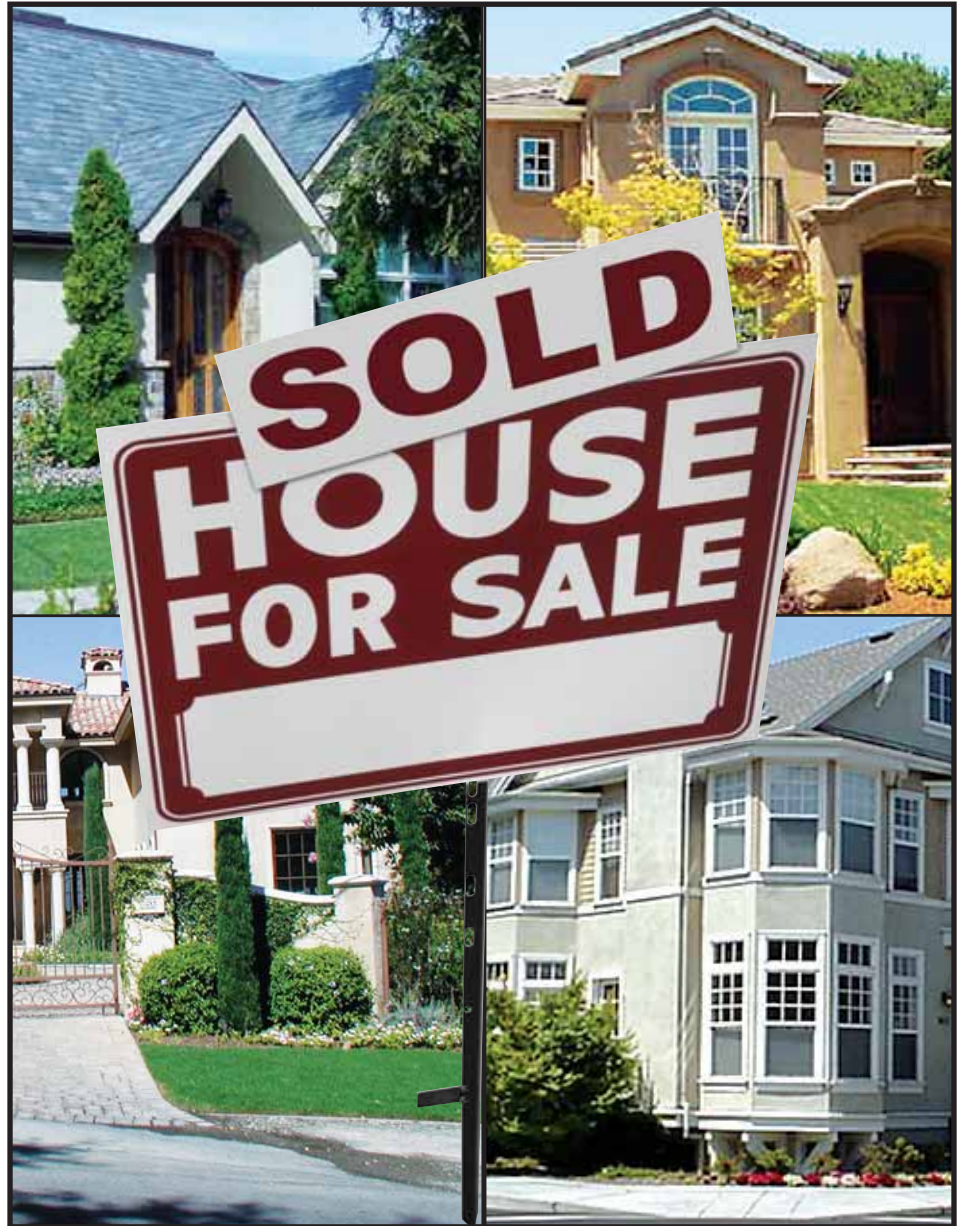
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*Thank you to all those who have blessed
my life with their kind touch.*

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Thanksgiving !**

^{Fr}

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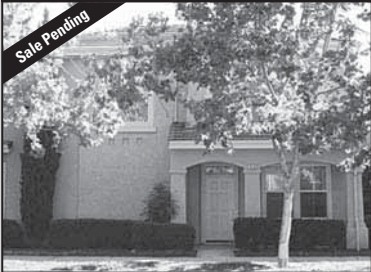
166 Campbell Drive, Mountain View



- 3 Bedrooms/2.5 Bathrooms
- Approximately 1,288 Sq. Ft.
- 2-Car Attached Garage
- End Unit
- Central A/C and Heating
- Large Storage Area in Garage

List Price: \$699,000

458 Whisman Park Drive, Mountain View



- 3 Bedrooms/3 Bathrooms
- 1 Bedroom & 1 Full Bath Downstairs
- Approximately 1,786 Square ft
- 2 Car Garage w/ Remote
- Dual Control Central Heating and Air Conditioning

List Price: \$939,000



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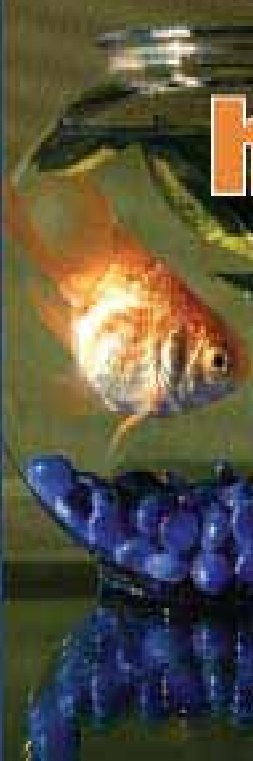
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2000 Measure A Transportation Improvement Program

Annual Report from the Citizens Watchdog Committee

BACKGROUND

Measure A, approved by Santa Clara County voters in 2000, is a 30-year half cent sales tax devoted to improvement projects for the area's public transit network. The Measure A ballot specified that the Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) must review all 2000 Measure A expenditures, have an independent audit conducted each fiscal year, hold public hearings and issue reports at least annually to inform Santa Clara County residents how the funds are being spent, and publish the results of the independent audit and the annual report in local newspapers and make them available to the public.

The VTA Board of Directors is responsible for implementation of the 2000 Measure A Program and for all policy-related decisions including the composition, implementation schedule and funding level of projects. The Citizens Watchdog Committee's responsibility is limited to reviewing 2000 Measure A expenditures to ensure funds are being spent in accordance with the intent of the ballot.

Among the projects specified in the ballot are:

- Extend BART to Silicon Valley.
- Extend light rail from Downtown San Jose to the East Valley.
- Improve bus service in major bus corridors.
- Purchase zero-emission buses and construct service facilities.
- Provide connections from Mineta San Jose International Airport to BART, Caltrain and VTA Light Rail.
- Construct a new Palo Alto Intermodal Transit Center.
- Increase Caltrain service and electrify from Palo Alto to Gilroy.
- Upgrade Altamont Commuter Express (ACE).

STATUS

This report summarizes the status of the 2000 Measure A Program for FY06 (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006). During that period, approximately \$104 million was expended towards delivering 2000 Measure A projects, with significant progress being made on or the following projects being completed:

- Substantially completed 35% (preliminary) engineering on the BART project.
- Continued development on land-use studies for areas surrounding future BART stations.
- Completed Preliminary Engineering on the Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project to Nieman Station.
- Operated zero-emission buses on VTA bus lines.
- Continued design for Caltrain double-track improvements in South County.
- Completed the study identifying future capital needs for local Caltrain improvements.

Since the close of FY06, significant additional progress has been made on:

- Implementing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), including the 522 and undertaking studies for other BRT improvements in 2000 Measure A corridors.
- Completed 35% (preliminary) engineering on the BART project.
- Developing the final design of Capitol Expressway Light Rail to Eastridge.
- Developing the final design of the Caltrain Double Tracking project to Gilroy.

CONCLUSION

The CWC reviewed expenditures for the period, evaluated the results of the independent audit it commissioned of the 2000 Measure A financial statements and records (available at VTA's website: www.vta.org), and conducted a public hearing on April 11, 2007 to receive input from the community.

After thorough and careful consideration of all information and input received,

It is the conclusion of the Citizens Watchdog Committee that, for FY06, 2000 Measure A tax dollars were spent in accordance with the intent of the measure.

Sincerely,



Martin B. Schulter
Chairperson, Citizens Watchdog Committee

CITIZENS WATCHDOG COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Noel Tebo – City of San Jose
Charlotte B. Powers – City of San Jose
Margaret Okuzumi – North County Cities
Donald R. Burnett – West Valley Cities

Connie Rogers – South County Cities
Roberta H. Hughan – County of Santa Clara
Sally Probst – Senior Citizens
Martin B. Schulter – Disabled Persons

Stephen C. Blaylock – Mass Transit Users
Ellen Fletcher – Bicyclists
Chris C. Elias – Environmentalists
Luis Pavel Mendez – Pedestrians

Laura Stuchinsky – Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Ray Hashimoto – Building Industry Association
Gaye Morando – Santa Clara County Chamber of Commerce Coalition
Robert Jacobvitz – Building Owners and Managers Association, Silicon Valley