

Mountain View VOICE



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Renewed and revitalized, Castro Street fish house is bigger, better

DINING | P.17

JANUARY 4, 2008 VOLUME 15, NO. 52

INSIDE: IN BUSINESS | PAGE 14

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And the next mayor is...

TOM MEANS, MARGARET ABE-KOGA
ON DECK FOR MAYOR, VICE MAYOR

By Daniel DeBolt

If Mountain View City Council tradition prevails, Tom Means will take the helm from outgoing Mayor Laura Macias this Tuesday, with Margaret Abe-Koga becoming vice mayor.

While that's the tradition, the decision still has to be made by the City Council on Jan. 8.



Tom Means

Means, 54, an economics professor at San Jose State University, and the current vice mayor, would have increased power to steer the council by running meetings and setting the agenda. In doing so, he said, some of his goals for the New Year would be to "make sure we speak clear as a council in giving direction" and "to make sure we don't over-schedule things. There's always going to be people who want to keep adding stuff, but I want to try to get the meetings

over by 10 p.m."

Over the past two years the council has reviewed several controversial projects during sessions where public comments pushed the meetings late into the night. Means wants to limit that.

"We tend to hear the same things again and again," Means said. "Let's get the input and not have it be so repetitive."

Abe-Koga, 38, would be mayor in 2009, according to tradition. She was elected at the same time as members Jac Siegel and Ronit Bryant, but received the most votes, putting her first in line for a leadership position. Abe-Koga was the first Asian-American woman to become a Mountain View council member.

Means said he believes in the city tradition for choosing the mayor. "You read about other cities who are a lot more dysfunctional."

The mayor selection process is important, he said. "We're not trying to form cliques; we leave that with the other councils." ■

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



THE YEAR IN PICTURES:

Celebrants at Rose International Market in Mountain View mark Chahar Chanbeh Souri, the Persian New Year, by leaping over flames in this March 13 photo by Marjan Sadoughi. For more of the Voice's best photos of 2007, see page 6.



INSIDE

What's in store for Mountain View in 2008?
The Voice looks ahead to the biggest (we think) stories of the coming year

See story, p.5

Breaking the news

How MediaNews is causing a seismic shift in Bay Area newspapers

By Sam Chapman

Editor's Note: This is the second in a three-part series by Sam Chapman on the direction the newspaper industry is headed. Chapman is publisher of the Pacific Sun, a Marin County weekly newspaper that is part of the independent and locally owned Embarcadero Publishing Co., the parent company of the Mountain View Voice.

PART 2: SHOW US THE MONEY

While there has been minimal local coverage of consolidation, daily newspapers in general have been especially tuned in to the story of their own financial plight and have covered it as a major story in recent years.

Daily newspaper readership is down mostly because younger adults are increasingly getting their information online or from sources other than news-

papers. The circulation of daily newspapers is dropping across the country, down more than 11 percent from 1990 to 2005.

The local dailies are prime examples. The *San Francisco Chronicle* recently topped the list of 20 major dailies in percentage circulation decline, dropping 15 percent between March 2005 and March 2006, according to Editor and Publisher magazine. (The



Dean Singleton

next largest decline was *The Boston Globe* at 8.5 percent.)

Paid circulation declines coupled with decreased advertising revenue have clouded the future of daily newspapers. Craigslist and other online competition have drastically cut classified advertising revenues, which

► See **THE MONEY**, page 9

INSIDE

GOINGS ON 22 | MARKETPLACE 23 | MOVIES 20 | REAL ESTATE 26 | VIEWPOINT 12

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Manav Singh, partner, SOAPProjects. "Why pay rent when one can own?"

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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.

Have you ever kept a New Year's resolution?



"Not really. I think a resolution shouldn't necessarily have a connotation with the New Year."
Penny Stark, Los Altos



"Yes. Last year my resolution was to get down three sizes and I did. I've kept lots of resolutions."
Bronwyn Mitchell, Melbourne, Australia



"Yeah. I wanted to quit smoking."
Elie Azoulay, Mountain View



"Not really."
Lizzy Garcia, Mountain View



"Last year it was to get better grades in school. Actually, I did."
Sergio Garcia, Mountain View

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■ CRIMEWATCH

RESIST OR INTERFERENCE, CALIFORNIA ST./RENGSTORFF AVE., 12/26

7-Eleven employees called police at 5:43 p.m. to report an intoxicated man loitering in the store and asking customers for change. Officers asked him to leave.

The man returned to the store less than an hour later. Employees then asked police to arrest the man for trespassing. As the officer approached him, the man began to walk away and ignored an order to stop. The officer grabbed the man's arm and managed to

handcuff him. He was charged with trespassing, resisting arrest and public drunkenness.

EMBEZZLEMENT, SEARS DEPT. STORE, 12/23

A Sears employee was arrested for giving a family member cash from the register and not charging the correct amount for the merchandise.

A review of surveillance tapes revealed the employee had also stolen items on previous occasions.

■ POLICE LOG

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

200 Block Fairchild Dr., 12/21
700 Block E. El Camino Real, 12/21
E. El Camino Real/Grant Rd., 12/24

AUTO BURGLARY

500 Block Cypress Point Dr., 12/21
100 Block Bryant St., 12/21
600 Block Castro St., 12/21
1900 Block Plymouth St., 12/26
900 Block Sierra Vista Ave., 12/27
2000 Block San Ramon Ave., 12/27

BATTERY

Chevron, N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/21
1800 Block Ednamary Way, 12/23

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

E. Middlefield Rd./Stevens Creek, 12/23
300 Block Showers Dr., 12/23

DISTURBANCE

1000 Block W. El Camino Real, 12/22
600 Block Rainbow Dr., 12/23
1100 Block Nilda Ave., 12/24

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

E. Middlefield Rd./Tyrella Ave., 12/22

EMBEZZLEMENT

Sears Dept. Store, 12/23

GRAND THEFT

800 Block Heatherstone Way, 12/21
1100 Block Independence Ave., 12/27

IDENTITY THEFT

400 Block Del Medio Ave., 12/21

PETTY THEFT

Hope St/Villa St., 12/21
600 Block W. Dana St., 12/21
Camino Medical Group, 12/21
Wal-Mart, 12/22
1000 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 12/22
100 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 12/23
Sears Dept. Store, 12/23
200 Block S. Rengstorff Ave., 12/24
Wal-Mart, 12/24
Rengstorff Park, 12/26
100 Block E. Dana St., 12/26

STOLEN VEHICLE

900 Block W. Middlefield Rd., 12/22
Monte Carlo Club, 12/23
600 Block Alamo Ct., 12/23
Moffett Blvd./85, 12/23
Lozano's Carwash, 12/23
2000 Block Escuela Ave., 12/27

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

Longs-Miramonte Ave., 12/21
1800 Block Peacock Ave., 12/26
200 Block Cypress Point Dr., 12/27

TRESPASSING

1900 Block Crisanto Ave., 12/21

VANDALISM

City Lot 3, 12/22

■ CORRECTIONS

A Dec. 21 *Voice* story, "Bullis bollixed," misstated the date of Bullis-Purissima Elementary School's scheduled reopening. The school is slated to reopen in fall 2009.

The story also contained incorrect information regarding boundary changes at the Los Altos School Dis-

trict. Although some Mountain View students have been redirected from Almond to Covington, and some from Almond to Springer, none are being redirected to Bullis-Purissima. About two dozen LASD students are being redirected to Bullis-Purissima, but none of them are from Mountain View.



You make the call

By Don Frances

THESE STORIES about future stories are a funny thing. For one, who really knows what will happen? Who could have predicted, for example, that squirrels would suddenly start mugging children for their chips in Cuesta Park?

This week, we run the traditional “look ahead” feature and try to peer once more into the proverbial crystal ball. (I was going to headline it “That will be the year that will be,” but decided against it.) But since we’re making it up (educated guesses, anyway), everyone’s an expert. Please send your own prognostications to dfrances@mv-voice.com, or post them on Town Square.

A TIP FROM Berhan, local resident and man of letters:

Something called The Writer has awarded Shelly King of Mountain View second place in its short fiction contest for her story “The Sweetgum Tree.” The story apparently will be published this April on the magazine’s Web site, www.writermag.com.

I googled King to learn more about her, and found she has her own blog (what writer doesn’t). According to it, she’s 37, owns a cat and likes the color orange. She also posts deeper thoughts there, and you can read them yourself at www.shellyking.com.

ALTA VISTA High School is holding an “e-recycling” fund raiser next Saturday, Jan. 12 to raise money for school activities. These are especially useful in a town like Mountain View, which is awash with discarded computers, audio gear, phones, cameras, etc., all of which will be accepted.

Alta Vista is located at 1325 Bryant Ave. Items can be dropped off there between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Call (650) 691-2433 for more.

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

What’s in store for Mountain View in 2008?

THE VOICE LOOKS AHEAD TO THE BIGGEST (WE THINK) STORIES OF THE COMING YEAR

By Daniel DeBolt and
Alexa Tondreau

It may not be easy to forecast what Google or other high-tech firms will do this year, but this week the Voice has compiled a list of what we know will happen in 2008. The lineup includes a heavy dose of elections at all levels, and some big projects that will take off at Moffett Field and around the city. And this is the year we may get an up or down decision on whether Hangar One will be saved. The city will build a new child care center and our trail system will get a new link or two. Look for the new hospital building to open and don’t forget to vote in the election for new board members.

There is plenty more that will keep us busy this year. Read on, and best wishes for 2008.

All eyes on Election Day

Mountain View residents will be casting votes for more than just a new president this November.

Four City Council seats will



be up for re-election this year. With both Tom Means, likely to be the city’s new mayor, and outgoing mayor Laura Macias likely to run for re-election, at least two new members will be joining the council. When veterans Matt Pear and Nick Galiotto step down after eight years, the city will lose advocates for dense housing projects that now are opposed by a council majority.

On the national level, a new president could bring more invigorated Environmental Protection Agency oversight to Moffett Field. The clean-up of Moffett’s Orion Park has stalled during George

W. Bush’s presidency, partly due to the presumption that his administration would side with the Navy, and against environmentalists, if Moffett were taken to task over the TCE plume under the former housing site. The Navy says it is not responsible for cleaning up the toxic chemical, a known carcinogen.

This is also an important election year for local hospital and school districts. A significant number of those serving on school and hospital boards are leaving, meaning new members will represent the community for the next four years.

In the Mountain View-Los

Altos high school district, three trustees will see their terms expire, and the same number will expire in the Mountain View Whisman elementary school district. At El Camino Hospital, four-year terms expire for three board members.

Moffett Field could take off

If NASA’s wishes come true, this could be a high-flying year for Moffett Field if the fate of Hangar One is finally decided. And NASA expects to receive bids for 1,000 housing units and 200,000 square feet of office space. In October, the agency may approve local flights of a small zeppelin airship that would be used for tourism and housed in Hangar Two.

NASA is expecting to receive bids in March for the first phase of its research park after sending notices to 800 developers. The park would eventually add up to 5,000 people and 1,900 housing units, private

► See **LOOK AHEAD**, page 8

New driving-related laws go into effect in 2008

Bay City News

The rules of the road are changing again, and AAA wants motorists to be aware of several new laws that will affect drivers in the coming year.

Some of the new regulations are aimed at improving safety, protecting children and defending the interests of consumers. Unless otherwise noted, the bills go into effect on Jan. 1.

Assembly Bill 808, authored by Assemblywoman Nicole Parra, D-Hanford, requires applicants for a driver’s license or license renewal to sign a declaration that states if they drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs and someone is killed as a result, they can be charged with murder. AAA supported the legislation, which will allow a prosecutor

the option to charge a first-time offender with second degree murder in a fatal DUI case.

Senate Bill 67, authored by State Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland, and supported by AAA, broadens vehicle impound laws to allow law enforcement to seize a vehicle when arresting a driver for reckless driving, reckless driving in an off-street parking area or exhibition of speed. The bill is aimed at cracking down on illegal “side-shows,” in which young people gather on city streets late at night to watch drivers engage in stunts.

SB 33, authored by Senator Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, and supported by AAA, prohibits anyone under the age of 18 from using a cell phone, hand-held or hands-free, or any other mobile service device, such as a BlackBerry, while

driving. The bill doesn’t go into effect until July 1.

Simitian’s SB 1613 also takes effect on July 1. Under this law, drivers 18 and over must use a hands-free device if they are using a cell phone while driving.

AB 645, authored by Assemblyman Mike Feuer, D-Los Angeles, prohibits courts from allowing persons charged with driving under the influence or with a hit-and-run from attending traffic school. AAA says it supported the legislation because attendance at traffic school for those offenses results in masking a ticket that would otherwise add two recordable points to the person’s driving record.

AB 801, authored by Assemblywoman Mimi Walters, R-Laguna Niguel, and supported by AAA, prohibits the use of a device that

would impair the recognition of a license plate by an electronic enforcement device such as a red light camera or those at toll bridge booths.

SB 7, authored by Sen. Jenny Oropeza, D-Long Beach, makes it illegal to smoke cigarettes, a cigar or a pipe in a motor vehicle where a minor is present. Violators can receive a fine of up to \$100 per person.

AB 118, authored by Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, increases the annual vehicle registration fee and the smog impact fee in order to provide revenue for research and development of alternative fuels. Consumers can expect to pay from \$3 to \$11 more when registering their vehicles. This law is in effect from July 2008 through 2016. ■

1793

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PHOTOS
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First Day of School
(L-R) Amy Chang,
Angelina Boyrak,
Tyler Thomas, and
Jessica Villarreal
wait in line to enter
kindergarten at
Landel Elementary
School in Mountain
View on August
21, the first day of
school.

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On May 22, more
than 450 students
and teachers at Frank
L. Huff Elementary
School in Mountain
View lined up on the
school's playing field
and spelled the words
"HUFF LOVE." The
stunt was done as a
going away gesture
to the school's
principal Craig
Goldman, who will be
leaving at the end of
the school year.

RICK E. MARTIN

California
Customs owner,
Joe Cree, stands
with customized
motorcycles in his
shop in Mountain
View before it is
torn down to make
way for a Kentucky
Fried Chicken
drive-thru.

KELLEY COX

Dodge Ball Los
Altos High School
students from the
dodgeball team
"Los Luchadores"
surge forward to
throw at their
opponents during a
lunchtime dodgeball
tournament in the
school's gym, on
May 18.

SAM TENNEY

6 ■ MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE ■ JANUARY 4, 2008



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(from Nov. 19 to Dec. 28)

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Mom's Cookie Party	\$833		
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Anne Johnston	*		
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Susan Perkins	*		
Wesley and Molly Smith	*		
Catherine Howard	*		
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Marcia Fein	*		
John and Donna Murphy	*		
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Silvia Newark	*		
E. Denley Rafferty	*		
Gregory Fowler and Julie Lovins	*		
Ann McCarty	*		
Les and Anita Nichols	*		
John Thomas	*		

Total: \$32,928

Diane Martin, Office Manager
Mountain View Voice, Phone: 650 964-6300 x21 Fax: 650 964-0294



MOFFETT FIELD Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for former Naval Air Station (NAS) Moffett Field will be held:

**On: Thursday, January 10, 2008
7 to 9:30 p.m.**

At: Moffett Field, Building 943, Mountain View, CA

Building 943 (Public Affairs Building) is located just before the main gate on NASA Parkway.

The RAB reviews and comments on plans and activities about the ongoing environmental studies and restoration activities under way at Moffett Field. Regular RAB meetings are open to the public and the Navy encourages your involvement. **To review documents** on Moffett Field environmental restoration projects, please visit the information repository located at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View, CA 94041, 650-903-6337. **For more information**, contact Mr. Darren Newton, Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator, at 619-532-0963 or darren.newton@navy.mil.

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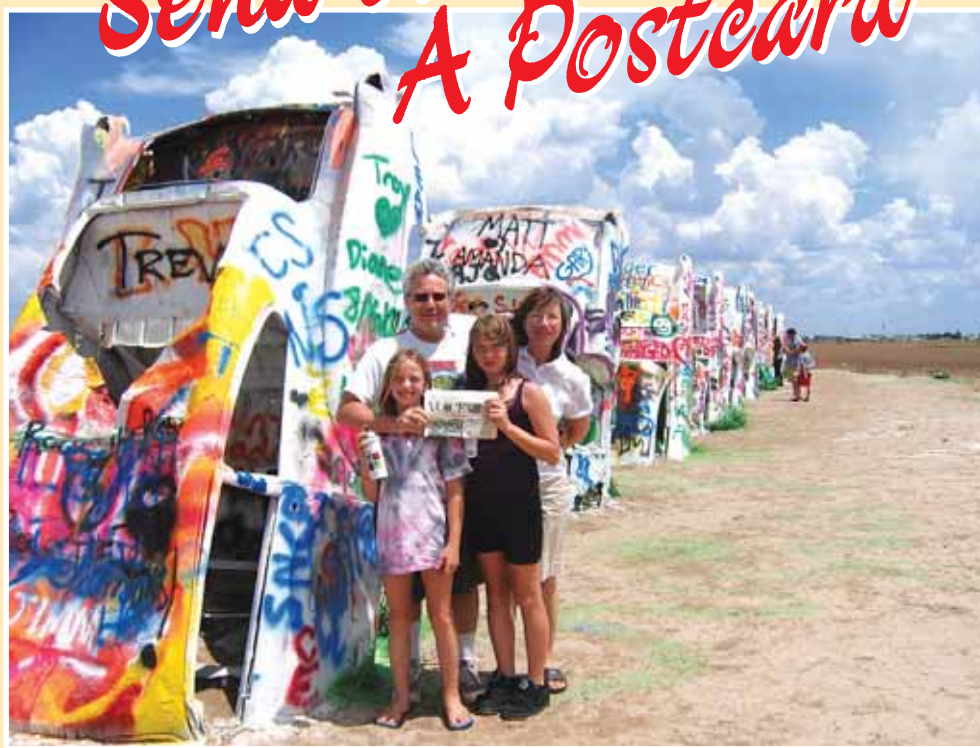


Photo of Rosalyn Carson with Gary Heyman and Leah and Tori Heyman at the Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, Texas. These cars point due west and lean at the same angle as the Great Pyramid of Giza.

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

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LOOK AHEAD

► Continued from page 5

business offices, and a significant campus for the University of California.

A deciding year for the housing market

As the city prepares for its next budget process, due to be completed June 30, the city is bracing for a possible downturn in the housing market, Mayor Laura Macias and City Manager Kevin Duggan said. While it's still too early to tell, the city hopes to know in a few months how reduced home sales will affect property tax revenues and housing projects in the city planning pipeline.

"There is some anxiety over the overall state of the economy," Duggan said, mentioning the state's \$13 billion deficit and the impact the poor housing market has had nationally.

Mountain View may be fairly isolated from such national trends, however.

"We may be in this nice little pressurized bubble," Macias said.

City to revamp general plan

The city is planning to spend

\$500,000 this fiscal year to begin revising the general plan, a framework last overhauled in 1992. One of the most significant changes this year could be a reduction in R-4 zoning, now the highest-density housing level permitted at 60 units per acre; the zoning was created in 2006.

In May the council decided to revise only those parts of the general plan needing an update, and to do it in two years. Reasons for the update given by council members include the need to address the conversion of industrial land, new development trends on El Camino Real, the need for environmental policies and the need to improve transportation planning.

Major city projects to begin

To kick off a new year of construction projects, a groundbreaking for the city's new child care center at Rengstorff Park is scheduled Monday, Jan. 7, at 3:30 p.m. near the senior center.

Other projects for 2008 include the Stevens Creek Trail extension to Sleeper Avenue this spring, the trail's Moffett Boulevard overcrossing, and Sierra Vista Park, which will open on Sierra Vista Avenue and Plymouth Avenue.

Expect more planning on major private projects

The City Council will vote this month on the first phase of the controversial 450-unit Mayfield housing project, followed later in the year by the Summerhill Homes developments at the Satake nursery and Grant Road farm.

Meanwhile the council may continue to hold hearings on the massive South Whisman development along Ferguson Drive, where 600 to 800 homes could take up 48 acres of former industrial space.

The city also expects to see an application from Google for a 200-room hotel and a 30,000-square-foot conference center on the corner of Charleston Road and Shoreline Boulevard, land owned by the city.

At San Antonio shopping center, the council is likely to confirm its desire to kill plans for a Home Depot, and may wrestle with other ways to redevelop the notoriously sprawling shopping center.

New hospital ready to go

This summer El Camino Hospital will open its new medical facility, built to earthquake-safe standards and featuring what the hospital says is the best in medical technology.

The five-story, approximately

450,000-square-foot facility will also include two new office buildings and a four-story parking structure.

El Camino is slated to be one of the first hospitals in the state to be rebuilt to the state's stringent earthquake-safety standards.

There will be no place in the new facility for El Camino's sub-acute unit, which currently houses about 22 severely disabled patients. The hospital reduced the sub-acute unit's capacity by half two years ago, and the remaining patients will have to find places in nursing homes around the Bay Area. Currently, no other Peninsula hospital offers a sub-acute unit of this kind.

More trouble at LASD

The Los Altos School District and those living within it face a tough year ahead, as nearly 500 students will be moving to new schools as part of a new redistricting plan.

In addition, the Los Altos school board is considering litigation against the county board for allowing the Bullis Charter School to amend its enrollment policy to favor those in the Bullis-Purissima school district.

Combined, these developments mean 2008 will be a year of transition for LASD, and any transition can include periods of disturbance

and unrest. Already parents are speaking out against the district for its stance on redistricting and the implications of the new enrollment policy at Bullis Charter.

Parking saga to continue at MVHS

The City Council is expected to reopen public streets around Mountain View High School to student parking in 2008, as indicated by the unanimous recommendation of three council members who attended an informational meeting on the issue in December.

Reopening Truman and Bryant avenues and providing an additional 61 parking spots would help to alleviate the severe parking shortage at the high school, but it will also probably draw the criticism of neighboring residents, who have successfully petitioned the council twice in the last 10 years to close the streets off to students.

The parking situation has a 40-year history, and 2008 looks to be one more year in the tug of war between the school and its neighbors.

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com and Alexa Tondreau at atondreau@mv-voice.com



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THE MONEY

► Continued from page 1

had been the major profit center for most daily newspapers. Much other advertising is also shrinking or moving online.

The value of daily newspapers as businesses has also declined. The stock of McClatchy Co., owner of the Sacramento, Fresno and Modesto *Bees* and other media holdings across the country, was recently downgraded to junk bond status by Standard & Poor's ratings service.

MediaNews' Dean Singleton was quoted in his own *Denver Post* on Aug. 14 as saying that while advertising dollars may be falling away from large metropolitan dailies, newspapers with circulations between 20,000 and 250,000 are thriving. His rosy big-picture view isn't echoed locally.

Where daily newspaper journalism is headed is unclear. Reports appear almost daily regarding cutbacks in newsroom staffs across the country. Major papers have cut back foreign and Washington bureaus as well as in their backyards. Locally, the *San Jose Mercury News* has cut its newsroom staff by about half

over the last seven years.

On May 19, the *Chronicle* announced one of the biggest cuts of any newspaper in the country. It planned to cut 25 percent of its newsroom staff by the end of the summer — 100 positions from a staff of 400. (The *Chron* has a poignant tribute to departed staffers called "Colleagues Remembered" on its Web site.) Publisher Frank Vega said revenue from advertising and other sources wasn't keeping pace with the cost of running the paper.

An example of what's happening in the industry is contained in a statement from publisher David Hiller of the *Los Angeles Times*, the daily paper generally regarded as best in the West. The April announcement said the *Times* would offer voluntary buy-outs in hopes of cutting its staff of 2,625 by up to 150 employees. Revenue for the *Times* and related units dropped 4 percent in the first quarter, compared to the previous year.

"The fact is we have to take actions to keep staffing in line with the revenue picture, which currently is falling in the core print business," Hiller said. "Up to 70 jobs could be cut from the newspaper's news operations,

which would bring the newsroom staff to roughly 850. The *Times* news operation employed about 1,200 when the paper was purchased by Tribune Co. of Chicago in 2000."

In May, the *Times* announced an additional cut of 57 more newsroom positions. Two consecutive *Times* editors, Dean Baquet and John Carroll, had resigned rather than preside over additional staff cuts.

Newspapers are dead! Long live newspapers!

Some popular wisdom has most print newspapers folding in the near future and news shifting online. Many in the blogosphere are already waving good-bye.

There is one particularly troubling problem with that: If you trace the source of most serious news online, it generally leads back from Google or Yahoo or sites such as Digg.com to newspapers. One survey of 100 bloggers found that 59 said their primary source of information is newspapers. Another 19 said their primary source is other bloggers — so 78 percent of bloggers get their information from newspapers or other bloggers.

► See **THE MONEY**, page 10



School Tours:

Monday, 12/17 1 pm
Friday, 1/11 10 am
Wednesday, 1/23 1 pm
Tuesday, 2/5 10 am
Thursday, 2/28 8:30 am

Parent Information Night:

Thursday, 1/10 6-8 pm

Breakfast Discussion: "Why is Developmental Education Best for My Child?"

Wednesday, 1/16 8:30 am

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Events & Lectures

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Keith Lee, M.D., PAMF Urology

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Hearst Center for Health Education, Level 3, Jamplis Building, Palo Alto Medical Foundation,
795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. RSVP to (650) 853-4873.

Classes

"Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction," begins on January 14 & 15, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Free orientation on Wednesday, January 2, 6:30 – 9 p.m. This program is designed to help people learn how to deal effectively with physical and emotional stress by providing training in breathing, meditation and gentle yoga.

"Supermarket Wise," Tuesday, January 15, 2 – 4 p.m.

Learn techniques for making healthier food choices in a local supermarket with dietitian Karen Ross, M.S., R.D.

"Taking Charge of Your Body," Mondays, January 21 – March 3, 6 – 8 p.m.

A six-week course focusing on healthy living and managing your lifestyle through exercise and healthful eating.

"Managing Your High Blood Pressure," Wednesday, January 23, 3 – 5 p.m.

This class provides information on causes, risks and treatment of high blood pressure, and approaches to successful reduction, such as exercise and medication.

"Advance Health Care Directives," Call for available dates and times.

PAMF's specially trained volunteers will provide advice and answer questions about the advance health care directive form. No cost.

Support Groups

Cancer (1st & 3rd Tuesdays) • Diabetes (1st Wednesday) • Multiple Sclerosis (2nd & 4th Mondays) • Sleep Apnea (1st Thursday) • Alcohol and Drug Education (Every Tuesday) • Healing Imagery for Cancer Patients (January 9 & 23)

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DR. CULVER'S CASE STUDY OF THE WEEK

"Me...? With scoliosis??"

How can that be???"

These are the words that came out when Jan saw her X-rays. She saw a 21 degree bend in her lower back, and had no idea that she was that bent, or that her constantly recurring lower back and hip pain were caused by the discs being crushed and deformed by her scoliosis.

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.

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* MOTHERS OF SONS: THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF ADOLESCENCE

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- Wednesday, January 16, 2008

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THE MONEY

► Continued from page 9

Of the remaining 22 percent, it's unclear how much, if any, of it is original news. Most, it seems, is opinion and reaction in response to the news.

Newspapers, to compete with online sources, are transforming themselves into "information" companies and increasingly reporting news, when it happens, online. According to the Newspaper Association of America, more than 59 million people (37.3 percent of all active Internet users) visited newspaper Web sites during the second quarter of 2007, a 7.7 percent increase over the same period a year ago.

However, with a few exceptions, the revenue to support online newspaper sites still largely comes from print. No one has figured out how the brave new world of multi-platform information providers can produce enough revenue, presumably from online advertising, to ensure the survival of serious journalism.

At the same time that daily newspapers are failing due to online competition, they are feeding the beast that is devouring them. MediaNews, Hearst and McClatchy announced in April of this year that they were joining with Yahoo and other leading U.S. newspaper companies in a "definitive agreement that expands a growing partnership combining the newspapers' unmatched local news and advertising reach with the technologies and audience of Yahoo." Most of the newspapers will feature Yahoo's "HotJobs" online employment listings.

There's an element of schizophrenic behavior here. The question these companies must be asking themselves is, "Do we join them and share some revenue — even if it's not enough to keep us going — but risk providing enough content to allow them to continue their growth which undermines our basic business?" The trend is clearly toward joining, which may be based on the theory that if they don't, someone else will, and they won't share any of the revenue.

Monopoly, anyone?

San Jose State's John McManus, the primary force behind "Grade the News," a project focused on examining the quality of news

delivered by Bay Area media, believes that as newspapers decline, we suffer a loss of civic vitality. Staffers in government departments, for example, who had been accustomed to reporters hanging around, begin to cut corners because they operate in the dark.

The result, McManus says, is that investigative and enterprise reporting suffers and news becomes more public-relations and entertainment driven. The public is not upset by this, he says, because it simply hasn't noticed.

As an example, he analyzed the *Mercury News* coverage of the "finger in the bowl of chili" story, and says it ran for 33 days from the day it broke to the day Anna Ayala was arrested. It was in the paper every day and on the front page 11 times. Iraq made the front page once, and that was a human interest story.

McManus is author of "Market-Driven Journalism: Let the Citizen Beware?"

San Jose State's John McManus believes that as newspapers decline, we suffer a loss of civic vitality.

in which he argues that the formerly revered practice of news reporting for the public interest is being superseded by the corporate driven "commodification" of news, treating it like any

other product. He served as an expert witness in the Reilly lawsuit challenging the McClatchy-Hearst-MediaNews deal, and believes that Reilly succeeded in exposing and delaying the Bay Area consolidation but didn't stop it.

He says MediaNews argued to the Bush Justice Department that they shouldn't stop the acquisition because news is no longer a monopoly of newspapers. Television, radio and the Internet provide a wealth of different sources for news. While this argument has surface validity, McManus' response is: "Name some." With minor exceptions, no solely Internet-based sources are really reporting on your local community.

Peter Phillips, an associate professor at Sonoma State University and director of Project Censored, argues that "Media consolidation is creating a new form of censorship in the United States and undermining democracy in the process." He describes a system where fewer than 10 major media corporations now dominate the U.S. news and information systems. Ninety-eight percent of all cities have only one daily news-

► Continued on next page

Mountain View's lone voice

LOCAL OFFICIALS SAY *DAILY, MERC* HAVE ALL BUT QUIT COVERING CITY HALL

By Daniel DeBolt

City manager Kevin Duggan says it was only a few years ago that three newspapers regularly covered City Hall: the *San Jose Mercury News*, the *Palo Alto Daily News* and the *Voice*. But these days, he says, there's really only one.

"We seemed to get a lot more calls from the *Daily* a few years ago," he said, adding that the city "used to have a dedicated *Mercury News* reporter — we don't at this point to my knowledge."

The *Daily* was recently purchased, along with the *Mercury News*, by Dean Singleton's MediaNews — a company notorious for slashing newsrooms.

That's troubling to Duggan, who believes that efficiency is important in city functions, but not without the "democratic environment" that is bolstered by a healthy press. Since it was purchased by MediaNews, the *Daily* has continued to decrease its coverage of Mountain View and local politics, sometimes

going for weeks without a story on Mountain View.

Today, the two papers — once competitors — share stories. In fact, so that the papers don't waste time reporting on the same stories, every morning the *Mercury News* uploads a list of the stories it's working on to *Daily News* editors, according to a former *Daily News* reporter who wished to remain anonymous.

"If you look closely at the last year or so, you'll see MediaNews papers haven't scooped each other on a story yet," he said. "I'm concerned because in some cities, there is just one reporter covering a beat. That's not enough."

The reporter continued, "The Bay Area is a terrible place to run a big newspaper. There's been a meltdown in the advertising and classifieds market here due to Craigslist, Monster, CareerBuilder, etc. The only way to survive is to cut. And more cuts are on the way. They're steadily consolidating all their common operations: ad sales, phone centers, printing cen-

ters, distribution centers, etc. Some of that stuff is simply eliminating redundancies. The company really feels that the only way to stay afloat is to consolidate."

With ad revenue and classified ads migrating to the Internet, and newspapers all over failing to make money online, the future of these local newspapers remains uncertain.

"What it means for us is we just need to work harder to communicate with the public through our newsletter and the Web site," Duggan said. "If it wasn't for the *Voice*, the public would really lose a lot in keeping track of what's going on in the city."

The Mountain View Voice is owned by Embarcadero Publishing, which also owns the Palo Alto Weekly and the Menlo Park Almanac. Voice reporter Daniel DeBolt covers Mountain View City Hall.

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

► Continued from previous page

paper and these are increasingly controlled by huge chains.

According to Phillips, "Censorship in the United States today is seldom deliberate, but rather comes under the heading of lost opportunities. Mega-merged corporate media are predominately interested in the entertainment value of news and the maintenance of high audience viewing/reading levels that equate to profitable advertising sales. Non-sexy or complex stories tend to receive little attention within these corporate media systems."

Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Lowell Bergman has a more critical perspective on the current state of Bay Area journalism. A UC Berkeley professor (and one who has focused on the national picture), Bergman makes pointed comments about a variety of local media operations, says the public's interest is in jeopardy:

On the *San Francisco Chronicle*: "The people who are running the *Chronicle* have lost sight of why they're running a newspaper."

On Dean Singleton: "He's into making money. He's like Mur-



doch."

On local TV: "Most local stations in San Francisco are making 30 percent profits." Federal FCC licensing standards at one time required more serious reporting, but "The FCC now

says that's what's in the public interest is whatever the public is interested in."

Next week:
The future is unwritten

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- Review independent audit reports and monitor follow-up activities;
- Be available if needed to meet with the Board each year at the time of presentation of the external audit to the Board;
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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Tactical error on Bullis

Looking back, the Los Altos School District can't be happy with its decision to close Bullis-Purissima Elementary School four years ago. The move, made due to declining enrollment and the desire to cut costs, has had the opposite effect and continues to exact a high price from the district.

In the wake of that decision, the district has seen angry parents attempt to launch their own Los Altos Hills school district, start a successful charter school, and ultimately convince the district to renovate and reopen Bullis to serve the few families not sending their children to private schools or the Bullis Charter School.

At first glance it made sense for the district, which also serves more than 1,000 Mountain View students, to close Bullis Elementary due to declining enrollment and the need to cut costs. District trustees believed students from the Bullis-Purissima attendance area, in the heart of the district's wealthiest area, could be accommodated at other schools, even though those other schools are a considerable distance from the Hills.

But while the closure of Bullis saved money in the short run, it set events in motion that sparked a nasty fight with deep-pocketed parents, whose opposition ultimately will cost the district at least \$10 million to renovate Bullis — for starters. In addition, it required a redistricting scheme that is extremely unpopular in the district's northern sector, where many Mountain View children have been displaced.

Perhaps the Los Altos board's biggest regret today is its failure to gauge the determination of Los Altos Hills parents to keep an elementary school in their own neighborhood. The first indicator was the community's strong campaign to put the charter school at the closed elementary school's campus, a request that was turned down by the district in the summer of 2004. (The charter school ultimately was granted space in a collection of portable classrooms at Egan Middle School in Los Altos.)

But today, four years later, the tables have turned. Hills parents are the driving force behind Bullis Charter, one of the most sought-after schools in the county. And due to its over-subscribed status (it accepts only one in six applicants), the school recently received approval to reserve a good number of seats for residents in the Bullis-Purissima attendance area, a decision by the county Board of Education that has some LASD parents and board members crying foul.

Outraged parents and board members have said that intend to get a legal analysis of the county board's decision. But the state charter school regulations appear to be on the side of Bullis Charter.

But that's not the half of it. In the fallout from Los Altos Hills' failed effort to form a new school district of its own, LASD has promised to renovate the old Bullis-Purissima campus at a cost of around \$10 million. The cost will likely delay other district construction projects, and it resulted in an unpopular redistricting plan made necessary, in part, by the need to bring more students to Bullis.

The Bullis legacy cannot be one that LASD will remember fondly. Its moves regarding the elementary school have failed in virtually every respect, and set in motion a redistricting and rebuilding plan that will cost the district for years to come. ■

What about the preference at Bullis Charter School?

Posted by Displaced LASD Resident, a resident of the Cuesta Park neighborhood

It is about time the Los Altos School District charter school starts to work in the interests of the district community it is supposed to serve. LASD will be sending 500-plus children out of their current schools, in the middle of their curriculum, in order to re-open a neighborhood school at Bullis-Purissima to serve the same uber-wealthy area Bullis Charter now favors.

This leaves the rest of the district (those not able to afford a \$3 million-plus house in Los Altos Hills) paying the bills (including legal ones) and watching their kids being uprooted from their current schools.

I guess it's innocuous enough for Mr. Moore and his silverspoon.

Posted by LASD mom, a resident of another community

I think it is important to keep in mind that this was not an attempt to take money away from the district. One reason for this move was an attempt to make sure that the families who helped found the school were assured of a spot

for their youngest children. In cases where older siblings were no longer attending Bullis Charter School, families who dedicated their time and efforts for several years to creating and establishing the school were not guaranteed a spot for their children.

This preference helps to rectify that situation. At the same time, because only about 50 percent of the remaining spots can be filled by this preference, there will still be spaces for those from LASD who wish to attend.

Posted by LASD parent, a resident of another community

Come on, folks. Let's make this about facts and not about emotion. Read the article again. The priority enrollment encompasses parts of Los Altos Hills and Los Altos. Siblings of currently enrolled kids (from Los Altos) still get the highest priority.

If I recall, Bullis Charter School asked for this priority years ago. I think it was recently ratified when the charter was renewed. I have attended several of the meetings and there was minimal opposition to

► See **TOWN SQUARE**, next page

Look what they're saying on

TOWN SQUARE



TOWN SQUARE

► Continued from previous page

this change. The charter offers another choice in our great district. We're lucky. Quit the fighting and name-calling. In the meantime, enjoy the great LASD schools and the great charter school.

Posted by LASD Dad, a resident of another community

The portion of Los Altos that is also favored is the one that is the most socio-economically similar to Los Altos Hills, the wealthiest part of the district.

I wish I could share your luck. My neighborhood is being moved from its current local school (Almond) to one further away (Springer) all in the name of providing a neighborhood school and now favored enrollment at BCS for the wealthiest part of the district.

Posted by displaced LASD Resident, a resident of the Cuesta Park neighborhood

I understand that the LASD superintendent, the district's legal representatives and most members of the school board were present at the county hearing and spoke to the fact that it was illegal, ill advised and wrong on multiple levels. But that doesn't matter, because Mr. Ho will vote as Bullis Charter School desires. That is why, in his role as county board president, he led the charge to approve the original BCS charter.

Posted by Parent, a resident of the North Whisman neighborhood

This is not about who likes a charter school or who doesn't like a charter school. It's about whether you think it's fair for the wealthiest part of a school district to get a preference above everyone else who is paying.

This is not about figuring out exactly how many wealthy families will be given a preference, whether 20, 35, or 50. It's about why should any number at all be given a place in front of others? Either you think the county school board's decision makes sense or you don't. ▣

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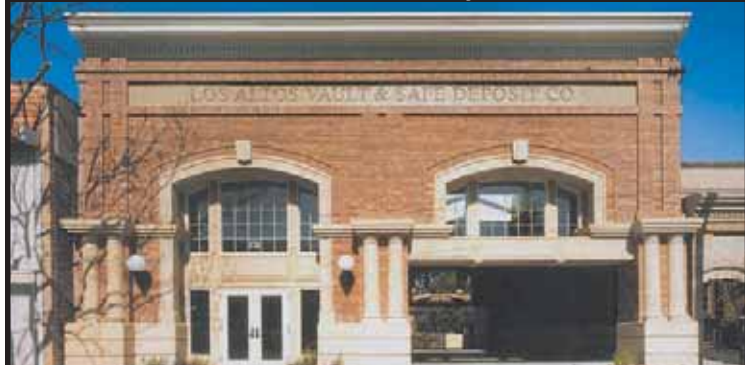


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View of outside of DeeDee's restaurant and store at 2551 West Middlefield Road in Mountain View.

HARDY WILSON

Parking issue to stop DeeDee's

INDIAN RESTAURANT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED AT NEW SITE

By Daniel DeBolt

The holidays have been a sad time for Daksha Desai, owner of DeeDee's restaurant and food store.

In mid-December the store was forced out of its longtime location at 2551 West Middlefield Road to make way for new apartments.

Now, the city is getting ready to reject a proposal for a new site at 2218 Old Middlefield Way at a zoning hearing on Jan. 9.

The store is a gathering place for the Indian community and a rare place to get affordable Indian food in Mountain View. It's also Desai's livelihood.

"Every day I am crying," Desai said. "After 15 years I am suffering. I don't know what to do."

The Desai family has been searching for a new place in Mountain View with no luck. Moving to a more affordable city like Sunnyvale means competing with

numerous similar restaurants.

The Desais were trying to get a permit to move into an area that was not zoned for restaurants, but for uses such as auto repair, print shops and contractors' yards.

Moving to a more affordable city like Sunnyvale means competing with numerous similar restaurants.

The city had cut the business' original 1,700-square-foot design to 860 due to a lack of parking. Restaurants require more park-

ing than other uses.

Zoning administrator Peter Gilli said it became apparent after the Dec. 12 zoning hearing that the reduction in space would create what is likely an insurmountable problem for the new site: The county requires a large wheelchair-accessible restroom that would take up much of the small space.

"It made the tight situation even more difficult," Gilli said.

Without new information that could justify approval, "their application could not be supported," Gilli said. He added that the decision could be appealed to the City Council.

The Desais said that if they can move into the site, they hope to focus mainly on take-out food and catering. ■

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

Sports with a vision

MOUNTAIN VIEW'S SPORTVISION BRINGS HIGH-TECH VIEWING TO THE DIAMOND, FIELD OR TRACK

By Angela Hey

Tucked away on L'Avenida is a lab with a one-eighth size football field painted on the floor. And if you look in the parking lot, you'll see a spot there has been marked out as a baseball diamond.

They're there because Sportvision, the company that invented those virtual yellow lines you see while watching the football game on TV, uses the football and baseball setups to calibrate its cameras.

The company's executive offices are in Chicago, but its development team and the majority of its employees are in Mountain View. When I visited the offices, Marv White, chief technology officer, showed me a special hockey puck that uses infrared technology to enable it to be tracked.

The company is profitable, and expansion overseas is just starting. Meanwhile, CBS featured its latest development, FreezeCam, in the game between the New England Patriots and the Indianapolis Colts. The game drew the highest ratings for CBS Sports in 20 years.

FreezeCam enables fans to see a replay from different angles and close up. The company has developed many techniques for hiding lines behind players, following the ball and tracking players. A deal with ESPN means Sportvision can expand its technology into soccer, where the ball is in play most of the time — so more sophisticated

systems are required.

For baseball, Sportvision tracks the ball and plants virtual local ads around the stadium. The ball is tracked to four tenths of an inch, which is remarkable considering the speed at which a baseball travels.



The company visits over 30 stadiums during the season. Logistics is a major activity and the company has three studios in tractor trailers that travel around the country. (They're so precise that, when aligning cameras, Sportvision employees account for the stadium sagging when it's full of people.) Besides their own

crews, they have a network of about 50 freelancers trained in operating their cameras and computing equipment.

Sportvision uses digital processing, similar to that used in video games, and GPS tracking to create three-dimensional

views of NASCAR racing drivers. Viewers can see virtual numbers on the cars and a dashboard on the screen, so the TV looks more like a video game.

The company also joined forces with NASCAR and Turner Sports Interactive to develop PitCommand TO GO, a mobile phone application that enhances the race for NASCAR fans. With PitCommand, the phone shows

A deal with ESPN means Sportvision can expand its technology into soccer, where the ball is in play most of the time — so more sophisticated systems are required.

► See **SPORTVISION**, page 16

Profiles in Leadership

Editor's Note: Leadership Mountain View (LMV) prepares adults who live, work or have an interest in the city to take on a wide variety of leadership roles in the community. LMV, a program of the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation, guides 35 individuals through a nine-month program each year. Approximately 500 persons have graduated from the program since it began in 1989. The profile below is one in a series that will run periodically to highlight the accomplishments of LMV graduates.

TOM MYERS

Tom Myers has called Mountain View his hometown since he was a kid, though he's also lived in other parts of the country and served in the Peace Corps in Africa for three years. He joined Leadership Mountain View's Class of 2001 unsure of how much he'd learn, but quickly discovered that (even as a founding member of the Human Relations Commission, with decades of community service under his belt) there were a lot of things he still didn't know about his city.

At that time he had recently started his current job as executive director of Community Services Agency, and the question "Whom to call?" became much easier to answer with all his new friends and contacts from LMV. Seeing how the program benefited him, Tom has made sure that "virtually every LMV class has at least one or two CSA

people in it."

Tom is positive that Mountain View is the right place for him: His favorite word is "diversity," and that is what he loves most about the city. He comments that "One of the most unusual things about Mountain View is the fact that you can have very wealthy people living literally right next door to very poor people. This tends to make poverty invisible in our community."

It is these often-invisible problems that are the focus of CSA, the local community's main safety net. Last month, the organization went full-throttle on programs to assist those in need during the holidays, relying on volunteers for short-term extra help.

Facing the challenges of leading this nonprofit agency, Tom has found that "Having a diversity of people around you, with varying opinions on issues, is the best way to keep yourself on track. You want people who disagree with each other in order to reach the right answer."

LMV is now a member of eScrip, so it can receive support every time you make a purchase. Shop at your favorite stores such as Whole Foods, Draeger's, Office Max, Macy's and others, and with every purchase the company will donate a percentage of your purchase to LMV. For details, visit www.leadershipmountainview.org, or go to www.escrip.com and sign up using Leadership Mountain View as your designated charity of choice.

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SPORTVISION

► Continued from page 14

driver rankings in real time, time behind the leader and brake/throttle action. Fans can also follow their favorite driver on the Internet or on pay-per-view TV applications. Check out indycar.com to see more Sportvision technology applied to racing.

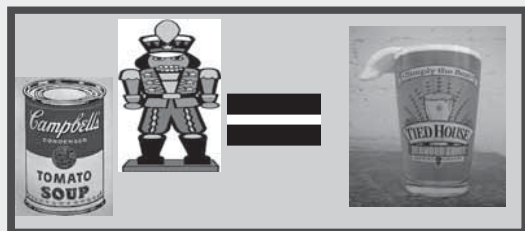
Meanwhile, the Olympics give Sportvision the opportunity to track speed skaters. Their FreezeCam technology enables the relative position of skaters to be clearly seen by freezing the motion, then restarting it again. For divers, "stroboscoping" enables a smooth dive to be broken down into a sequence of frames. SimulCam enables two different dives to be compared by merging videos. This technique can also be used for extreme sports like the X Games, where motorbikes, snowmobiles or snowboarders can be captured in mid flight.

At the recent Under the Radar conference, held at Microsoft's conference center, Dutch company yoMedia (in conjunction with ski resort advertising agency Media Mountain) presented a novel cell phone application for snowboarders. That system links an electronic ski pass to snowboarders' cell phone numbers. Whenever a snowboarder was filmed jumping, he or she would receive a message with a link. They could then click on the link and send pictures to a big screen at the resort — and Media Mountain would advertise around the pictures.

There's plenty of opportunity for combining mobile phone applications with sporting events. Just wait until Google's Open Handsets are shipping — then these sporting applications will really take off. ■

Angela Hey can be reached at amhey@techviser.com.

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Hankering for Cantankerous

RENEWED AND REVITALIZED, CASTRO STREET FISH HOUSE IS BIGGER, BETTER

By Andrew MacLeod Doerschuk

Frankly, I still don't get it. After enjoying many memorable evenings at the Cantankerous Fish since it debuted in 2003, I have yet to discover the ornery entree or annoying appetizer that inspired the restaurant's name. Admittedly, a waiter was a tad aloof, but that's no reason to blame the fish, which happens to be the focus of one of my favorite menus on Castro Street.

Last July the restaurant expanded into the adjacent retail

space vacated by the Napoleon At Home gallery, and underwent a major overhaul, nearly doubling in size. The owners added tables, expanded the bar, created a lounge, built new bathrooms, erected a freestanding host station, and created an overflow/private party dining room. The menu also underwent a facelift, with new chef Ryan Fillhardt offering a satisfying range of dishes without overwhelming diners with choices.

Our first meal started with

► See **CANTANKEROUS**, page 18



NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

The Southwestern snapper from the Cantankerous Fish in Mountain View comes with portobello mushroom, chorizo and butternut squash hash with avocado-tomatillo guacamole.



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A photograph of Aldo and his team standing behind a counter in their restaurant. Aldo is on the far left, wearing a red polo shirt and a dark apron. Next to him is a man in a white chef's coat and a black cap. Then another man in a white chef's coat. On the far right is a man in a purple button-down shirt. They are all smiling. In front of them is a counter with various food items, including what looks like a pizza and some small dishes. The background shows the interior of the restaurant with a sign that says "Aldo" and "L'Arte del Cibo".



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NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

CANTANKEROUS

► Continued from page 17

a bang when the maitre d' recommended the firecracker ahi tuna tempura roll (\$7). Served on a long, rectangular plate, the roll was cut into eight seaweed-wrapped rice rounds that had been fried in a delicate batter. These were propped between two squiggles of aioli (Sirachi chili and green wasabi sauces), and garnished with a mango-pepper-onion ratatouille, which offered a nice cool-down after the spicy zing of the roll.

We also sampled a pair of bay shrimp and mango spring rolls (\$9), which arrived similarly plated. They were cut into thin wedges whose extreme angles exposed a well brimming with sauteed shrimp, mango, pepper jack cheese and poblano chilies. It looked sumptuous. The deep-fried crust was dry to the touch, and the rolls were served at room temperature with sprinkled hoisin sauce and more mango ratatouille.

For the next course, we split a Caesar salad (\$8), a simple preparation with just a few crisp leaves of young lettuce, thin Parmesan shavings, and an anchovy balanced on top. It was refreshing but bland, although we loved the spinach salad (\$8) — a cooled pile of baby spinach leaves sprinkled with candied pecans and peppery green apple juliennés, topped with mild, warm goat cheese, and dressed in a honey tarragon Dijon mix-

ture that delivered a nice kick.

Our entrees included the andouille sausage and shrimp penne pasta (\$16), served steaming in a deep, white bowl, framed by the gold, green, and brown hues that set off this hearty meal. Mild, bite-sized sausage slices were tossed with plump shrimp, penne, savory mushroom chunks, and fennel leaves in a tomato cream sauce. Flavors were fresh and explosive, but the sauce dominated the palette. No matter — you'll want to sop it up with a piece of bread.

While the Cantankerous Fish's seafood jambalaya (\$20) is hardly traditional, it's satisfying nonetheless. Fillhardt deemphasized the "dirty" rice — which is fluffy and dampened with a tomato broth — and loaded the plate with scallops, prawns, clams, mussels, and andouille sausage. The seafood was perfectly steamed to render it meaty rather than chewy or soft.

The Southwestern snapper (\$19) was a pleasant surprise. Broiled and served atop a hash featuring chorizo, portobello mushroom and red peppers, the snapper was slathered with a generous portion of tomatillo guacamole. With all three layers on a forkful, the juxtaposed tastes and textures are fantastic — from firm and fleshy snapper, to smooth and refreshing guacamole, to the snap of chorizo and peppers. I'll definitely order this dish again.

I wasn't nearly as enthused about the crab-stuffed baked

► Continued on next page

► Continued from previous page

Idaho trout (\$21), which arrived wearing its crispy skin. The fillet rested on a pool of lemon basil vinaigrette and was split down the middle, so that each bite exposed a bit more of the thin crab stuffing — which was more understated than I had hoped, though I enjoyed the zesty vinaigrette. A quartered

pudding and an accompanying scoop of vanilla gelato, with cinnamon sprinkled over all. We also savored the decadent chocolate souffle meltaway (\$8). The fluffy and rich souffle melted seductively into warm chocolate goo in the mouth, while a scoop of tart raspberry gelato provided the perfect complement. A Grand Marnier anglaise was dribbled over the top just to make it as

The fluffy and rich souffle melted seductively into warm chocolate goo in the mouth, while a scoop of tart raspberry gelato provided the perfect complement.

roasted potato and ratatouille made of eggplant, zucchini, yellow squash, red onion, red bell pepper and bean sprouts accompanied the trout.

We finished with bananas foster bread budding (\$8) — a mound of banana nut pudding, slightly crusty outside and chewy inside, with occasional macadamia crunches. A yummy citrus brandy was drizzled onto the

indulgent as possible.

And speaking of indulgence, every dish we ordered came in more than an ample portion. All ingredients were uniformly fresh, the wine list offered a good selection, the redecorated ambiance was elegant — even the live music was cool. The Cantankerous Fish has always been a great dinner destination, and it's only gotten better. ▣

■ DINING NOTES

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MOVIE TIMES

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR: REQUIEM (R) (NOT REVIEWED)

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

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) ★★★

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

ATONEMENT (R) ★★★1/2

Century 16: 12:55, 4, 6:55 & 10:05 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:15 a.m.; 12:40, 2:20, 3:30, 5:05, 6:20, 7:50, 9:15 & 10:40 p.m.

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R) ★★★1/2

Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 1:55, 4:25, 7:20 & 9:55 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:25 a.m.; 12:25, 1:55, 2:55, 4:25, 5:25, 7, 8, 9:30 & 10:30 p.m.

ENCHANTED (PG) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 1:50, 4:30, 7:05 & 9:40 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:20 a.m.; 12:10*, 1:55, 2:50*, 4:35, 5:25*, 7:10, 8*, 9:45 & 10:40 p.m. *Spanish subtitles

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) ★★★

Century 16: 5:10, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m. **Fri.-Sat. & Mon.-Tue.** also at 11:45 a.m. & 2:25, p.m. **Century 20:** 11:20 a.m.; 2, 5, 7:40 & 10:25 p.m.

THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG-13) ★★★1/2

Century 16: 12:50, 3:50, 7:15 & 10:15 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:15 a.m.; 2, 4:50, 7:45 & 10:35 p.m.

I AM LEGEND (PG-13) ★★★

Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 2:30, 5, 6:45, 7:55, 9:15 & 10:30 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:45 a.m.; 12:15, 12:45, 2:15, 2:45, 3:15, 4, 4:45, 5:20, 5:50, 6:35, 7:20, 7:55, 8:25, 9:05, 9:55 & 10:25 p.m. **Fri.-Sat. & Mon.-Tue.** also at 1:30 p.m.

JUNO (PG-13) ★★★

Century 20: 11:55 a.m.; 12:55, 2:20, 3:20, 4:45, 5:45, 7:10, 8:10, 9:35 & 10:35 p.m. **Aquarius:** 12:45, 2, 3:20, 4:45, 6, 7, 8:15, 9:20 & 10:30 p.m. **Fri.-Sun.** also at 11:30 a.m.

THE KITE RUNNER (PG-13) ★★★

Century 20: 1, 4:10, 7:25 & 10:20 p.m. **Palo Alto Square:** 1:30, 4:30 & 7:30 p.m. **Fri. & Sat.** also at 10:30 p.m.

METROPOLITAN OPERA: HANSEL AND GRETEL - ENCORE (NOT RATED) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: Sun. at noon. **Century 20:** Sun. at noon.

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) (NOT REVIEWED) **Century 16:** 11 a.m.; 12:30, 2, 3:35, 5, 7, 8:05 & 10:10 p.m. **Century 12:** 12:10, 1:10, 2:15*, 3:20, 4:20, 5:20*, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30*, 9:40 & 10:35 p.m. *Spanish subtitles

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R) ★★★★★

Century 16: 12:45, 3:55, 7:10 & 10:05 p.m. **Century 20:** 6:55 & 9:50 p.m.

ONE MISSED CALL (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: Noon, 2:40, 5, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

THE ORPHANAGE (R) ★★★

Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 2:15, 4:50, 7:25 & 10 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:40 a.m.; 2:25, 4:55, 7:30 & 10:05 p.m.

P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 12:40, 3:45, 6:50 & 9:45 p.m. **Century 12:** 11:50 a.m.; 1:20, 3, 4:40, 7:10, 8:10 & 10:15 p.m.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (R) (NOT REVIEWED) **Guild:** Sat. at midnight.

THE SAVAGES (R) ★★★

Palo Alto Square: 1:40, 4:20 & 7:15 p.m. **Fri. & Sat.** also at 10:10 p.m.

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET (R) ★★ **Century 16:** 11:05 a.m.; 2:20, 5:05, 7:50 & 10:35 p.m. **Century 12:** 11:30 a.m.; 12:30, 2:30, 4, 5:50, 7, 9 & 10 p.m.

THERE WILL BE BLOOD (R) ★★★★★ **Guild:** 1, 4:30 & 8 p.m.

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R) (NOT REVIEWED) **Century 12:** 12:50, 3:30, 7:40 & 10:10 p.m.

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG) (NOT REVIEWED) **Century 16:** 11:30 a.m.; 2:15, 4:55, 7:35 & 10:20 p.m. **Century 20:** 11:35 a.m.; 12:55, 2:15, 3:35, 4:55, 7:35 & 10:15 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

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

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

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

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

CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)

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

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

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

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MOVIE REVIEWS

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS ★★★

(Century 12, Century 16) The phrase "pleasant surprise" fits perfectly for this charming film about three harmonic chipmunks and their reluctant caretaker. "Alvin and the Chipmunks" have been musical anomalies since the 1950s, energizing fans with their helium-infused tunes. Here they get the modern big-screen treatment — impressive computer graphics, a likeable leading man (Jason Lee as Dave Seville) and even a smart script. Dave aspires to be a songwriter while suffering through a dull job. His producer pal Ian (David Cross) is looking for something fresh while Dave keeps bringing cheesy ballads. Enter the chipmunks. When their forest-tree home gets chopped down and turned into a Christmas prop, the chipmunks hitch a ride with unsuspecting Dave and hide out in his kitchen. Once Dave hears the trio's harmony, he sees the answer to his songwriting woes. Ian, however, sees the adolescent chipmunks as an opportunity for marketing and merchandising dollars. The producer exhausts the singers through endless performances and promo spots while Dave faces his fear of commitment and growing bond with the chipmunks. A holiday family film with enough clever dialogue to please adults is a gift indeed. *Rated: PG for some mild rude humor. 1 hour, 32 minutes. — T.H.*

ATONEMENT ★★1/2

(Century 16) Pre-war England has never looked as lush as in Joe Wright's intensely crafted romantic drama. Based on Ian McEwan's exceptional novel of the same name, "Atonement" reflects a simpler, easier time. Glamorous Cecilia Tallis (Keira Knightley) lives in the lap of luxury on her family's country estate, feigning casual indifference to the attentions of the housekeeper's handsome son, Robbie Turner (James McAvoy). The vivid imagination of Cecilia's younger sister, Briony (Saoirse Ronan), sets narrative elements in motion. Briony, a willful sprite who spends hours at her typewriter churning out histrionic theater, discovers Robbie and Cecilia in a compromising position and, feeling slighted by a discovery far beyond her ken, tells a shocking lie with devastating consequences for all. In the grand tradition of such epic historical romances as "The English Patient," "Atonement" is one of the year's finest films. *Rated: R for war violence, language and mature themes. 2 hours, 2 minutes. — J.A.*

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) "Charlie Wilson's War" attempts to walk the razor wire between comedy and drama. Good-time Charlie (Tom Hanks) trades playful barbs with Houston socialite Joanne Herring (a stiff Julia Roberts) as though in a screwball comic romp. The politically savvy pretty woman wants the U.S. to provide arms to the Afghans fighting invading Soviet forces. She sets Charlie off on a serious mission that will become his crusade. During the Reagan era, the relatively unknown Texan

Weekend

politician partnered with a rogue CIA agent to launch a covert operation that funded the mujahideen rebels against the Red Army and helped the Afghans topple a superpower. By clearly positioning Wilson as a hero and provoking laughter through good banter, the movie never addresses the pressing questions raised in Crile's nonfiction page-turner. It also never encourages the viewer to consider that a solitary congressman appropriated more than \$40 million of taxpayer money for his cause. The movie lionizes rather than criticizes the fact that two mavericks hijacked American foreign policy. Without implicating Wilson in wrongdoing, the ending spins the stranger-than-fiction true story as a cautionary tale. *Rated: R for strong language, nudity/sexual content and some drug use. 1 hour, 37 minutes. — S.T.*

THE GREAT DEBATERS ★★½

(Century 16, Century 20) Denzel Washington helms and stars in this tight period weeper inspired by an African-American college debate team that took the circuit by storm in the deeply segregated 1930s South. The mid-1930s were a time of change, with seeds of revolution planted from Houston to Harlem. It's a fact not unnoticed by radical Wiley College poet and educator Melvin B. Tolson (Washington), who endeavors to fill his students' heads with more than mindless facts and figures. To that end Tolson fashions himself a debate team of the fiercest young minds, sidestepping the conventional wisdom of the times that equates blacks with failure. His philosophy: to find, take back and keep your righteous mind. The team — three men and (gasp) a woman — struggles to get it right. In fits and starts they discover their rhythm and along with it a burning passion for the spoken word and black American rights. Affecting, sentimental and worth every penny of your holiday entertainment budget. *Rated: PG-13 for language, mature themes and brief sexuality. 2 hours, 3 minutes. — J.A.*

I AM LEGEND ★★½

(Century 16, Century 20) The film is based on Richard Matheson's novel of the same name, which was previously brought to the big screen with 1964's "The Last Man on Earth" starring Vincent Price, and 1971's "The Omega Man" starring Charlton Heston. In the current movie, Will Smith plays Robert Neville, a New York-based military scientist who appears to be the sole survivor of a massive viral outbreak. Neville strolls the decrepit streets of New York alongside his German shepherd, Sam, hunting wild deer and initiating one-sided dialogue with mannequins at the local video store. But Neville is not alone. The few people who weren't killed by the virus mutated into pale, gangly creatures who thirst for blood and come out only at night in order to avoid the sun. They are The Infected. While Neville sends out radio messages to lure other possible survivors, he uses his own immune blood on infected lab rats in hopes of developing a cure for the illness. Smith brings a sympathetic human quality to the picture, but don't expect to skip around afterward whistling show tunes. In fact, if you see the film on your own or go to an empty home afterward, you may feel exactly like

Robert Neville does. *Alone. Rated: PG-13 for intense sequences of sci-fi action and violence. 1 hour, 40 minutes. — T.H.*

JUNO ★★½

(Aquarius, Century 20) Juno MacGuff (Ellen Page) and semi-squeeze Paulie Bleeker (Michael Cera) do the nasty and Juno finds herself with child. As she's only a child herself, Juno needs to come clean with her dad (J.K. Simmons) and uptight stepmom (Allison Janney). Next step is locating a brace of proper adoptive parents. Tucked into the latest issue of Penny Saver is the perfect pair of desperately seeking "baby-starved wing nuts." The eager adoptees (Jennifer Garner as Vanessa and Jason Bateman as Mark) take a meeting with Juno and her dad, toting along their lawyer to hammer out the terms of an "open" adoption. Juno balks, preferring to kick it "Old-Testament style," metaphorically dropping the tot in a wicker basket and floating it down the river amongst the reeds (i.e., a "closed" adoption). As the months progress, an expanding Juno handles the situation in her own inestimable fashion, developing an awkward crush on Mark that could threaten the future of his marriage and Juno's best-laid plans. Sweet, sassy and satisfying. *Rated: PG-13 for language and sexuality. 1 hour, 32 minutes. — J.A.*

THE KITE RUNNER ★★½

(CineArts) Marc Forester ("Finding Neverland") adapts Khaled Hosseini's wildly successful first novel to the big screen with empirical grace. Kabul circa 1978 is a cultural haven ripe with progress and promise. Twelve-year-old Amir (Zekeria Ebrahimi) lives a life of luxury as the son of businessman Baba (Homayoun Ershadi). He pals around with best friend Hassan (Ahmad Khan Mahmidzada), the son of the family's beloved servant. The boys join forces to run a kite in the annual Kabul kite-flying ceremony, culminating in a startling triumph. But the thrill of victory is short-lived, tainted by an act of cowardice that will haunt Amir for years. The decay of Afghanistan's proud political scene makes it necessary for Amir and his father to relocate to Fremont, California, where Dad toils at odd jobs and encourages his son's higher education and dreams of becoming a writer. Years later an urgent phone call from an old family friend is all it takes to send the adult Amir (Khalid Abdalla) back to his shattered homeland and a thorny date with destiny. "Kite" is faithful to its source material, weaving an enriching tapestry of dramatic ethnicity and tradition. But a formulaic blueprint screams crowd-pleasing rather than risk-taking. *Rated: PG-13 for some violence and mature themes. 2 hours, 2 minutes. In Dari and English with English subtitles. — J.A.*

THE SAVAGES ★★½

Parenting your parents is a tough row to hoe, as supported by Tamara Jenkins' bittersweet family dramedy. Thanks to the whip-smart work of top thespes Laura Linney and Philip Seymour Hoffman, the pain of dealing with an aging father comes full circle. Jon (Hoffman) and Wendy (Linney) Savage spend their self-absorbed days seeking approval from their writing, their teaching and their

dysfunctional personal relationships. When their retired, Arizona-based dad (Philip Bosco) starts writing on the walls in excrement it appears the jig is up. Brother and sister are forced to abandon their East Coast foxholes and join forces to act on their father's behalf. That's easier said than done, as teaching the theater of social unrest isn't adequate emotional preparation for facing your past and dealing with an unsettling present. The scripting intermittently flags but picks up and brushes itself off when need be. Affecting and dangerously close to home. *Rated: R for profanity and sexual situations. 1 hour, 53 minutes. — J.A.*

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET ★★

(Century 16, Century 12) Todd (Johnny Depp), formerly known as 19th-century London nice-guy Benjamin Barker, has revenge on the brain after the sinister Judge Turpin (Alan Rickman) imprisons him on false charges and steals his wife and child in a vicious emotional coup. Years later Barker returns as alter ego Todd, barber and serial killer extraordinaire, who's hell-bent on destroying Turpin and recovering the affections of his daughter, now Turpin's ward. Joining forces with Todd's diabolical scheme is Nellie Lovett (Helena Bonham Carter), a trappy tavern owner renowned for her unappetizing meat pies. Ever the resourceful businesswoman, Lovett turns tragedy into big business, turning a tidy profit by making mincemeat of Todd's unfortunate victims and packing her pies full of wholesome human remains. While Depp and Bonham Carter fumble their way through incessant yet catchy numbers meant for those who can carry a tune, the rear is brought up by some genuine young talent (Jayne Wisener as daughter Johanna, Jamie Campbell Bower as her love-struck suitor, Anthony, and the extraordinary Edward Sanders as ragamuffin baker's assistant Toby). Their solid pipes serve only to exaggerate the chasm between those who can and those who cannot. *Rated: R for excessive, relentless gore. 1 hour, 56 minutes. — J.A.*

MOVIE REVIEWS

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ART GALLERIES

"THE ART OF COLLAGE: WORKS BY SYLVIE A. SEREX-BONNET" All proceeds from sale of artwork will benefit CSMA's financial-aid program. Exhibitions in Mohr Gallery presented by Heritage Bank of Commerce. Through Jan. 26, 7 a.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 650-917-6800 ext. 305. www.arts4all.org

AUDITIONS

ACTORS NEEDED FOR SHORT FILM Open auditions for "Cesar Yasukawa," a martial-arts dark comedy by Anthony Frederick Aranda. Actors needed for Asian/Latino roles, ages 20s through 50s. Optional monologue; cold read from script. Some roles require movement audition for fight sequences. Rehearsals in Jan/Feb; Production in March. Sat., Jan. 12, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. \$2 for parking (preferably in quarters). Foothill College, Room 1219, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos.

LAYT'S "AS YOU LIKE IT" LAYT will hold auditions for Shakespeare's comedy "As You Like It" on Jan. 7 and 9. Prepare a one-minute comedic monologue from a play (not an online script). Ages 11-21. Rehearsals beg. Jan. 14 from 4-6:30 p.m. Performances March 14-29. Shannon Stowe directs. 4-6 p.m. Fee, scholarships available. Los Altos Youth Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave. MPR, Los Altos. Call 650-947-2796.

BENEFITS

FRIENDS OF MOUNTAIN VIEW LIBRARY BOOK SALE Members of the Friends of Mountain View Public Library get early entrance from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (Sat. only). Jan 5-6, Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. 1-4 p.m. Friends of Mountain View Book Sale, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7031.

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

MUSIC LAW AND YOU This workshop provides a general overview of a musician's legal rights. Topics include recording agreements, music publishing, licensing for film and TV, distribution and releasing your own album. Time for questions follows the presentation. Tue., Jan. 15, 7-8:30 p.m. \$10/C.L.A. members \$2.0/nonmembers, \$5/student w/ID & seniors, free to CSMA faculty and staff Community School of Music and Arts, at Finn Center - Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 408-998-2787 x216. <http://www.calawyersforthearts.org/index.html>

CONCERTS

THE FORTNIGHTLY MUSIC CLUB CONCERT The Fortnightly Music Club is celebrating its 100th year with a Gala Concert featuring Debussy's "Piano for 8 hands," Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto" and Brahms "Liebeslieder Walzer." Sun., Jan. 13, 8-10 p.m. Free. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road at Embarcadero, Palo Alto. Call 650-522-8152. www.fortnightlymusicclub.org

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.

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exercise, no partner necessary, casual attire. Parties with live music. Wednesday evenings in Mountain View. Through May 21, 7:45-10 p.m. \$5 per night. Mt. View Sports Pavilion, 1185 Castro Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-962-1939. www.mtview-rscds.org

EXHIBITS

EAST-WEST GEM SHOW "Crystal Bill" Kaunitz will showcase a collection of gems including amethyst and citrine geodes; many varieties of crystal balls; natural and polished points; generators up to 85 pounds; clusters; Sun., Jan. 6, 12-6 p.m. Free but call to reserve a place. East West Bookstore, 324 Castro St., Mountain View.

MOFFETT FIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM Museum displays memorabilia, artifacts, photos and aircraft models; tours of museum and view of the exterior of Hangar One. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wed.-Sat. Free. Moffett Field Historical Society Museum, Building 126, Moffett Federal Airfield, off Highway 101, Mountain View.

FAMILY AND KIDS

AKATOMBO ENSEMBLE, JAPANESE MUSIC AND DANCE Experience both classical and folk styles of Japanese music and dance. Two performances, at 2 and 4 p.m. Sun., Jan 13, 2 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 650-917-6800 ext.305. www.arts4all.org

PACT SCHOOL INFO BREAKFAST Come to an breakfast information seminar, "Why Is Developmental Education Best for My Child?" The PACT School is a public magnet school accepting K-5 students from all districts. Wed., Jan. 16, 8:30-11 a.m. Free. Mariano Castro School, Multiuse Room, 505 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. <http://www.pactschool.net/>

PACT SCHOOL INFO NIGHT Meet PACT's teachers and learn what's involved in being part of PACT School. The PACT School is a public magnet school accepting K-5 students from all districts. Thu., Jan. 10, 6-8 p.m. Free. Mariano Castro School, 505 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. <http://www.pactschool.net/>

SIGN WITH BABY Enjoy the benefits of signing with your baby. Learn at least 50 signs through songs and activities and see how to incorporate sign into your daily routines. Bring your baby 0-3 years to participate in this hands-on workshop. Thu., Jan. 17, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. City of Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6897. http://www.mountainview.gov/city_hall/library/

HEALTH

DEPRESSION RESOLUTION Recognizing and handling causes naturally. Wed., Jan. 16, 6-7 p.m. Free. Integrative Nutrition and Wellness Center, 277 Castro St., Mountain View.

WOMEN'S HEALTH "The 5 secrets to help handle menopause, PMS, weight, decreased sex drive." Sat., Jan. 5, 10-11 a.m. Free. Integrative Nutrition and Wellness Center, 277 Castro St., Mountain View.

OUTDOORS

DUCK!!! The Palo Alto wetlands are loaded with wintering waterfowl. As many as 17 species could be seen. Meet at the Baylands Nature Center. Sat., Jan. 12, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Palo Alto Baylands, 2775 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2506.

NEW MOON NIGHT HIKE Enjoy Pearson Arastradero Preserve as few see it -- in the dark. 1.5 mile leisurely hike under a nearly new moon. Ages 5 and up. Sun., Jan. 6, 4:30-6 p.m. Free. Pearson-Arastradero Preserve, 1530 Aras-



"MIGHTY OAK", WATERCOLOR BY LILLIAN BALLIET

TREES, TREES AND MORE TREES: *Watercolor artist Lillian Balliet looks beyond the flowers in her garden to the trees of the Italian countryside. Through Feb. 1, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sundays gallery closes at 3 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. www.viewpointsgallery.com*

tradero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2423.

TWILIGHT HIKE Leisurely ranger-led hike through Pearson-Arastradero Preserve at twilight. Sat., Jan. 12, 4:30-6 p.m. Free. Pearson-Arastradero Preserve, 1530 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2423.

SENIORS

BRAIN FITNESS CLASSES Learn how to achieve optimal brain health, improve memory, increase concentration and sharpen focus with a holistic approach. Thursdays, Jan. 10-March 13, 2-3:30 p.m. \$19 for seniors/\$55 for 18-54. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5436. www.avenidas.org

FIRES & FALLS, OH MY! Join Jaime Garrett, Mountain View Fire Department Public Education Specialist, for a review of proper safety procedures to help protect from falls and fires in the home. Thu., Jan. 10, 1-2 p.m. Free. 266 Escuela Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-903-6441.

REPOSTURING WORKOUT This simple, time-efficient system of flexibility and breathing improves posture and maintains balance, coordination and freedom of movement. The ultimate goal is increased energy and reduced pain. Tuesdays, Jan. 8-Feb. 26, 3:30-4:30 p.m. \$50 members/\$60 nonmembers. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto.

Call 650-289-5436. www.avenidas.org

SINGLES

SILICON VALLEY WINE TASTING PARTY FOR SINGLE PROFESSIONALS Featuring wines from a variety of boutique wineries with French appetizers. Followed by dancing to live Spanish rock. Sat., Jan. 12, 8-10 p.m. \$20 in advance, \$30 at the door. Alberto's Night Club, 736 W Dana St., Mountain View. Call 925-945-8340. <http://winesocials.com>

TALKS/AUTHORS

"MERCHANT OF DEATH. MONEY, GUNS, PLANES, AND THE MAN WHO MAKES WAR POSSIBLE" Stephen Braun, author and Pulitzer Prize-winning correspondent for the LA Times. Thu., Jan. 10, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Stanford University, Building 260, Room 113, Stanford. Call 725-2563.

TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY COMMITTEE LUNCHEON FORUM Budd MacKenzie, founder of Trust in Education (TIE), describes TIE's development programs and efforts to make direct connections between American communities and Afghan villages. The talk, titled "Afghanistan and The War for Hearts

and Minds," will be held on Tue., Jan. 8, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch is \$11.50, \$12.50 for nonmembers. King of Krung Siam Restaurant, 194 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-969-7215. <http://tian.greens.org/TASC.shtml>

VICTORIA ZACKHEIM (EDITOR), ELLEN SUSSMAN, ELIZABETH ROSNER, SUSAN ITO, DEBORAH GRABIEN AND MARGOT DUXLER: "FOR KEEPS" "For Keeps" is a collection by women writers on their relationships with their bodies. Thu., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com

TEEN ACTIVITIES

BEAD JEWELRY PROGRAM Program for teens in grades 6-12 on making bead jewelry. All materials and snacks will be provided. Fri., Jan. 4, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Free. Mitchell Park Library, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2436 (press for Reference). www.cityofpaloalto.org/library

PGSP OPEN HOUSE Event will educate prospective students about the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology's curricula, campus, clinic and student life. Info about financial aid also available. Parking in back. Sat., Jan. 5, Free. Kurt and Barbara Gronowski Clinic, 5150 El Camino Real, Suite 22, Los Altos. Call 800-818-6136. http://pgsp.edu/discover_day.php

VOLUNTEERS

BAYLANDS NATIVE PLANT NURSERY Learn about habitat restoration and transplant native plants at on-site nursery. This program is part of Save The Bay's ongoing wetland restoration projects with site partner the City of Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve. RSVP required. Wed., Jan. 16, 1-3 p.m. Free. Palo Alto Baylands, Palo Alto. Call 510-452-9261 ext. 119. <http://www.savesfbay.org/bayevents>

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/>

PLANT OAKS & BUNCH GRASSES WITH MAGIC Plant California native oaks on the "Dish" hill, oaks from other similar habitats worldwide in an experimental site near Stanford campus and 30,000 native bunch grasses in a demonstration site near Maples Pavilion. Kids are welcome accompanied by an adult. Saturdays through Jan. 26, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. "Dish" hill & Stanford campus, Directions provided when you register., Stanford. Call 650-323-7333. www.ecomagic.org

PLANTING AT SAN FRANCISCO CREEK Volunteers will plant species like blue-eyed grass, white yarrow and sea lavender. RSVP is required. Sat., Jan. 5, 9 a.m.-noon. Free. Palo Alto Baylands, Palo Alto. Call 510-452-9261 ext. 119. <http://www.savesfbay.org/bayevents>

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/>

■ MORE LISTINGS

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

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INDEX

- **BULLETIN BOARD**
100-199
- **FOR SALE**
200-299
- **KIDS STUFF**
330-399
- **MIND & BODY**
400-499
- **JOBS**
500-599
- **BUSINESS SERVICES**
600-699
- **HOME SERVICES**
700-799
- **FOR RENT/
FOR SALE
REAL ESTATE**
800-899
- **PUBLIC/LEGAL
NOTICES**
995-997

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements
It's a New Year!
Is it time to make some changes? We can help you make decisions that can change your life! Call California Tarot 1-888-367-2725.

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 alt-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)

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GIRLS 12U SOFTBALL TRYOUTS
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HOLIDAY HORSE CAMP.....
Moms, Get Fit!
Need Men Singers
PARENT OF A TEEN???

Scrabble-Bstn Mkt-Mon Evg-Free

140 Lost & Found

Lost Mature Siamese Cat
650-964-0114
Runaway Cat!

145 Non-Profits Needs

Free Cubicles

150 Volunteers

Help the Needy, Cool the Earth!
ALSJCC Community Day of Service
Bipolar Depression Study
Children's Art Docents
DEPRESSION?
feeders needed for cat colonies
Gallery Shop Volunteer
Help a Child Learn to Read
volunteers needed to visit

155 Pets

Desert Lynx kittens for sale - \$200

50 Plus German Shepards Available - Adopt or Foster
G.S. Rescue of No. CA invites you to its Redwood City Adoption Day first Sat. of each month, 11am-2pm, Pet Food Epress, 372 Woodside Plaza. [www. savegsd.org](http://www.savegsd.org) or call 1-866-SAVEGSD

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Lexus 2002 SC430 - \$32,750
Volkswagon 2001 Passat Wagon GLS - \$7500 OBO

210 Garage/Estate Sales

KSA ESTATE SALE, Fri/Sat., 10-5.
50 Crescent x-University Ave. DR: chippendale, mahog. china cab., crystal, china, silver, contemp. rugs, LR: mahog./thr desk, day bed, sofas, oak dinette, TVs, BR: wicker, quilts, linens. See www.ksa2000.com

215 Collectibles & Antiques

LOS ALTOS JAN. USED BOOK SALE
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Sunday Jan 27 12-3 pm \$4 BAG
Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos, Ca. NO EX-LIBRARY, 100% DONATED

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FREE Satellite TV
Pioneer CS-66 3-way Speakers - Best Offer
Sony CMRX100 Analog cellphone - Best Offer

230 Freebies

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FREE MULCH - FREE
Men's Lange ThT Ski Boots - FREE

235 Wanted to Buy

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237 Barter

Quit Smoking Today

240 Furnishings/ Household items

BUFFET PECAN WOOD - \$249.00
display case - \$80
double sided easel - \$30
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245 Miscellaneous

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Redwood City, 4 BR/3.5 BA - \$1,549,950

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County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 24, 2007. (Voice Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2008)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Date of Filing Application: December 18, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are:

KIM SANG CHOL

The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at:

2595 CALIFORNIA ST., STE. C & D

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040-1333

Type of license(s) applied for:

41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE EATING

PLACE

(Voice Jan. 4, 2008)

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

SILICON VALLEY IMPEACHMENT

COALITION

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT

File No. 502636

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Silicon Valley Impeachment

Coalition, San Jose Peace Center, 48

Sth Seventh St., San Jose, CA 95119:

FREDERIC H. DUPERRAULT

500 W. Middlefield

Mountain View, CA 94043

P. JOHN ANDERSON

229 Horizon Ave.

Mountain View, CA 94043

This business is being conducted by an unincorporated association other than a partnership.

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on Jan., 2007.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 30, 2007.

(Voice Dec. 14, 21, 28, 2007 Jan. 4, 2008)

LAUNDRY EXPRESS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT

File No. 502594

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Laundry Express, 549

W. El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA

94040:

FILIPINAS G. DOMINGO

1271 Coronado Dr. #1

Sunnyvale, CA 94086

This business is being conducted by an individual.

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on Nov. 15, 2007.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 29, 2007.

(Voice Dec. 21, 28, 2007, Jan. 4, 11, 2008)

ANNA DESIGN

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT

File No. 503244

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Anna Design, 1551 Lilac

Lane, Mountain View, CA 94043:

ANNA KAMYSSSELIS

1551 Lilac Lane

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 November 20, 2007.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 17, 2007.

(Voice Dec. 28, 2007, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 2008)

KONG AND ASSOCIATES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT

File No. 502726

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Kong and Associates,

2151 Williams Street, Palo Alto, CA

94306:

KATHERINE A. KONG

2151 Williams Street

Palo Alto, CA 94306

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