

Mountain View VOICE

APRIL 4, 2008 VOLUME 16, NO. 13

INSIDE: WEEKEND | PAGE 16

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**Paving
the way**

IN BUSINESS

| P.21

Builders bowing out

BIG PROJECTS ARE PUT OFF AS MARKET SLOWS

By Daniel DeBolt

Market conditions and tight money are causing some builders to shut down large housing projects here, despite relatively firm prices and brisk sales of completed homes.

At least two large developments have been halted or dropped so

far, after the builders were frightened off by negative signs in the housing market. Two others are rumored to face problems.

Just east of Highway 237 near the Sunnyvale border is evidence of the trouble. At 505 E. Evelyn Ave., a maze of driveways makes its way around the huge lot — but leads up to only four model

homes on the corner. The other 147 have yet to be built, and there have been no signs of construction for nearly a year.

Dave Best, the project manager at Shea Homes, denied rumors that Shea was having trouble getting bank loans for the project.

► See **PROJECTS**, page 8



- (1) **Toll Brothers**
100 Mayfield Ave.
- (2) **Regis Homes**
1950 Colony St.
- (3) **Sal Teresi**
291 Evandale Ave.
- (4) **Mozart Development**
Evelyn Ave. and Calderon Ave.
- (5) **Castle Companies**
Calderon Ave. and W. Dana St.
- (6) **Shea Homes**
505 E. Evelyn Ave.

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
ZONING MAP



VERONICA WEBER

Pedro Carbajal (left) is a mentor to his players on and off the field.

Amigos league a kick for local youth

LOCAL DAD PEDRO CARBAJAL WANTED TO PROVIDE A WAY OUT OF GANG LIFE

By Casey Weiss

As community leaders and parents look for ways to keep kids out of gangs and away from violence, many are turning to Pedro Carbajal and his championship soccer team for some answers.

With little more than a bag of soccer balls and plenty of energy, Carbajal, 33, co-founded his own league, the Amigos Soccer League, in 2006. The father of five and a chef by profession, Carbajal said he is working to build discipline, and a sense of community, among his young

players.

"I am trying to prevent a bigger problem," he said. "For a lot of them this all they have."

Carbajal holds soccer practices for dozens of Mountain View boys every Tuesday and Thursday

► See **SOCCER**, page 11

New hurdle for disabled students

EXIT EXAM NOW REQUIRED, BUT EDUCATORS SAY TEST DOES NOT FAIRLY ASSESS STUDENTS' ABILITIES

By Casey Weiss

New state regulations are making it harder for a handful of local high school students to graduate with a diploma this spring.

That's because, for the first time, California students with learning disabilities do not qualify for a high school diploma unless they pass the state exit exam. Before this year, such students were given exemptions which allowed them to receive diplomas upon completion of just the coursework.

After a lawsuit successfully challenged those exemptions, all students of the Class of 2008, including those in the Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District, must pass the math and English exam outright. The students have a total

of six chances to take the test, and the last opportunity for this year's class comes in May.

If they do not pass, they will receive a "certificate of completion," indicating they took a full course of study, but no diploma.

Last year, 63 MVLA students did not pass the test, according to Brigitte Sarraf, associate superintendent of educational services for the high school district. Of those students, 33 were in special education, and 21 qualified for the exemption, she said.

Hilarey Davis, the district's director of special education, said that this year a number of special ed students still must pass the May exam to graduate. The district does not know the exact number, she said, since it is still

"It is discouraging when we see them losing motivation because they are not passing."

HILAREY DAVIS

► See **EXIT EXAM**, page 12

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92.7% Current



We bet you've never seen this headline in any recent media coverage of the real estate market. Yet it is fact—92.7 percent of all mortgages in the United States are current. What's more, the "sub-prime mortgage crisis" refers to a tiny portion of sub-prime mortgages. Sub-prime mortgages represent only a fraction of all mortgages—and the vast majority of these are current.

- Percent of U.S. mortgages that are current 92.7%
- Percent of U.S. mortgages that are sub-prime 13.2%
- Percent of sub-prime mortgages that are current 76.8%

Source: Mortgage Bankers Association, 3Q07 Report

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* Source: Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation

Historical performance and data provided is not necessarily an indication of future performance.

Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.

Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Nicole Baldocchi.

When you were in school, what did you do for spring break?



"I used to go skiing."
Jacob Bignert, Mountain View



"I went to New Orleans for Mardi Gras once."
Sara Buckwitz, Mountain View



"I went skiing."
Chris Barsi, Los Altos



"Nothing special."
Vanessa Ciranek, Palo Alto



"I mostly stayed around my university."
Tyler Schnoebelen, San Francisco

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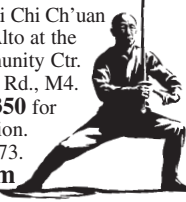


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LocalNews

■ CRIMEWATCH

GRAND THEFT, 1600 BLOCK AMPHITHEATRE PARKWAY, 3/26

Some electronic equipment was stolen from Google on an unknown date sometime recently. There was no break-in; the equipment was stolen during business hours.

arrested. Since he was not the person on the ID, he was charged with identity theft.

ROBBERY, LEONG DRIVE/WALKER DRIVE

Two men approached a man from behind, flashed handguns, and robbed him of cash and his cell phone. They were last seen running southbound on Moffett Boulevard toward the Highway 85 off-ramp.

Both men were described as black, in their 20s, about six feet tall. One man weighed 150 to 160 pounds, had short black hair, a black hooded sweatshirt and black pants. The other had a medium build, a black hooded sweatshirt, and faded blue denim pants.

FORGERY, 100 BLOCK N. RENGSTORFF AVE., 3/28

An employee called the police to report someone's attempt to cash a check with insufficient funds. The man, who also had a counterfeit or forged California ID card, was

■ POLICE LOG

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE
 1500 Block Spring St., 3/25

AUTO BURGLARY
 2400 Block Garcia Ave., 3/25
 San Antonio Road/Terminal Boulevard, 3/25
 750 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 3/26
 310 Block Escuela Ave., 3/26
 1500 Block Canna Ct., 3/26
 2000 Block Latham St., 3/26
 700 Block Continental Circle, 3/27
 300 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 3/27
 2000 Block Sterlin Ct., 3/29
 2600 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 3/29
 2100 Block W. Middlefield Rd., 3/30
 600 Block Castro St., 3/31

BATTERY
 500 Block Franklin St., 3/26
 600 Block Mariposa Ave., 3/31

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY
 120 Block Castro St., 3/26
 1000 Block Grant Rd., 3/27
 2200 Block California St., 3/28
 300 Block N. Bernardo Ave., 3/31

DISORDERLY CONDUCT
 California Street/Showers Drive, 3/25
 Castro Street/W. Dana Street, 3/26
 1100 Block California St., 3/28
 200 Block Castro St., 3/29

DISTURBANCE
 Chili's, 3/27
 2500 Block California St., 3/29

FORGERY
 100 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 3/28

GRAND THEFT
 3500 Truman Ave., 3/25
 1600 Block Amphitheatre Parkway, 3/26
 500 Block S. Rengstorff Ave., 3/27
 1700 Block W. El Camino Real, 3/29
 2400 Block Grant Rd., 3/29
 300 Block Easy St., 3/30

PETTY THEFT
 Kragen Auto Parts - California Street, 3/26
 Rite Aid - Grant Road, 3/26
 Library, 3/27
 500 Block Franklin St., 3/27
 1400 Block Plymouth St., 3/27
 Beverages and More, 3/28
 900 Block Mountain View Ave., 3/29
 1600 Block Villa St., 3/29
 Mervyn's Dept. Store, 3/29
 500 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 3/30
 Mountain View High School, 3/31
 1900 Block Latham St., 3/31

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
 1000 Block W. El Camino Real, 3/29

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY
 1600 Block Villa St., 3/26
 2000 Block California St., 3/30

ROBBERY
 Leong Drive/Walker Drive, 3/29
 1400 Block Plymouth St., 3/30

STOLEN VEHICLE
 900 Block Boranda Ave., 3/26
 200 Block Evandale Ave., 3/29
 500 Block S. Rengstorff Ave., 3/30
 500 Block Palo Alto Ave., 3/31
 2200 Block California St., 3/31



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WHO IS RADA FORD?
 MOUNTAIN VIEW RED CROSS VOLUNTEER
 AIDS MIDWEST FLOOD VICTIMS

[Mtn. View, CA] March, 2008—

Rada Ford and her husband, John, were expecting family for Easter at their home in Mountain View but instead she went to Illinois as a Red Cross volunteer to help people whose homes have been inundated by flood waters.

Rada, a retired nurse, a disaster services volunteer, and a wife of 52 years. She was deployed to Little Egypt, Illinois to serve on the Red Cross response team. On a Red Cross disaster operation, nurses assess the medical needs of people affected by the disaster and make referrals for treatment. They may also recommend Red Cross replacement of medicines and eyeglasses.

Besides missing the holiday with family, Rada's deployment likely means that she and John won't be together on March 31, their wedding anniversary.

Rada has been on eight other disaster relief operations, including last autumn's wildfires in Southern California. There is no convenient time for a disaster to occur, and Rada is willing and ready for whenever she can help! All John



Ford can do when these needs arise is to say to his wife... "Which suitcase do you need?"

The Palo Alto Area Red Cross has 150 volunteers trained who are ready to drop everything and go where they are needed. Jessica Sundin, director of Emergency Services at PAARC says "Rada is one of those who set aside their personal lives for several weeks to help strangers who have been driven from their homes by disaster."

You can learn more about your local Palo Alto Red Cross online at www.PAARC.org

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Dance the Nights away

By Don Frances

KATHRYNKILNER just loves to dance. That's why the Mountain View High graduate became co-artistic director of Cardinal Ballet at Stanford University, where she is also a senior majoring in history and human biology (with a minor in dance).

This Friday and Saturday, a great deal of hard work on Kilner's part will come to fruition in the form of "Urban Nights Dance Fusion," a very large and collaborative dance show for which she is a producer, promoter, choreographer and performer.

No small production, "Urban Nights" features 150 students performing a variety dance styles. That's a lot of twinkle toes.

Besides choreographing the opening and closing numbers for the show, "I am performing in four pieces total," she said. "One is an adaptation of an excerpt from Sleeping Beauty, one is choreographed by a student in Cardinal Ballet, one is new work by Lawrence Pech commissioned by Cardinal Ballet, and the last is my own choreography titled 'Plaid.'"

The event is April 4 and 5 at 8 p.m. in Stanford's Dinkelspiel Auditorium. Admission is \$10 (free if you're a Stanford student), and tickets are available at the door. For more, call (520) 240-5537 or visit www.stanford.edu/group/cardinalballet.

► See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 6

Tunnel time

STEVENS CREEK TRAIL NOW RUNS UNDER EL CAMINO REAL

By Daniel DeBolt

For nearly a year, workers burrowed their way beneath El Camino Real, while 4,000 cars barreled by overhead every hour.

Now their work is all but complete, and on Saturday, April 12, the city will hold a ceremony to dedicate the southernmost leg of the Stevens Creek Trail, which now goes from Shoreline Park to the south side of El Camino Real.

Engineer Bob Kagiyama said the \$3.5 million project would not have happened without the city's aggressive efforts to get over \$2 million in grant funding. He added that the city was lucky to have a good contractor in Gordon N. Ball, Inc. of Alamo, Calif.

The biggest challenge was moving numerous utility lines, most of which were buried under El Camino Real and are now 18 feet below the pavement. Also, two rundown residential buildings had to be demolished at the end of Yuba Drive.

Among its features, the tunnel has a set of thick glass skylights laid in the middle of El Camino,



DAVID CENZER

City workers are doing the last touch ups by cleaning off the Connecticut Blue Stone of the new tunnel in Mountain View before the opening ceremony in two weeks.

providing natural light at the midway point.

Last Friday, workers were tiling the mouth of the tunnel and putting the final touches on the 1,700-foot extension from Yuba Drive, the trail's former endpoint. The extension will be lined with 17 varieties of plants

native to the Stevens Creek watershed.

This summer the city hopes to begin work on the next extension, which will continue the trail past the tunnel, through 15 acres of open space alongside

► See **TUNNEL**, page 7

College district ready to build

STATE SUPREME COURT ENDS LAWSUIT OVER FOOTHILL-DE ANZA'S MEASURE C

By Casey Weiss

After a two-year legal battle over Measure C, the Foothill-De Anza Community College District can finally move ahead to sell bonds that will fund renovation and construction of campus buildings and update technology.

Local voters passed Measure C in 2006, allotting the district, which includes nearby Foothill College and De Anza Community College in Cupertino, more than \$490 million to upgrade and repair the campuses.

But a lawsuit over the legitimacy of the bonds has prevented the district from using the funds. The state Supreme Court ended the case for good last month when it refused to review an appeals court ruling, which said the district complied with bond regulations.

"It's been 19 long months responding to the court appeals, but it's been worth it," Chancellor Martha Kanter said.

South Bay residents Aaron Katz

► See **FOOTHILL**, page 10

Neighbors get their first peek at Dwell Home

By Daniel DeBolt

As the public got its first look inside the Dwell Home — the cutting edge, eco friendly new home on Mountain View Avenue that has stirred more talk in Mountain View than any one home in recent memory — a local leader emphasized the neighborhood's true priority.

The bottom line, said Mike Groethe, founder of the Shoreline West Neighborhood Association, is that the neighborhood should make the residents of the

new home feel welcome.


"I was a bit surprised by the design features," he said, but "it's a case of what's done is done. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

Builders of the Dwell Home, a prefabricated two-story house at 515 Mountain View Ave., touted its environmentally friendly features during a four-day open house last week. And though many neighbors have complained loudly about its large and boxy design, the structure was pas-

► See **DWELL**, page 7



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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Beautiful swallowtail



"This beautiful swallowtail definitely is a reminder that spring is here!" wrote Lisa Dunton of Space Park Way. "I spotted the swallowtail as I was on my Sunday morning walk at Shoreline Park." If you have a photo taken around town which you'd like published in the Voice, please send it (as a jpg attachment) to editor@mv-voice.com.

EDITOR'S DESK

► Continued from page 5

"AS YOU PROBABLY know, your local Red Cross is not funded by the federal government — although chartered by Congress since 1916 to respond to disasters — nor by the national Red Cross."

Instead, noted Trish Bubenik, executive director of the Red Cross' Palo Alto Area Chapter, "The chapter is supported every year by the generosity of members of our communities."

That's why on Thursday the chapter was holding its first-ever

"Your Red Cross in Action Community Breakfast," described as "a one-hour, free event at the Crowne Plaza Cabana in Palo Alto for 250 people."

I hope this event, which took place after the Voice went to press, was a great success — so much so that it becomes a lucrative yearly tradition.

THOUGH IT MADE IT on our Web site, nowhere in print yet have we mentioned the imminent return of Casa SAY. Allow me to correct that oversight.

The North County's only youth shelter, located at 509 View Street, had closed last year due to lack of funds. But recently the

City Council cleared the way for its takeover by the Bill Wilson Center, a countywide youth advocacy group.

The new operators will have an "open door" policy at 509 View, and estimate that 80 to 125 runaways every year could use its shelter.

"The relationship between Casa SAY and the police department has always been excellent," said council member Nick Galiotto on March 4. "I can't speak too strongly in support of this opportunity." ■

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



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DWELL

► Continued from page 5

sionately defended last Thursday by prefab house expert Michael Sylvester.

"I have no doubt this is the most energy efficient home in the neighborhood," Sylvester said, adding that it was probably twice as energy efficient as an average home.

Sylvester was hired as a consultant by Dwell magazine, which has partnered with a prefab builder called Empyrean to build and promote the house and more than a dozen others like it. The Mountain View Dwell Home is the only one in a neighborhood this dense, and only the second one in the Bay Area.

Architecturally, Sylvester focused on the inside of the home, pointing to the natural light, the elegant spaces and a space halfway up the staircase that had a window and a bench for lounging. These subtle nuances are "the touch of a well qualified architect," he said, adding that most homes are built by builders who aren't considered professional architects.

The Dwell Home's interior notwithstanding, some neighbors say it just doesn't fit into the surrounding neighborhood. It replaced a 1908 house that the neighbors were disappointed to see demolished.

Jonathan Clarke, a resident of the same block of Mountain View Avenue, says he hopes it doesn't become a trend. He pointed out that the Dwell Home used just about every inch of

space on the lot allowed by the city.

"The only real concern I have is there is no daylight plane type of restrictions in Mountain View in terms of impacting adjacent property," he said. The city's building codes are "a little bit antiquated," he said, "you can build a 28-foot wall seven feet from the property line and have an unbroken facade in the front."

But Clarke acknowledged that not much could be done about the house's style.

"Unless you are living in Disneyland, you can't dictate style," he said. "But the house would look like fine if it was a third smaller."

In Japan, prefab structures make up a reported 18 percent of buildings, and some are considered to be premium homes. Some predict that in the U.S. prefab homes will jump in popularity, mainly because they are more efficient and cost effective to build.

The "carbon footprint" during construction is less, Sylvester says, because they are built in a factory with fewer trips to and from the construction site by workers.

Sylvester said prefab house ownership requires bravery, as the strange house faces numerous obstacles when prospective owners explain their plans to bank loan officers and, later, city building inspectors.

The "conservative mentality" he said, "really holds us back." ▀

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

TUNNEL

► Continued from page 5

Highway 85, to a bridge at Sleeper Avenue, creating another neighborhood access point. Until then, the trail ends at the south side of the tunnel, where a path directs pedestrians onto El Camino.

The April 12 ribbon cutting is scheduled for 10 a.m. Participants are encouraged to park cars at Landels Elementary School and walk or bike to the dedication, which begins at the Yuba Drive trailhead. There will be a short walk to the tunnel for a ceremony, refreshments and entertainment. ▀

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Community Health Education Programs

April 2008

Events and Lectures

What the Traveler Needs to Know
Tuesday, April 8, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Gary Fujimoto, M.D., PAMF Travel Medicine

This talk will focus on food and sanitation in some overseas travel destinations, the latest vaccination recommendations and requirements, avian influenza and other emerging infectious diseases, malaria prevention, travelers' diarrhea and jet lag.

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

Ablation and Device Therapy for Heart Rhythm Abnormalities
Tuesday, April 22, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Sung Chun, M.D, Girish Narayan, M.D. and Michelle Gould, R.N., PAMF Cardiology

The panel will discuss different ways to manage and treat heart rhythm disturbances.

Classes

Learning About Heart Failure, Wednesday, April 9, 2:30 - 4 p.m.
This class, taught by a cardiology nurse practitioner, discusses medications used in treatment, dietary requirements, weight monitoring, self-care, activity guidelines, and symptom recognition and reporting, and more.

Taking Charge of Your Body, Mondays, April 14 - May 19, 6 - 8 p.m.
A six-week course focusing on healthy living and managing your lifestyle through exercise and healthful eating.

What You Need to Know About Warfarin, Wednesday, April 23, 6 - 8 p.m.
A PAMF pharmacist will discuss what warfarin is, why you are taking it and how you can help yourself.

Supermarket Tour, Tuesday, April 29, 2 - 4 p.m.
Learn techniques for making healthier food choices in a local supermarket with dietitian Karen Ross, M.S., R.D.

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** (April 2, 16 & 30)

For information on class fees and to register, call the Education Division at 650-853-2960.

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4 to 6 pm
RSVP to (650) 289-5494
Registration required.

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PROJECTS

▶ Continued from page 1

"It's not that we don't have the money to build it, we just have decided not to put our efforts in that particular project," he said. "When we determine the market has come back and it makes sense to build, we will continue."

By comparison, another large project that started at the same time as the Shea development is selling quite well at 1950 Colony Street, east of downtown, where 108 row houses are being sold by Regis Homes.

The difference may be all about location. Real estate broker Nick French says homes are still selling well in the city's nicer neighborhoods, like Monta Loma, Cuesta Park and Waverly Park.

Single family home prices have dropped in Mountain View over the last year, from just over \$1 million to \$963,000. Statewide,

prices have dropped 26 percent, according to the California Association of Realtors.

"Talk about disparity between us and them," French said, comparing Mountain View to the rest of the state. "That's not us."

Displaced auto shops

Mozart Development, which operates as Classic Communities, recently withdrew its application for a 96-home project at Evelyn and Calderon avenues at Abate's Industrial Square — but not before several auto shops at that location were evicted to make way for the project.

City staff said the developer gave two reasons for its withdrawal: the housing market cooling, and remarks from certain City Council members who said they wanted a lower density project. Scott Ward of Classic Communities declined to comment.

Classic Communities may eventually re-apply to build

housing on the site, which is zoned residential.

Some of the auto shops found new places after being asked to leave last year, but the developer is now leasing spaces again at Abate's Industrial Square.

City officials were concerned that the market trouble might also knock out 39 row homes under construction next to Landels Elementary School. The builder, Castle Companies, told city officials that the project could be stopped if pre-sales did not do well. But major construction appears to be continuing.

Sales still brisk

There are fewer houses on the market than in previous years, French said, but those that do sell are continuing to sell faster than houses in surrounding cities.

Thomas Koger, a small developer building three homes on the corner of Murlagan Avenue and Annie Laurie Street, has

also noticed the trend. Housing development is "an expensive game," he said, but still worth pursuing in Mountain View.

"We see houses that are on the market that don't seem to be there that long," he said. He added that having numerous jobs available nearby at Google and Microsoft doesn't hurt either.

Koger says he expects a profit of between \$200,000 and \$700,000 for his Annie Laurie project, one of four small developments he is working on in Mountain View. He said he had to live in the house recently demolished on Annie Laurie Avenue for three years to gain equity for a development loan. The city also wanted over \$200,000 in fees for the project. If he had to build one less house on the lot, it would not have been viable, he said.

A few blocks away at 291 Evandale Ave. is the 64-unit Summer Hill Apartments, which is slated for demolition soon to make way

for 144 condos. It has remained fenced off and empty, however. A rumor is circulating at City Hall and among developers that developer Sal Teresi may be having a hard time getting a loan for the project, which forced about 250 low-income tenants to relocate last year. The vacant site was recently used for police training.

Teresi was not immediately available for comment.

Bubble to blame

Like most other market watchers, real estate broker French traces today's problems to the subprime loans given out by banks in recent years, which ultimately led to foreclosures all over the country.

"The reality is people were buying houses that they shouldn't have been," French said. With more restrictions on current loans, the few who do qualify can be "picky," he said.

This means that high quality homes are still "flying off the shelf," French said, but homes that may be below par are on the market longer.

Council member Jac Siegel said developers are also facing "much stricter requirements on financing — it's a big issue."

But the market isn't slowing down plans for over 400 units at 100 Mayfield Ave., said Jo Price of Toll Brothers, who on Monday was preparing to deliver a check for \$60,000 in fees to the city.

The Mayfield project is scheduled for final City Council approvals this year. This is despite the fact that Toll Brothers is having troubles across the country, which has caused its stock price to fall.

"Toll has a lot of cash," Price said. "In this market today that goes a long way. We have a lot more cash than other builders out there." ▀

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

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**JOHN BRENT**

John Joseph Brent passed into Jesus' arms on March 22, 2008, after a lengthy illness.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, 2008 in St. Simon Church, 1860 Grant Rd, Los Altos, CA (650) 967-8311.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: Pathways Hospice Foundation, 585 N. Mary Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085 (800) 753-3071.

Thank you so very much to all of you who touched our lives, for your caring and compassion.

OBITUARY

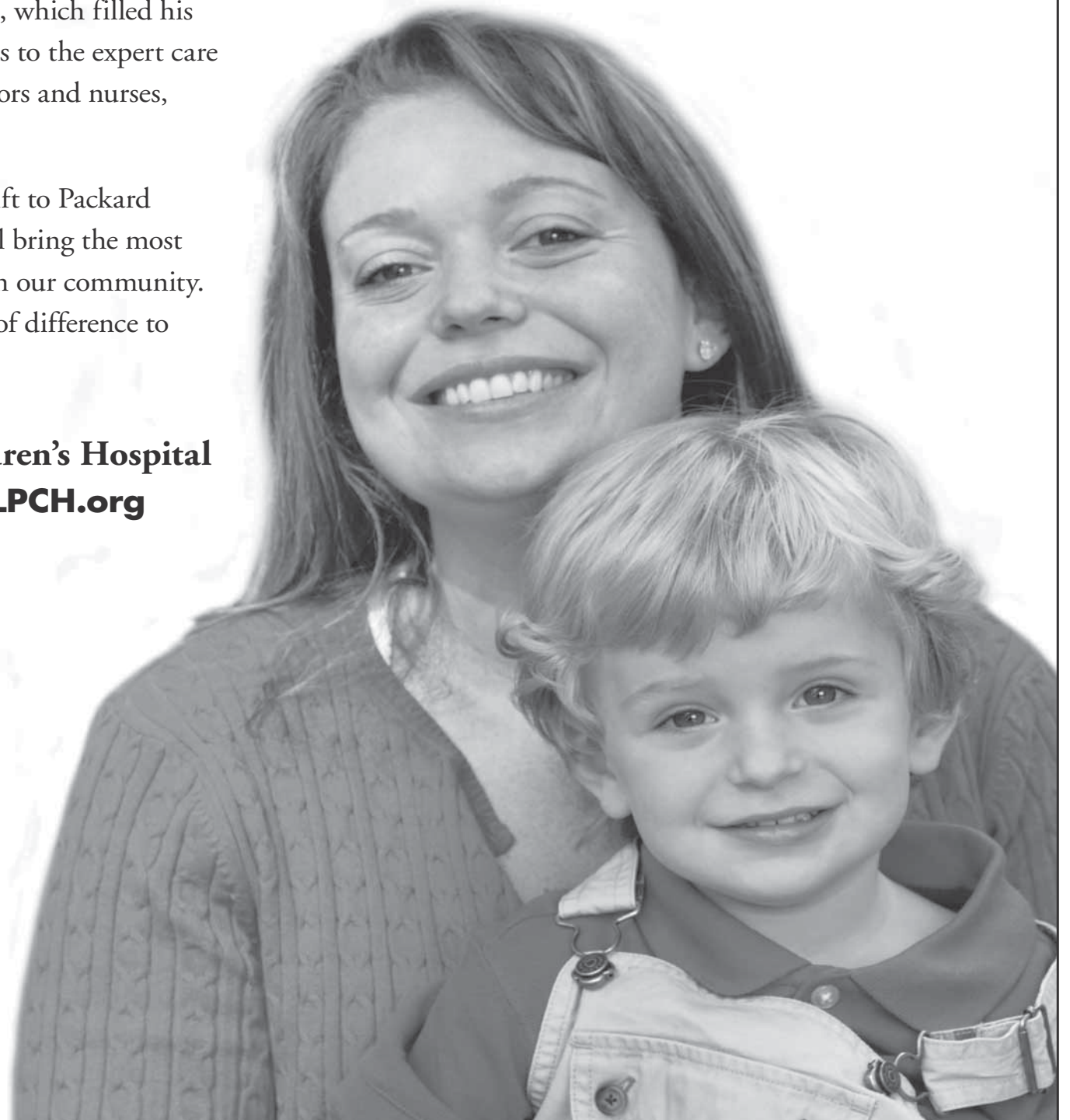
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Girls go digital for a day

EVENT ORGANIZERS HOPE TO DRAW MORE FEMALE STUDENTS INTO HIGH-TECH FIELDS

By Casey Weiss

Approximately 70 junior and senior girls from Mountain View, Alta Vista, East Palo Alto and Pioneer high schools came to the Microsoft campus last week to learn more about what the technology sector can do for them.

The free conference, dubbed "DigiGirlz," was designed to draw more young women into engineering, computer programming and other high-tech fields.

Panelists at the event told the young students that they can use the Internet as a tool to pursue any profession or passion — even race car driving — and Microsoft

employees informed them of opportunities for women in the tech sector. The day ended with a keynote speech by state chief information officer Teri Takai.

The students started the conference, held last Tuesday, with a panel discussion on the Internet and technology held by Yahoo and Google employees and founders, local bloggers, high-tech managers and others. The panel encouraged the local students not to be intimidated by the male-dominated field.

Other programs included a networking lunch with Microsoft employees and a software overview session. ▀

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com

FOOTHILL

► Continued from page 5

and Melvin Emerich argued that Measure C did not meet legal requirements under state Proposition 39 to qualify as a school bond measure, which must pass with a 55 percent approval rate. They said Measure C, which was approved by 65.6 percent, needed to pass with a two-thirds approval rate, or 66.7 percent.

Katz, who has unsuccessfully sued the Mountain View Whisman School District, El Camino Hospital District and other local districts over tax measures, lost the case in December 2006. He was also defeated in appeals court the following year. The California Supreme Court finished the district's legal battle, and also set a precedent for other California community colleges wanting to pass school bond measures under Proposition 39.

"The appellate decision obtained by Foothill-De Anza will now benefit all California school districts," said the college district's attorney, John Shupe, in a Foothill-De Anza press release. "Trial courts will now be able to dispose of meritless claims without protracted litigation."

Although the district put a majority of bond funds in escrow, the lawsuit still cost Foothill-De Anza between \$100,000 and \$300,000, according to district spokeswoman Becky Bartindale, who says administrators are not sure of the exact number. Interest earnings from the escrow fund have helped cover costs from construction delays.

"We also plan to build a new science center at Foothill College."

MARTHA KANTER

While waiting for the lawsuit to end, district staff planned renovations and construction projects, and are now ready to begin the upgrades using the freed-up funds. Some of the more urgent projects will begin this summer, with Foothill College renovating classrooms that date back to the 1950s.

"We kept going, so once we got the green light, we could proceed without more loss of time," said Foothill president Judy Miner.

An independent bond oversight

committee, appointed by the district board of trustees, will review costs of bond projects and oversee the funds.

Two major bond projects are still being designed: the mediated learning center at De Anza and the new physical sciences building at Foothill. A \$50 million North Slope science center will replace Foothill's 40-year-old science facilities, providing students and staff with updated chemistry and physics labs. The learning center at De Anza, which is expected to cost \$36 million, will house office space and classrooms for anthropology, technology resources, professional development for faculty and staff, and "distance learning."

"We also plan to build a new science center at Foothill College because we've been teaching chemistry in 50-year old labs that can no longer be salvaged," Kanter said.

In the meantime, members of the district are still celebrating the end of their lawsuit.

"We are looking forward to inviting the community to our ground-breaking ceremony in the months ahead," Kanter said. ▀

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com

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SOCCER

► Continued from page 1

at Rengstorff Park. The teams — there are four at Rengstorff alone, with a total of 72 players ranging in age from 7 to 14 — travel to San Jose to compete, since they have no official field in Mountain View.

Carbajal, who has an athletic build and warm smile, doesn't have much soccer experience himself. But through countless laps, sit-ups and push-ups, he is teaching the boys the merits of hard work: One of his teams has already won two championships.

Carbajal works with the younger players (including two of his own sons, ages 7 and 11), while Miguel Maciel coaches the older teams. A former semi-pro player from Mexico also helps coach the older players.

In between laps and scrimmages, Carbajal talks to the players about drugs, gangs and school.

In between laps and scrimmages, Carbajal talks to the players about drugs, gangs and school.

He is active in local youth services — including the Mountain View Whisman School District's English Learners Advisory Committee and the Mountain View Community Action League — and makes sure the players are paying attention in class. Maciel even makes his players run laps or sit out of games if they have anything below a C grade point average.

The guidance provided on the soccer field may be why players have started calling Carbajal "Don Pedro," or Uncle Pedro. This community, he said, is why they have won two championships, and why he keeps coming back.

Carbajal said that as a teenager he was easily bored, and to kill time he would play pranks on his neighbors. But these days, boredom and recklessness lead middle school-aged boys into drugs and gangs.

Last week one of his players was offered drugs at school, Carbajal said, but he was able to turn them down because of previous discussions on the soccer field.

Unlike other local leagues, there are no try-outs, and the players do not have to travel very far to practice — many live in the apartments behind Rengstorff Park, a Surenos stomping ground.

Carbajal noted that many fathers are active in their sons' practices, and help run drills, among other things.

"It is hard to get males involved in the kids' education," he said. "But here, they are involved."

The \$50 league and uniform fees are unaffordable for about 30 percent of his players, Carbajal says, and to help cover the difference he has obtained some sponsorships from Peninsula Daycare Center and his employer, Guckenheimer Enterprise.

But it costs over \$7,000 to run the league each year, and Carbajal is working with local schools and nonprofits to receive more funding. He sometimes pays players' fees out of his own pocket.

"Not having enough money is not a good enough reason for them not to join," Carbajal said. "If you want to play, you can play." Even so, he said, "We do need a lot. We need money, we need fields and we need equipment."

He mentioned one player whose parents recently separated, and whose father started using drugs. Without the league, he said, this player "would be devastated."

Many of his players have older siblings already involved in gangs in Mountain View, and they are easily susceptible to the gang culture. One of them "told me

the only way to get out of a gang is sports or get married," Carbajal said. "He is always telling his brother to just stay here." ■

E-mail Casey Weiss at cweiss@mv-voice.com

■ INFORMATION

Those interested in joining the league are invited to show up at the Rengstorff Park soccer field on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 4 and 6 p.m. To donate to the Amigos Soccer League, contact Pedro Carbajal at (650) 669-1871.

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Welcome to Landelsburg

FIFTH GRADERS REENACT COLONIAL LIFE

By Casey Weiss.

Students at Landels Elementary School got a taste of colonial life last week, complete with blacksmiths, bonnets and debates over taxation and representation.

As part of their history class, fifth graders turned the auditorium into "Landelsburg" a colonial village with wig shops, blacksmiths, bakeries and millineries.

Girls wore aprons and dresses, and the boys dressed in collared shirts and black shoes, performing traditional dances and short skits about life in 1775 for their peers,

parents and teachers.

"We got to experience the colonists and their hardships," said student Dahlia Wilkes, who dressed as a woman working in a millinery, or hat shop.

The reenactment was both cultural and historical lesson, with some actors discussing politics and others depicting everyday lives. In preparation, the fifth graders researched everyday life, food, dress and culture of the period, and wrote a report about a fictional character living in 1775.

Fifth grade teachers Arlene Bautista, Sharri Wiley and Pat

Allan helped to organize the skits, including a military march and a conversation among elite women over tea.

The students even provided audience members with a colonial publication, the *Landelsburg Gazette*.

"Friends, as a small landowner, paying taxes is a burden," one a politician told the audience. "It is time for the colonies to react."

Now that they have spent the last four months rehearsing and reliving the 18th century, the students agreed it will be hard to forget about colonial life and the Revolution. And some said



MARTHA WRIGHT

In the apothecary: George Graham, Michael Alexander, Jenny Alvarado, Haley Walker, Sharon Wachuka, Wendy Change and Darien Kim.

they are more grateful for the luxuries of modern life.

"I bet the [shoes] felt really

uncomfortable because you made them out of wood," Jordan Rumohr said. ▣

EXIT EXAM

► Continued from page 1

waiting for results from the March exit exam.

Davis worries the test does not fairly assess students. Learning disabilities often prevent them from solving math problems or writing analytical essays on the exam,

she said, but "These students are capable in many, many ways."

Although they can retake the exam even after their graduation date, and they can still go to trade schools and community colleges with a certificate of completion, the test results may discourage students from continuing their studies, Davis said.

"The only door that is closed is

going directly to a four-year school," she said. "We are more worried about motivation. It is discouraging when we see them losing motivation because they are not passing."

Even as the number of special ed students in the district steadily increases, staff is working with them on remedial math and English in preparation for the tests. The district also has one-on-one tutoring for the

students to help them with subjects essential to the exam.

"We work really hard with our students in remedial math and reading," Davis said.

Students with disabilities, both mental and physical, can apply to the board of trustees for modifications, such as a calculator or extended test time. But administrators say this is not enough for some.

Davis hopes students and future employers both understand that the certificate verifies that the student took a full course of study.

"I think the state has done a poor job in educating the public," she said. "They [the students] have completed all their regular classes. ... One will hope the employers understand they have achieved." ▣



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE CALL FOR PUBLIC INPUT

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Open mic meeting, **Monday April 21st**, 6pm-8:30pm
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City of Mountain View, Attn: Environmental Sustainability Task Force
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- YOUR LETTERS
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Editorial

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Staff Writers Daniel DeBolt, Casey Weiss

Intern Nicole Baldocchi

Contributors Andrew Doerschuk, Angela Hey, Sheila Himmel, Forrest Linebarger, Jennifer Pence, Elaine Rowland

Photographers Norbert von der Groeben, Marjan Sadoughi

Design & Production

Design Director Raul Perez

Designers Linda Atilano, Laura Don, Eric Kinnaird, Joanne Lee, Gail Thoreson, Gary Vennarucci

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Member, Mountain View Chamber of Commerce

■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, www.MountainViewOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

A true headquarters for Day Worker Center

In a burst of newfound cooperation, Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills all have agreed to contribute resources — in their case dollars, in our case property — to help the Day Worker Center establish a new home in a building at 117 Escuela Ave.

The fact that Los Altos and Los Altos Hills moved so quickly to help the center reach its \$350,000 goal serves as acknowledgment that these workers are a resource used by residents of all three communities, which means we all bear responsibility for getting them settled in a permanent space.

Los Altos Hills made its offer contingent on whether Mountain View and

Los Altos give money at a similar, population-based ratio. So far, only Los Altos has agreed to do so, and we hope Mountain View will follow suit.

Besides purchase of the building, there are other hurdles to clear for the Day Worker Center. A zoning change is needed for the abandoned building, which once housed a dry cleaner. And supporters estimate another \$350,000 will be needed to renovate the space.

Whatever its final shape, officials must be happy with the location, just two blocks from the center's old site at California Street and Escuela Avenue. The demand for workers had slowed somewhat at the Trinity United Method-

ist Church on Hope and Mercy streets, a temporary location only a block from Castro Street. But recently, say managers at the worker center, demand has increased, with 10 percent more workers going out on jobs lately.

Owning its own building will allow the center to focus on placing workers and helping them master English language skills so they can be more productive. It will also finally give them a space of their own after being housed in so many temporary locations over the last few years. The permanent location will be a tremendous help to workers who have no other choice than to take a temporary job arranged by the center.

■ LETTERS

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

SETTING RECORD STRAIGHT ON WALKABILITY ARTICLE

Editor:

I'd like to provide a slight correction to the March 21 article covering the recent walkability event at the Community Center ("Walkability workshop perambulates Rengstorff").

Mayor Tom Means did not cross Rengstorff Avenue at Central Expressway, where train crossings are indeed a hazard. Rather, he crossed Rengstorff at Crisanto Avenue, which is just short of Central.

As noted during the event, this is a rather dicey intersection, and pedestrians are put very much at risk as they cross back and forth with traffic negotiating confusing left turn signs, rail crossings and unclear rights of way. As many in the neighborhood shop at the Mi Pueblo store across from the Community Center at that crosswalk (the store has fewer than 10 parking spaces, and a number of patrons get there by foot in any case), your readers should be aware of safety issues at that spot above and beyond those that exist at Central.

The event organizers also note that, to give credit where it's due, five students in the Leadership Mountain View class this year put together the workshop as part of their community leadership project.

Finally, the Google Group, as

cited in the article, is actually LMV Walkability Group Project (<http://groups.google.com/group/lmv-walkability-group-project>).

Bruce England
Whisman Station Drive

SCIENTOLOGY CRITICS LOOKING FOR SCAPEGOATS

Editor:

I read your March 21 article "Scientology center draws downtown protest," and as a Scientologist for more than 20 years, I wanted to comment.

The idea that Scientology "splits

up families" is ridiculous. The truth is, there are people who don't want to take responsibility for their part in breaking up their family and therefore like to have an excuse or a scapegoat.

It might make them feel better but it doesn't make it the truth. Really it is a continuation of the very same behavior that caused their spouse to divorce them or their family to turn their backs until they learn to control their offensive behavior.

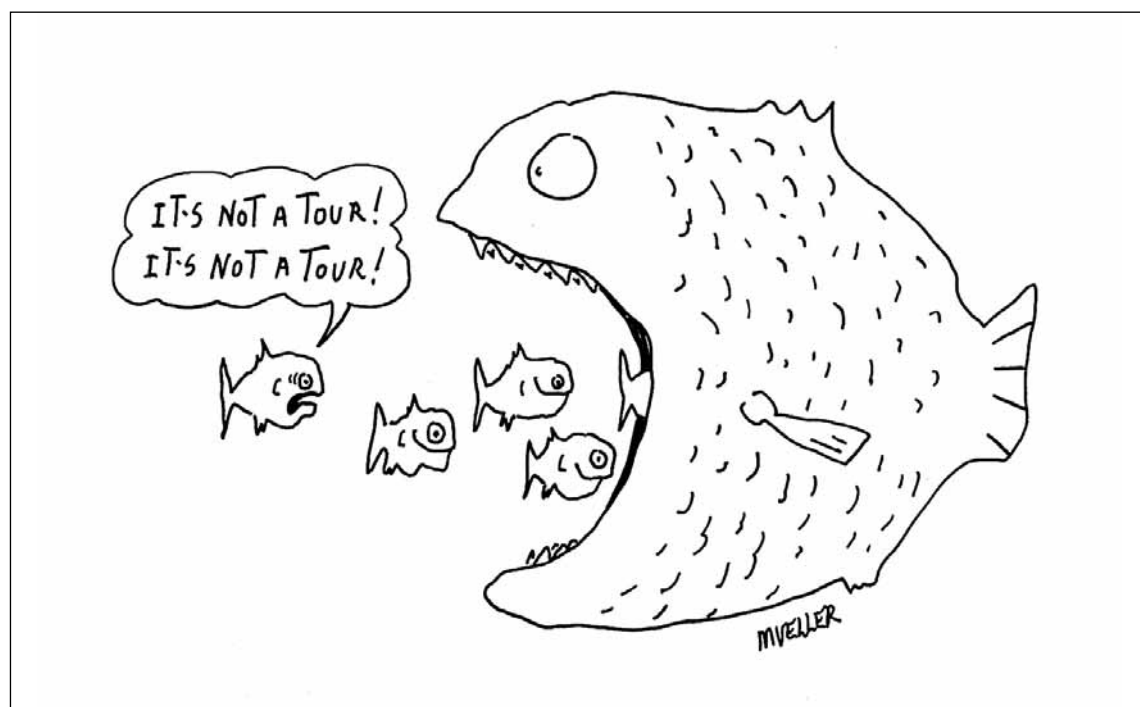
Scientology's practices provide tools to better communication and improve understanding in our

families, strengthening the family unit. I have experienced this personally and have witnessed this in many other families.

I recommend that your readers visit the Church of Scientology Life Improvement Center on Castro Street to find out for themselves what Scientology is really about. Or go to the Mountain View library and read a book by L. Ron Hubbard.

Vikki Petersen
Sunnyvale

► See **LETTERS**, page 14



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Viewpoint

■ GUEST OPINION

Where there's a will, there is opportunity

THE DAY WORKER
CENTER IS WORTHY OF
OUR SUPPORT, FISCAL
AND OTHERWISE

By Oscar Garcia

The City Council made the right decision to move forward with discussions regarding the Day Worker Center.

The worker center is a safe hub where workers and employers come together in a dignified manner to negotiate employment. Through the leadership of Maria Marroquin, whose own story embodies the struggles and attainment of the American dream, and with the help of other community volunteers, the center also provides English classes and many other services to its clients.

In its short history, the center has experienced some of the same anti-immigrant sentiments that Polish, German, Irish, Jewish, Chinese, Fili-

pino, Japanese and Mexican immigrants endured in the past, as new immigrant groups weave themselves into the multi-ethnic fabric that makes up our country.

There will be some who will attempt to inject poison into this debate by bringing up the issue of illegal immigrants. To

need to continue to be fiscally prudent. Yet, where there is a will, there is an opportunity. By building the water reservoir underneath the track and field at Graham Middle School, for example, the city proved that it can work with multiple agencies to accomplish a common goal.

Today our city is in a period of time in which there is much collaboration among city government, schools, businesses, nonprofits and other organizations. I hope that our current council will also move from collaboration to transformation. The men and women of the Day Worker Center are not here to ask for a handout, but rather a hand up.

I would hope that Mountain View and surrounding communities can say to the center: We can. We will. We must. And we did!

Oscar Garcia is president of Mesa de la Comunidad. He lives on Mountain View Avenue.

*They are not
here to ask for a
handout, but
rather a hand up.*

both critics and supporters, I remind you that on Nov. 4, 2008 we will have an opportunity to express our views at a national level.

I realize that our city, like other cities, sees a dark economic cloud on the horizon. And the council and city staff

LETTERS

► Continued from page 13

WHY GIVE CREDIBILITY TO MASKED PROTESTERS?

Editor:

I live in Mountain View, am African-American, a happily married mother of three and have been a Scientologist for 19 years.

I was disappointed to see the *Voice* giving credibility to individuals hiding behind masks. The pictures of these masked individuals holding signs scream "Klu Klux Klan."

As a participant in many civil rights protests I have learned to be very wary of masked protesters. My experience is that they are not who they say and they must hide their identities because their agenda supports crimes. They hope to receive media attention, but history shows they should not be given a forum unless they publicly reveal their identities.

Regarding my religion, Scientology, I am a member because I found help with my relationships, raising my children and understanding myself. I discovered I am truly a spiritual being, and in so doing developed a personal relationship with God.

Finally, for anyone facing tremendous stress in life I suggest they look into the Church of Scientology or for help through God

► Continued on next page

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Pictured: A Mystery-Set emerald and diamond maple leaf brooch, 1951, Van Cleef & Arpels
Estimate: \$60,000 - 80,000

Viewpoint

► Continued from previous page

from the faith of their choice.

**Joan Cox
Brenton Court**

DEPOT COULD SERVE AS A VISITOR'S CENTER

Editor:

I realize everything comes down to the bottom line, nowadays, but surely the natural and logical purpose for the unused train depot is a visitor's center.

European hamlets have friendly visitor centers near their trains, and Carlsbad, Calif. has its visitor center in an old train depot. Greeters in Carlsbad (my 83-year-old mother is one of them) hand out literature and extol the virtues of their town.

Mountain View is no hamlet. We have fabulous sites to see. The computer museum, the Hanger One museum and wonderful Shoreline Park come to mind. In addition, there is no dearth of local eateries for the weary traveler. In the evening, there is the Center for Performing Arts with a variety of entertainment options.

While we have an excellent Chamber of Commerce for business, a dedicated visitor center in this area of world travelers and visitors would put Mountain View in the forefront, once again, of innovative thinking. Since the depot is a central access point to two airports, it is a perfect launching point for other attractions up and down the Peninsula.

To keep with our city's green commitment, why not rent bikes for visitors to get around.

Just stop for a minute and imagine yourself traveling through this beautiful area of ours. You are alone or your family or friends are at work, and you would like to get out and enjoy the weather. You need maps and someone to point out local attractions. What better place to go than to the local train depot for resources and its friendly and knowledgeable greeters.

**Patricia Evans
Bonita Avenue**

Let Us Hear From You

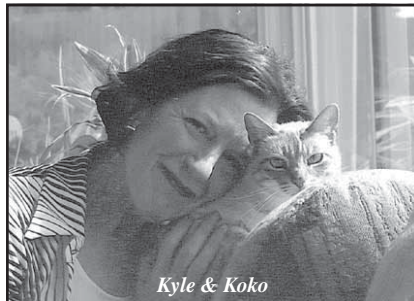


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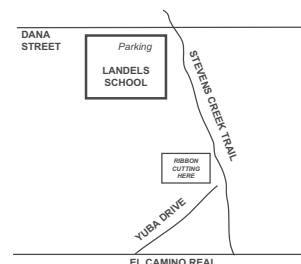
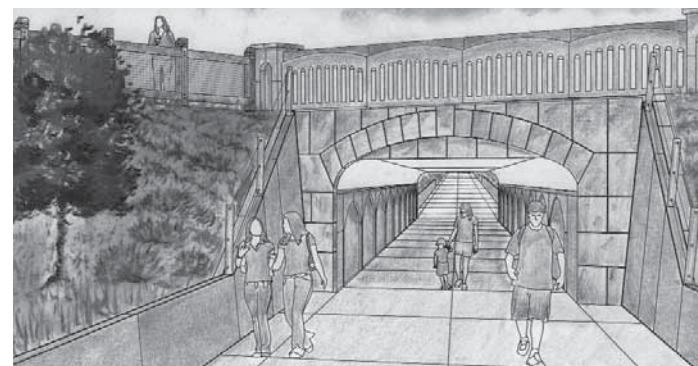
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STEVENS CREEK TRAIL AND WILDLIFE CORRIDOR, YUBA DRIVE TO EL CAMINO REAL



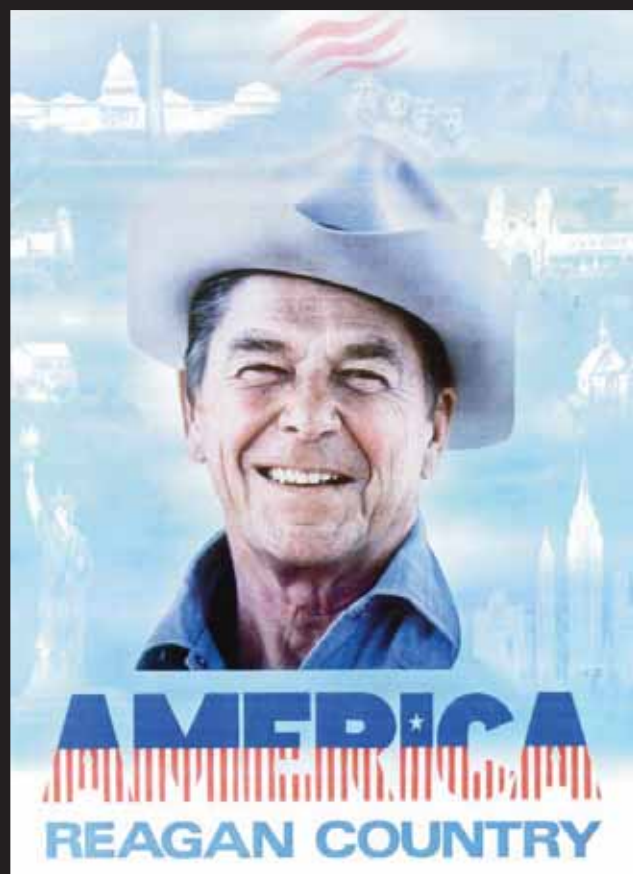
We encourage people to walk on the Stevens Creek Trail to the ribbon cutting at Yuba Drive. Parking available at Landels School, 115 West Dana Street.

The Mayor and City Council of Mountain View cordially invite you to attend the

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■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

■ MOVIE TIMES

■ BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT



NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

Enchilada Sonora, avocado relleno and a real-deal margarita from Compadres in Palo Alto.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Margarita heaven

DRINKS TANGY, FOOD TAME AT
COMPADRES ON EL CAMINO REAL

By Dale F. Bentson

My litmus test for any Southwest, Tex-Mex or Mexican restaurant is its margarita. Compadres passed with flying colors.

While many variations are offered, and the restaurant boasts more than 80 tequilas, I enjoyed the simple house version (\$5.50). It was creamy and mellow, icy and alive, and not mucked up with oddball flavorings or wedges of fruit other than a plump, juicy lime wedge that clung to the salted glass rim.

Veteran restaurateur Rick Enos opened Compadres in Palo

Alto in 1985, one year after the successful launch of the business in Hawaii. Now, the chain boasts three Bay Area locations and two in Hawaii, as well as concessions at major Bay Area stadiums and ball parks.

It's a family affair, too. Son Scott manages the Palo Alto location while another son, Jeff, runs the Napa Valley restaurant and daughter Lauren is in charge of special events.

The extended family includes many longtime employees. Marcos Gutierrez, who runs the kitchen, has been with Compadres in

► Continued on next page

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► Continued from previous page

Palo Alto for 20 years. Before that, his brother was the chef.

The restaurant is a pleasant venue with plenty of parking, an inviting patio with a fireplace, a cozy bar and two comfortable dining rooms. I don't know that anyone will mistake this for being in Mexico, but the theme is festive enough with tile floors, rough-hewn tables and chairs, and authentic bric-a-brac.

For starters, Compadres' tortilla soup (\$4 a cup, \$7.50 a bowl) was loaded with chunks of flavorful roasted chicken in slightly peppery broth, with cilantro, salsa, tortilla strips and gooey Monterey Jack cheese. It was a toothsome way to start without overloading on guacamole or the ever-present salsa and tortilla chips.

Corn chowder (\$4.50 a cup, \$8 a bowl), laden with whole corn kernels, was pasty and quavered, unappealing, in the cup. The floury thickness overwhelmed what flavor there might have been.

The "signature" fresh fish tacos (two for \$13) are offered two ways: Aztec spiced and

sauteed, served on corn tortillas with lettuce and fresh salsa; or grilled and served on flour tortillas with avocado-tomatillo sauce and pasilla chili aioli. I had the best of both worlds, one of each. The fish, snapper I presume, was meaty and fresh-tasting. The combination of sauces and spices interlaced mouthwatering tastes on the attractive plate.

Another "signature" dish, and my favorite, was the avocado relleno (\$13.50), a dazzlingly colorful plate with a halved avocado buried under tender roast chicken, green chili, two cheeses and fresh salsa atop a ladleful of black beans. The dish was also available with beef, vegetables or pork.

The carnitas plate (\$14.50) was billed as an authentic Mexican specialty. A mound of shredded roast pork was served with pinto beans, tomato salsa, chopped sweet onions, cilantro, jalapeno-marinated vegetables and warm tortillas. Everything was tasty but the meat.

The restaurant boasts more than 80 tequilas.

► See **COMPADRES**, page 18

DINING NOTES

Compadres

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dining on the town

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<p>mexican</p> <p>Celia's Mexican Restaurant 3740 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. 650/843-0643 1850 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. 650/321-8227 www.celiasrestaurants.com</p> <p>Fiesta Del Mar- Seafood, Mexican Cuisine & Cantina 1005 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mtn. View. 650/965-9354 Open Daily, Lunch & Dinner. Voted Best Seafood for 7 years.</p>	<p>tex-mex</p> <p>El Paso Cafe 1407 El Camino Real, Mtn. View. 650/961-8858 Fax: 650/961-3439 (Between Rengstorff and Shoreline)</p>	<p>ice cream</p> <p>Gelato Classico 241 B Castro Street Mtn. View. 650/969-2900</p>

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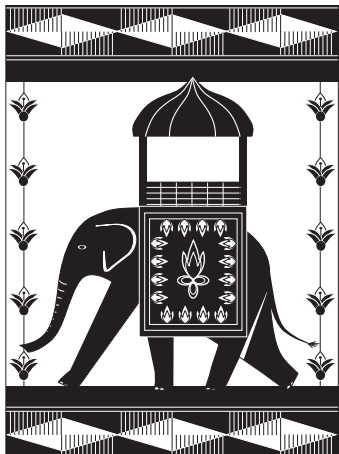
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COMPADRES

► Continued from page 17

The pork was slow-simmered until very tender, then heated up to crisp the outside. The problem with my portion was that most of the meat was the consistency of shoelaces: dry, chewy, flavorless and near inedible. I should have complained, but didn't, and that's my fault. The meat was either overcooked or just sat around too long.

The enchilada Sonora (\$14)

was more successful. I opted for chicken, although the dish can be prepared with beef or pork as well. The large portion was topped with red and green salsas, crema fresca (akin to a liquidy creme fraiche), avocado slices, refried beans and red rice.

Pollo borracho (\$15.50) was a monster-portioned organic free-range half-chicken marinated in tequila, rock salt and herbs, then grilled and served with grilled corn saute and black beans. The plate itself was the nearly the size of a manhole cover. The chicken — oven roasted then finished over the grill — was delicious, succulent and perfectly cooked through. There was more meat than I could safely handle and I was happy to share. The beans and corn added a sweet creaminess to the plate.

I had to pace myself to make it to the desserts; every portion had been huge and filling. It wasn't until my third visit, though, that I discovered that Compadres even served dessert. The wait staff automatically brought the check without asking. Which brings up a couple of small issues about the service.

The staff was friendly and accommodating, although sometimes slow with refills. On two of my visits, the first course took an inordinate amount of time before appearing. Then, within seconds, the main course appeared as well. It sat, cooling, while I hurried through my appetizer. Other times, the pacing was right and it seemed not to matter how busy the restaurant was.

The fried ice cream (\$4) was a huge scoop of vanilla ice cream, rolled in corn flakes, deep-fried and set aswim in house-made cajeta sauce. (Cajeta is a Mexican caramel sauce, a touch sweeter and a tad runnier than American versions.) After a filling lunch, the sweet gooey dessert was more than I bargained for. It was cold, tasty, interestingly textured but teeth-achingly sweet.

Banana chingalinga (\$5) was another enormous dessert. This one had a banana rolled in cinnamon and honey, wrapped in a flour tortilla, then deep-fried and served with a scoop of vanilla ice cream drenched in strawberry sauce. Not as sweet as the cajeta sauce, it too was more than I could handle, and I left over half the dessert uneaten.

There is a lack of spiciness in all the food. But Compadres knows its customers, and this is the way they want it. There are bottled hot sauces to rev the plates up, but that is not same as cooking with zesty ingredients.

Nonetheless, if the restaurant wasn't satisfying its customers, it would not have survived for nearly 25 years. Apparently, it's more than just good margaritas. ■

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10,000 B.C. (PG-13) Century 16: 7:05 & 9:50 p.m. Fri., Sat., Mon. & Tue. also at 1:30 & 4:15 p.m. Century 20: 12:05, 2:35, 5:10, 6:15, 7:50, 9:10 & 10:25 p.m.

21 (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 12:35, 1:55, 3:30, 4:45, 6:30, 7:35, 9:20 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 12:15, 1:35, 3:10, 4:30, 6, 7:30, 9 & 10:30 p.m. Sat. also at 10:35 a.m.

THE BANK JOB (R) ★★★ Century 16: 1:20, 4:05, 7:20 & 10:10 p.m. Century 12: 1:10, 3:50, 7:30 & 10:20 p.m.

BE KIND REWIND (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 12: 12:45 & 7:05 p.m.

COLLEGE ROAD TRIP (G) Century 12: 12:25, 2:40, 5, 7:15 & 9:40 p.m.

THE COUNTERFEITERS (R) ★★1/2 Guild: 2:15, 4:45, 7:10 & 9:40 p.m.

DEFINITELY, MAYBE (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 20: 7:35 p.m. Fri.-Sat. & Mon.-Tue. also at 1:25 p.m.

DOOMSDAY (R) Century 12: 3:30 & 9:45 p.m.

DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) ★★★ Century 16: 12:30, 1:40, 2:45, 4:10, 5:05, 6:50, 7:30, 9:10 & 9:55 p.m. Sat. also at 10:50 a.m. Century 20: 12:05, 12:45, 1:30, 2:20, 3:05, 3:50, 4:40, 5:40, 6:55, 7:55, 9:20 & 10:10 p.m. Sat also at 11:10 a.m.

DRILLBIT TAYLOR (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: 1:25, 4, 6:55 & 9:25 p.m. Century 20: 12:35, 3, 5:30, 7:55 & 10:30 p.m.

FLAWLESS (PG-13) ★★1/2 Aquarius: 2:30, 7:30 & 10 p.m. Fri.-Sun. also at 2:30 p.m.

IN BRUGES (R) Century 20: 2:45, 5:15 & 10:15 p.m. Sat. also at 7:45 p.m. Fri., Sun. & Mon. also at 12:10 p.m.

JUMPER (PG-13) Century 12: 1:30, 4:10, 7:35 & 10:05 p.m.

LEATHERHEADS (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: 1, 2:15, 3:45, 5, 7, 7:50, 9:45 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 1:20, 2:40, 4, 5:20, 6:50, 8, 9:30 & 10:40 p.m. Sat. also at 10:40 a.m.

MARRIED LIFE (PG-13) ★★★ Century 20: 12:20, 2:30, 4:50, 7:15 & 9:35 p.m.

MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) Century 12: 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50 & 10:25 p.m.

METROPOLITAN OPERA: LA BOHEME Century 16: Sat. at 10:30 p.m. Sun. at noon. Century 20: Sat. at 10:30 p.m. Sun. at noon.

MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 12:30, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25 & 9:50 p.m.

NEVER BACK DOWN (PG-13) Century 12: 1:20, 4, 7:25 & 10:15 p.m.

NIM'S ISLAND (PG) Century 16: 1:50, 3:15, 4:30, 5:40, 8, 9:35 & 10:20 p.m. Fri. & Sun.-Tue. also at 12:45 p.m. Sat. also at 11 a.m. Century 20: 12:20, 1:40, 2:40, 4:10, 5, 6:30, 7:20, 8:50 & 9:40 p.m. Sat. also at 11 a.m.

THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL (PG-13) ★★ Century 20: 12:50, 3:45, 7 & 9:45 p.m.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (R) Guild: Sat. at midnight.

THE RUINS (R) Century 16: 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:55 & 10:15 p.m. Century 12: 12:30, 1:40*, 3, 4:15*, 5:30, 7*, 9:30* & 10:30 p.m.

RUN, FAT BOY, RUN (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 20: 12:25, 2:55, 5:15, 7:40 & 10:05 p.m.

SEMI-PRO (R) Century 20: Tue. at 12:10 & 7:45 p.m.

SHINE A LIGHT (PG-13) Century 20: 1:05, 4:15, 7:10 & 10 p.m.

SHUTTER (PG-13) Century 16: 3:05, 5:25, 7:45 & 10 p.m. Fri. & Sun.-Tue. also at 12:55 p.m. Century 12: 12:50, 2, 3:20, 4:20, 5:40, 7:10, 7:55, 9:20 & 10:10 p.m.

THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (PG) ★★★ Century 12: 1, 3:40, 7:20 & 9:50 p.m.

STOP-LOSS (R) Century 20: 1:10, 4:20, 7:05 & 9:55 p.m.

SUPERHERO MOVIE (PG-13) Century 16: 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25 & 9:40 p.m. Century 12: 12:40, 3:10, 5:25, 7:45 & 10 p.m.

UNDER THE SAME MOON (LA MISMA LUNA) ★★1/2 Century 20: 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8 & 10:35 p.m. Aquarius: 1:45, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.

VANTAGE POINT (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: 1:35, 4:25, 7:10 & 9:30 p.m. Century 20: 4:55 & 10:20 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

AQUARIUS: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)
 CENTURY CINEMA 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (960-0970)
 CENTURY PARK 12: 557 E. Bayshore Blvd., Redwood City (365-9000)
 CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (369-3456)
 CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)
 GUILD: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)

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

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit www.mv-voice.com and click on movies.



MOVIE REVIEWS

21 ★★★
 (Century 16, Century 20) Ben Campbell (Jim Sturgess) is a shy MIT senior who's been accepted to Harvard Med but desperately needs a scholarship to make his dream come true. Math professor Mickey Rosa (Kevin Spacey) discovers that Ben has a brain like a Pentium chip and makes him an offer he can't refuse: learn to count cards and make a killing in Vegas. Ben's goal is simple and his motives pure: study the tricks of the trade and work hard enough to generate \$300,000, enough to cover tuition and living expenses on the way to becoming Dr. Campbell. His best-laid plans begin to sour when a daily diet of vectors and formulas segues into high-roller suites, fantasy clubs and the irresistible lure of teammate Jill Taylor (Kate Bosworth). Ultimately it blows sky-high: Ben gets emotional and then gets stupid, burning the candle at both ends and allowing jealousy and greed to take the place of vigilance and common sense. The plot generates sharp narrative comment on the downside of seduction and desire, but an awkward climax puts an idealistic spin on beating the odds. *Rated: PG-13 for some violence and partial nudity. 1 hour, 58 minutes.* — J.A.

RUN FATBOY RUN ★★1/2
 (Aquarius) Simon Pegg is lovable loser Dennis, a classic commitment-phobe who walks out on heavily pregnant fiancée Libby (Thandie Newton) on their wedding day. Five years later Dennis is pulling dead-end hours as a security guard and sleeping in a seedy North London basement apartment. Libby has moved on to bigger and better things, most notably rich and handsome financier Whit (Hank Azaria). Tired of being a nearly man and determined to impress Libby and their son Jake, Dennis vows to run in the same 26-mile charity marathon for which Whit is training obsessively. Naturally Dennis is hopelessly unfit (though not exactly the fatboy the title suggests), and seemingly incapable of completing even menial tasks. The film is altogether trite but true to the kind of comic roots that include the timeless workout montage, clash of the male egos and heartstring-tugging finish-line drama. Not a surprise in sight: just predictable losers-are-people-too jesting raised a notch by the quality work of professionals who are better than their material. *Rated: PG-13 for language and mature themes. 1 hour, 39 minutes.* — J.A.

MOVIE REVIEWS

Read more reviews online at www.PaloAltoOnline.com.

MOVIE CRITICS

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

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Conference Rooms C & D

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