

Mountain View VOICE



Austen powers
The Pear takes on
'Northanger Abbey'
A&E | P.26

MAY 30, 2008 VOLUME 16, NO. 21

INSIDE: WEEKEND | PAGE 19

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DANIELLE VERNON

"OFF WE GO..."

Vintage war planes circled over Mountain View last week as the "Wings of Freedom Tour" visited Moffett Field for Memorial Day weekend. Pictured is "Betty Jane," a P-51 Mustang parked in the shadow of Hangar One last Friday. Those with pilot licenses and \$2,200 to spare could fly the World War II-era fighter plane. Three WWII bombers, a B-17, B-24 and B-25, also were available for rides.

Details emerge on council expenses

By Daniel DeBolt

While City Council members get only \$500 a month to do what is considered a nearly full-time job, they also are entitled to use thousands of dollars every year for travel expenses, phone calls, training and office supplies. Since the beginning of last year, when three new members took office, a total of \$58,000 went toward such expenses.

Most of the discretionary expenses, \$43,000 worth, went towards travel as

► See **EXPENSES**, page 11

Council puts focus on youth and gangs

PARK AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION ALSO SET AS TOP GOALS DURING TUESDAY'S MEETING

By Daniel DeBolt

After naming gang violence as a top concern, the City Council put its money where its mouth is Tuesday by voting to permanently fund a police gang program.

Five other top goals for the year were approved as well, including a Cuesta Annex master plan, more positive activities for youth, Rengstorff

► See **COUNCIL**, page 14

Measure C still too close to call, advocates say

By Casey Weiss

Despite the lack of any formal opposition to Measure C, supporters of the parcel tax say they are not out of woods when it comes to gaining the two-thirds approval needed.

Measure C — which would increase property taxes to provide additional revenue for the Mountain View Whisman School District — must pass with more than 66 percent of the vote. With less than a week until the June 3 primary, supporters of the measure are working hard to get the word out about the parcel tax, which they say is essential as the district expects to be hit with steep cuts in

state funding this year.

Mountain View voters passed the original parcel tax, Measure J, by 70 percent in 2004, when the state faced severe budget cuts. Supporters say that although many people support C, parcel taxes nonetheless usually pass by a small margin. Also, with the county pushing for residents to vote by mail, many local voters cast their mail ballots before the parcel tax campaign could reach them.

"We continue to be optimistic about

Measure C's passage," school board president Fiona Walter said in an e-mail to the

Voice. "Parcel taxes have lost by as few as 20 votes and we don't wish to be in that position on June 3, so we'll continue to educate voters right up until election day."

If it passes, Measure C would increase the rates of the original parcel tax by 69 percent to provide \$3 million a year for reduced class sizes, teacher retention and extra special pro-

► See **MEASURE C**, page 8

■ **INSIDE**
SEE WHERE
THE ASSEMBLY
CANDIDATES STAND

See p.18

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Reading between the emotional line makes the difference between finding a house and a home.

Jim & Jimmy Nappo



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Denise Ewings



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Hidden jewel! Pride of ownership welcomes you to this great 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Fabulous gourmet kitchen + expansive family room. Large lot. **\$880,000**

Betty Rooker



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Country Club setting! 4bd/2.5ba townhome, 2500+/- sf. New kitchen, high ceilings + a separate FR.. Large, private yard, clubhouse with pool + tennis. 2-car garage. **\$1,300,000**

Jen Paulson



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Beautiful 4bd+ loft/2.5ba home. Gourmet kitchen with Rutt cabinets, granite counters, Subzero refrigerator + top-of-the-line appliances. Close to Huff Elementary. **\$1,950,000**

Elaine Klemm



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ This rare 5bd/3.5ba home features quality upgrades including HW floors, granite counters, fresh paint and new carpet. Ideally located near park and shopping. **\$1,328,000**

Ginny Zachow



CUPERTINO ■ Turn-key DeAnza Oaks townhome, nestled in the Cupertino foothills. 4bd/2.5ba ideally located in a gated community with pool + clubhouse. Cupertino schools. **\$918,000**

Kathy Bridgman



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Judy Staton



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Updated 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath town home with designer touches throughout. Los Altos schools. Great Location. **\$699,000**

Dorothy Liu



SUNNYVALE ■ Desirable end-unit! 2bd/2ba with updated kitchen, new carpet and paint, A/C, + inside washer and dryer. Excellent floorplan. Pristine pool and spa. **\$429,000**

Voices

AROUND TOWN

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

Do you vote by absentee ballot or in person and why?



"In person. Something about going to the polling place and voting. It's traditional."

Robert Vallejos, Sunnyvale



"I think I did the mail-in last year. It seems like it might be just as easy to fill it in and drop it off."

Steve Hoyle, Mountain View



"In person. It's right on my way to work."

Kevin Hobbs, Boulder Creek



"In person because I never remember to send in the mail one."

Lisa Norquist with Stephan, Los Altos



"Mail-in. More convenient."

Joy Esteban, Mountain View

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 - Saturdays, June 7-28
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Often touted as our "most fun" class, this interactive program teaches the specifics of newborn care, including bathing, temperature-taking, changing diapers, swaddling, soothing techniques and more. Infant doll models are used to allow for hands-on practice.

 - Saturday, June 14
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Informative, humorous and lively discussions between parents and their pre-teens on puberty, the opposite sex and growing up. Girls attend these two-part sessions with their moms and boys attend with their dads.

 - For Boys: Mondays, June 23 & 30
 - For Girls: Wednesdays, July 16 & 23
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■ CRIMEWATCH

GRAND THEFT, 500 BLOCK N. SHORELINE BLVD., 5/21

An unknown person rode up on a bicycle toward a woman while she was loading groceries into her car. He grabbed her purse out of the shopping cart and took off. He was not located.

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY, 100 BLOCK N. RENGSTORFF AVE., 5/23

Someone gained access to an apartment's sliding glass door and stole some items from inside the residence. The incident happened overnight, and the thief was not located.

■ POLICE LOG

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

500 Block Walker Dr., 5/23
1000 Space Park Way, 5/24

AUTO BURGLARY

2200 Block California St., 5/21
Fiesta Del Mar, 5/22
300 Block Martens Ave., 5/23
200 Block Church St., 5/23
1900 Block California St., 5/25
W. Dana Street/Hope Street, 5/26

BATTERY

1500 Block W. El Camino Real, 5/23
1400 Plymouth St., 5/25
200 Block Castro St., 5/25

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

2500 California St., 5/21

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

La Avenida/North Shoreline Boulevard, 5/24
300 Block Escuela Ave., 5/24
2000 Block Latham St., 5/25
1900 W. El Camino Real, 5/25

DISTURBANCE

Century 16 Cinema, 5/25
300 Block Escuela Ave., 5/25
800 Block San Veron Ave., 5/26

GRAND THEFT

400 Block E. Middlefield Rd., 5/21
500 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/21
Target, 5/26

PETTY THEFT

100 Block E. Middlefield Rd., 5/21
2200 Block Latham St., 5/21
Mountain View High School, 5/22
Target, 5/23
1600 Block Amphitheatre Parkway, 5/24
Target, 5/24
Sears Dept. Store, 5/25
400 Block San Antonio Rd., 5/26

ROBBERY

Rite Aid - Grant Road, 5/24

STOLEN VEHICLE

700 Block Continental Circle, 5/22
600 Block Showers Dr., 5/26

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

100 Block Escuela Ave., 5/21
800 Block W. El Camino Real, 5/22
Charleston Road/Independence Avenue, 5/23

TRESPASSING

Target, Shores Drive, w 5/25

VANDALISM

Sierra Vista Park, 5/21
2000 Block Marich Way, 5/22
500 Block Mountain View Ave., 5/22
2100 Old Middlefield Way, 5/24
800 Block W. Dana St., 5/25
500 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 5/25
100 Block E. El Camino Real, 5/26

■ CORRECTION

See Viewpoint, page 17

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For the undecided

By Don Frances

THIS IS YOUR last chance to learn about the Democratic candidates for state Assembly District 22 — the fightin' 22nd!

That's unless you've already voted by mail, in which case: Too bad. I recommend not doing that in the future.

For the rest of you, we've put together a somewhat handy chart for comparison's sake (see page 18). We asked the candidates a few questions and their answers are insightful.

While you're in the voting booth, remember to check "yes" for Measure C, lest your local elementary schools suffer. The money garnered by this parcel tax will go towards, among other things, the forgotten subjects, like music, which your kids (or your neighbors' kids) need to learn.

SPEAKING OF MUSIC, the El Camino Youth Symphony has been teaching music to the youth of the region, including of Mountain View, for 45 years now. Can you believe that?

This Sunday, the program will wrap up another year with its season finale concert at De Anza College's Flint Center. The event concludes with El Camino Youth Symphony Concerto Competition winners Joy Lin and Sunli Kim, both of whom play the violin.

The concert is Sunday, June 1 at 2:30 p.m. De Anza College is located at 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd. in Cupertino. Tickets can be bought at the door or through Ticketmaster.com and are \$10 for the general public, \$5 for students and seniors. For more info, visit www.ecys.org or call (650) 213-7111.

SPEAKING OF MUSIC, the Corner Laughters are playing Red Rock on May 31. Do not miss this quirky, ukulele-driven pop band. ▣

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



Kacy Clark, a junior, shows and reads a children's book she made as part of her class for the Freestyle Academy.

For Freestyle students, making books is child's play

By Casey Weiss

After several months of writing and designing their own children's books, local high school students read their tales of outer space and far away adventures to a dozen preschoolers this week.

The students attend Freestyle Academy of Communication Arts and Technology, a multi-

media program in the Mountain View Los Altos Union School District, where they all take design and English classes, and choose between film and Web design. Students experiment with different types of writing in their English class, and then use the technology available on campus to make a visual or audio component of their written work.

Each of the four junior

classes at Freestyle wrote and made books, which looked as if they had been produced professionally.

Four students presented the final products on Tuesday, May 27 to preschoolers at Mountain View Parent Nursery School, which is also located behind the district office. The nursery school

► See **FREESTYLE**, page 15

Worker Center holds safety workshop

By Daniel DeBolt

Unlike other laborers, temporary day workers injured on the job often are not covered by insurance, which means an accident can leave them unable to work and facing huge hospital bills.

The Day Worker Center of Mountain View held a workshop last week to address this issue as part of a national campaign to educate day workers and their employers about safety.

Every year, several Mountain View day workers are seriously injured on the job, said Maria Marroquin, director of the Day Worker Center since 1999. Most of the injuries occur to workers who solicit work along El Camino Real, said Marroquin, who finds out about them because they end up coming to the center for help.

"Workers are abandoned at El Camino Hospital— it's very sad," she said.

"If a ladder is broken, tell your employer," said a day worker named Carlos Mares from Oakland Lucha Unida. "It's better to lose your [pay] for that day and protect yourself."

According to state law, those

► See **DAY WORKER**, page 16

Derby promises downhill thrills

KIDS, MAYORS TO RACE FOR GLORY IN SUNDAY EVENT

By Daniel DeBolt

This Sunday's annual Soap Box Derby is expected to be more intense than last year's, as kids from 8 to 17 years old streak down the Dana Street overpass in front of Landels Elementary School.

What was a two-day event last year will be held this Sunday only, starting at 10 a.m.

The race will feature a "Mayors Cup" at 2:30 p.m., with Mayor Tom Means pitted in a race for "regional glory" against Cupertino Mayor Dolly Sandoval, Santa Clara Mayor Patricia Mahan and

Sunnyvale Mayor Tony Spitaleri. "As long as weight is important in this race I think I'll win," Means joked.

As for the kids, winners of the stock, super stock and super kids categories will advance to the nationals in Akron, Ohio, with all expenses paid.

The "super kids" class, scheduled for 11 a.m., pairs physically and developmentally disabled children, including two who are blind, with a non-disabled racer to help them down the track.

"You don't have to be racing to have fun," said Hugh Donagher, one of the many race organizers.

"Bring your lawn chair and set up on the sidewalk."

Food tents in the Landels School parking lot will offer hamburgers, hot dogs, chili, beverages and snacks. Lawn chairs may be placed on the sidewalks along the race course.

The return of the Soap Box Derby to the Peninsula was engineered by Joe Sparaco, who owns the Clocktower Coffee Roasting Company shops in Mountain View. Sparaco has recruited City Council members, police and firefighters, plus the local Kiwanis, Lions and Elks clubs to help build cars and prepare for the race.

Sparaco, a former Palo Alto police officer, initially organized Soap Box trial races on California Avenue in College Terrace in the early 1970s, partly for fun and partly to offset a negative image of police during antiwar and counterculture demonstrations. He even constructed a pig-shaped "Pigmobile" for one race. ▣

■ INFORMATION

The race begins Sunday, June 1 at 10 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. Dana Street between Calderon Avenue and Pioneer Way will be closed from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Stevens Creek Trail users are encouraged to use a different trailhead.

'08 Hydrant Flushing

The City of Mountain View will begin its **annual flushing of hydrants** in your neighborhood beginning Tuesday, February 19, 2008, finishing all areas within the City by the end of June 2008 or until all hydrants are successfully refreshed.

Water main flushing is a process used to clear water lines of sand and sediment that may have accumulated during the year. Signs and barricades will be posted in neighborhoods the day before flushing is to take place to alert residents.

If you would like more information about the City's water main flushing program, or have questions or concerns while City personnel are in your neighborhood flushing water mains, please contact the City's Public Services Division at 650-903-6329, or visit our website at www.mountainview.gov.



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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Frolicking gopher snakes



"I saw these two gopher snakes 'frolicking' on the fairway of the 18th hole at Shoreline Golf Course on the 12th of May," wrote Jerry Hitchcock of Tyrella Avenue. "First time I had ever seen any snakes there at all." Hitchcock said he took the photo using his iPhone camera.

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.

Residents already giving input on general plan update

By Daniel DeBolt

Those who give their input during the coming general plan update could have major impact on how the city looks in 2030, city officials say. And the race to gather that input has already begun.

The city is handing out "toolkits" to all residents interested in organizing meetings in their community to help the city create a broad vision for the future. Eventually, the process will result in a detailed blueprint for how the city creates

homes, jobs, parks and even public art. Those familiar with city politics have begun to organize meetings with various groups.

One of the first meetings happened last Saturday, when a group of property owners along Old Middlefield Way's contentious commercial service zone attended a meeting organized by council member Matt Pear. According to environmental planning commission chair John Inks, who attended, many property owners have an issue with a restriction in the zone that

prevents much of the area from being used as office space. Consequently, many of the buildings have "For lease" signs on them.

The city has created a Web site for those who wish to stay informed: www.mountainview2030.com. On the site is a 70-question survey which, in part, aims to gauge residents' preferences for building styles. The results will be compiled before a public hearing on the general plan to be held on the morning of Saturday, June 7, in the Performing Arts Center adjacent to City Hall. ▀

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Can the city create affordable housing?

LOCAL ADVOCATES SEE OPPORTUNITIES IN NOVEMBER ELECTION, GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

By Daniel DeBolt

Mountain View has experienced a net loss of affordable housing over the past 20 years, according to resident Roy Hayter of Advocates for Affordable housing.

Hayter and others interested in the subject took part in an "affordable housing week" discussion recently at Community Services Agency, whose clients are often in need of low-cost housing.

"A whole generation has seen no real net gain in affordable housing," Hayter said, referring to Mountain View. "That is a record I don't think anyone can be proud of."

He said the problem represents a "real shift in the quality of the character of Mountain View," especially as the city succeeds in building thousands of homes for those with higher income levels.

As defined by the federal government, "affordable housing" costs 30 percent of a person's income. For 2008, a household of two with \$42,450 in annual income is considered to be in the "very low" income bracket because it is at 50 percent of the median. It is possible for those in lower income brackets to receive lower rents through subsidized housing.

With the City Council election in November and the general plan update starting next month, the housing issue is on the front burner for some candidates, like Michael Kasperzak, who attended the discussion, and Alicia Crank, who has named it a top priority.

City staffer Adriana Garefalos acknowledged that housing needs "greatly exceed the supply, as it does all over the Bay Area." She provided a list of subsidized housing in Mountain View, all with long or closed waiting lists.

"For affordable housing there are small steps forward and no easy solutions," Garefalos said, adding that acquiring the federal funds means competing with projects in other cities. Often, by the time government funding is allocated, the property has already been sold, she said.

The good news, according

to Hayter, is that the city is committed to build 50 units of affordable family housing downtown at Evelyn and Franklin streets, and Habitat for Humanity is planning a project at the Wagon Wheel restaurant site at Whisman and Middlefield roads.

"There is some good news," he said, "but the city could do a lot better."

At the same time the city sees new affordable housing, it is allowing many older, affordable apartments to be demolished and replaced by pricier condos.

Until about 1998, the city had been focused on preserving affordable housing, and three large apartment complexes — Central Park apartments, Maryce Freelen Place and Shorebreeze apartments — were saved by affordable housing nonprofits. But then priorities changed at the council level, advocates say.

Garefalos said that land for new affordable housing projects is scarce, and that the city has "scoured every piece of land it owns." San Antonio Place, the only new affordable housing project done in the last 20 years, was built on an old roadway.

The city has been understaffed, Garefalos said, preventing the aggressive pursuit of affordable housing projects. But Hayter says it's a matter of "political will" to add more staff. He also said the city could consider putting affordable housing on two city-owned lots downtown, one near Bryant and California streets and another near Villa and Franklin streets.

"There is land, but it's a matter of focus, purpose and priority," he said.

Advocates say past city councils have also failed to get housing developers to include below market rate homes as part of their projects.

"Toll Brothers is going to have 500-plus units" at Mayfield, said resident Joan MacDonald. "None of them are going to be affordable. That's a crying shame." ▀

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



Larry's Knows...

Brought to you by
Larry & Laurie Moore



IS YOUR VEHICLE OUT OF LINE?

After dodging last season's potholes, you may notice that your vehicle drifts or pulls to one side on straight stretches of road. Other telltale signs that your vehicle needs wheel alignment include looseness in the steering wheel, a steering wheel that is off-center (when the front wheels are straight), the sensation that the car is wandering over the road, and hard steering. Abnormal tire wear may be another clue that your wheels are out of line. If so, there will be more wear on one side of the tire than the other, or there may be cupping over the face of the tire. To ensure that you get better tire wear and a better ride overall, get a four-wheel alignment.

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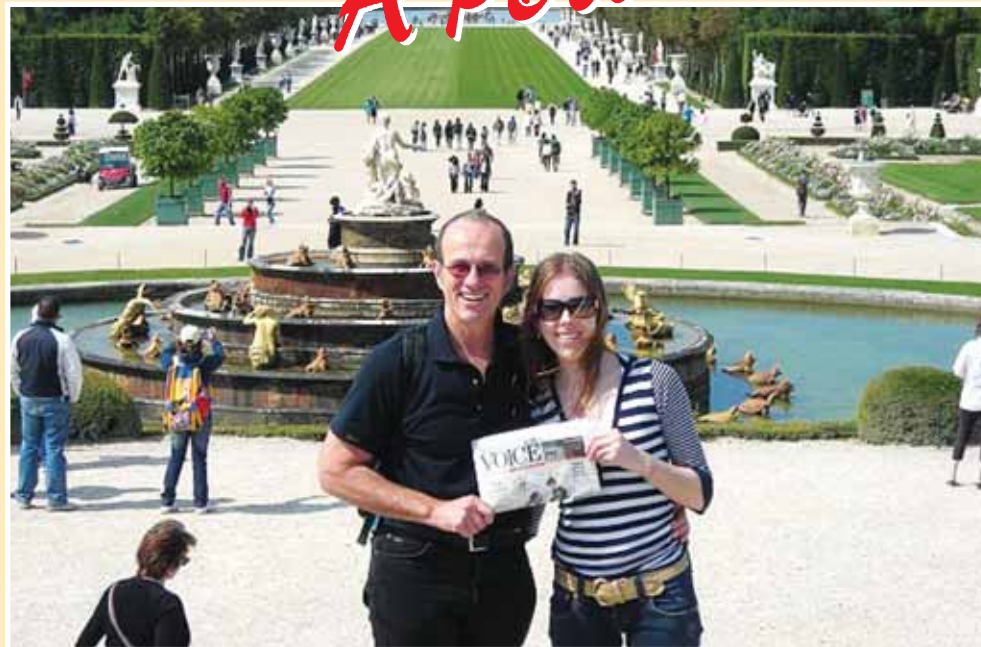


Photo of Joe and Amanda Grimm at the Palace of Versailles Gardens, France.

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MEASURE C

► Continued from page 1

grams, such as outside learning and English language development. Teachers, administrators and parents, who have been campaigning for months, say there is no organized opposition to the measure, and no formal opposition in the voter guide.

School advocates meet Monday through Thursday at local real estate offices to call Mountain View voters and urge them to support the tax. The group also has held fundraisers to

promote the measure.

Volunteers, who keep track of support as they call voters, said earlier this month that their informal tallies were not promising, but they add that the numbers are in flux.

"The numbers are appearing to move in the right direction, with more undecided votes shifting into the yes column than the no column," said Measure C advocate Laura Blakely. "These elections are often won or lost on a handful of votes."

Even with this growing support, Blakely said new county-

wide voting rules could hurt the campaign. Under these new regulations, residents in six Mountain View voting precincts will have no polling centers, because the majority of voters there have signed up to permanently vote by mail. Without an official polling center, many of these residents have already voted by mail, leaving the campaign with little time to reach undecided voters. ▣

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

Props 98 and 99 fight for domain

By Nicole Baldocchi

Propositions 98 and 99, both of which are appearing on the ballot in next week's election, are dueling initiatives designed to modify state law on eminent domain, speakers said during an election forum last Thursday.

The forum, held at the downtown library and hosted by the local chapter of the League of Women Voters, was organized to educate voters on the two initiatives, which voters will decide on in this Tuesday's primary election.

Both propositions deal with eminent domain — the government's capacity to take over private property without the owner's consent. And Proposition 99 is a direct response to Proposition 98, said Linda Davis, who hosted the forum on behalf of the League of Women Voters.

Voters should always take it as an "alert" when there are two propositions on the same issue, Davis said: "It rarely makes sense to vote 'yes' or 'no' on both."

If both propositions pass, then the one with more "yes" votes goes into effect.

Prop 98 stops new rent control laws and phases out pre-2007 rent control laws as tenants move. This excludes renters currently living under rent control. The initiative also states that state and local governments are not able to seize property to give to a private owner, or to use in the same manner as the previous owner, or to use its natural resources. Those in support of this proposition include Californians for Property Rights and California Republican Party.

Prop 99 states that governments will be prohibited to seize an owner-occupied home and give it to another property owner for private use and development if the owner has lived there for at least one year. The exception to this would be taking of property for public facilities and public health and safety places. Supporters of this proposition include multiple cities' chambers of commerce and the League of California Homeowners. ▣

■ INFORMATION

For more information on these and other issues before voters this June 3, visit www.smartvoter.org.

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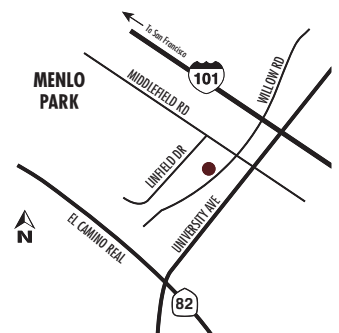
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EXPENSES

► Continued from page 1

council members flew all over the country for conferences.

In almost every instance, the members spent between \$200 and \$300 a night for hotel rooms and sometimes ate at nice restaurants using city purchasing cards with a \$15,000 credit limit.

It's money well spent, city officials say, as council members and other top city officials attend conferences to stay on top if the issues faced by cities across the country.

"We want them [the council members] to know about running cities," said finance manager Bob Locke.

But others see it as a perk.

"That's absolutely what it is," said former council member Greg Perry, who says he only went to one conference during his four-year term. "When people would come back from League of Cities conferences there was much more talk about the alcohol consumed than ideas for city government."

Council member Laura Macias disagreed, saying, "I actually think there are things I can learn," at the conferences. As mayor last year, she spent the most on travel over the last 17 months: \$16,000. She also had the highest limit,

with a maximum of \$22,000 available for travel.

"The limit is higher than it needs to be," Perry said. "I don't see the conferences helping people to become better council members overall. Time spent reading the budget would be better spent."

Member Matt Pear was the second highest travel spender with \$7,500, including the two most expensive hotel visits: \$1,321 for five nights at the New Orleans Hilton and \$1,338 for a five-night stay at the Washington, D.C. Hilton, both for National League of Cities conferences. The lowest travel spender was Nick Galiotto, who used only \$2,271 over the last 17 months.

"Last year as mayor was a great opportunity," Macias said. During a U.S. Conference of Mayors in Los Angeles, which cost \$1,650 to get in, "I was able to understand what the U.S. Mayor's Climate Agreement was and was not."

Macias also spent \$3,495 to attend a study tour held by the Urban Land Institute, where she toured examples of green building in Cascadia, Portland, Seattle and Vancouver, which helped her realize how "doable" green building really is.

In his first four months as mayor, Tom Means hasn't spent nearly

as much. Records show only \$75 for a plane ticket to Seattle. The San Jose State economics professor says that most of the conferences held by the League of Cities don't have a lot of in depth in the information provided.

"The seminars, a lot of them are on real basic things," he said. "A lot of them want to tell you what great thing they did in their city."

During a trip to a National League of Cities conference in New Orleans, a majority of the council — members Macias, Means, Pear and Jac Siegel — spent \$324 for a dinner with three other city officials at Emeril's restaurant. Though a majority of the council was present, it wasn't necessarily a violation of the Brown Act.

"If it's a purely social or ceremonial gathering, then it is not a Brown Act violation, unless a majority of the members get together to discuss the city's business," said Thomas Newton of the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

After travel, the next highest expense for council members is computer equipment. For at least 10 years, council members have received \$3,600 per four-year-term for computers and related expenses. Of the four members who bought computers — Siegel,

EXPENSES FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM JANUARY 2007 TO APRIL 2008

Member	Telephone and communications	Travel	Equipment per term	Professional development	Total
Margaret Abe-Koga	\$0	\$4,053	\$2,487.99	\$0	\$6,541
Ronit Bryant	\$0	\$3,920	\$1,314.27	\$0	\$5,234
Nick Galiotto	\$1,173.23	\$2,271	\$1,838	\$75	\$5,358
Laura Macias	\$1,295.12	\$15,995	\$0	\$393.10	\$17,643
Tom Means	\$1,282.54	\$2,490	\$140.71	\$0	\$3,914
Matt Pear	\$470.29	\$7,551	\$108.24	\$499	\$8,629
Jac Siegel	\$1,583.52	\$6,929	\$2,771.31	\$0	\$11,284
Total	\$5,803	\$43,209	\$8,661	\$967	\$58,606
Limit per member per year	\$1,680	\$7,500 (\$22,000 for mayor)	\$3,600 (per four year term)	\$500	

ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Ronit Bryant, Margaret Abe-Koga and Galiotto — Siegel spent the most: \$2372 for an Apple iMac and accessories at the Apple store in Palo Alto. Bryant spent the least: \$1,250 for a new computer made by her husband's employer, Hewlett Packard. The computers are theirs to keep.

City Council members also still receive free premium tickets to concerts at Shoreline Amphitheatre, which was a controversial topic in 2004 when the value of the tickets, per council member, was estimated at \$8,750.

Compared to previous councils, Locke said, this council is relatively frugal, and he noted that city staffers have never had to ask members to slow their spending. Some, like Bryant and Abe-Koga, have given the "gift" of not taking any money at all for phone expenses.

"They are all way under budget," Locke said. In the past, he said, members have put down some "questionable" expenses, but the current members "have good jobs and are trying to be good council members." ■

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COUNCIL

► Continued from page 1

neighborhood revitalization, a revenue development plan and the long-needed Rengstorff Avenue underpass at the railroad tracks.

After a string of assaults and murders involving youth over the past year, the council gave the police department \$180,000 towards the creation of a Youth Services Unit that police hope will become instrumental in reducing the city's gang activity and youth violence. The money will fund a new full-time sergeant position and match a grant from the state for \$160,000 to go towards counseling youth.

Council member Nick Galiotto, a former Mountain View police officer, was adamant that the sergeant's position be permanent. He said the situation was "deja vu" — in the 1970s the police department also sought juvenile diversion when the juvenile justice system wasn't serving the youth well.

"The gang problem is not going to go away," Galiotto said. "We give it attention and the problem decreases." But if the city turns its funding and attention to other things, "it goes back up."

According to Police Chief Scott Vermeer, the Youth Service Unit will "significantly increase our efforts and resources dedicated and tasked with diversion, prevention and intervention of youth before they enter significant criminal delinquency, gangs, or to help them exit from gang life."

The approved \$180,000 will go towards a full-time sergeant who will work with another non-sworn, full-time officer moved from within the department. Also in the unit are two part-time counselors who will likely come from the Community Health Awareness Council — paid for by the state grant for

two and half years.

The department's existing school resource officers would also become a part of the unit, as well as the department's gang suppression officers who work both on gang prevention and as detectives.

city is set to formalize a plan for the Cuesta Annex, 12 acres of open space adjacent to Cuesta Park. The master plan will take into account a report from the Santa Clara Valley Water District this summer on using portions of the Annex for a flood basin.

The council also funded \$300,000 for a master plan for Rengstorff Park this year. Members have made it a top goal to revitalize the park and the neighborhood.

One case in point is the nearby Rengstorff Avenue railroad crossing, which has claimed several lives. The council made it a top goal to aggressively seek funding for a \$45 million underpass, a project that has been on the back burner for decades. Approved Tuesday was \$250,000 for an environmental impact study for the "grade separation" to start this year.

\$10,000 reward for Johnson murder

Police are now offering \$10,000 to anyone with information that will lead to an arrest in the double shooting Feb. 7 that left 20-year-old Jeffrey Johnson dead and another injured.

One suspect has been arrested so far but police have not gathered enough evidence to hold any others. Nathan Talarico is scheduled to plea on May 30. Another suspect, Jose Alfredo Romero, 19, was arrested but had to be released due to lack of evidence.

The shooting began on the 700 block of Ehrhorn Street at around 7 p.m. during a drug deal. It led to a car chase with guns blazing on Highway 85.

Police have set up a tip line at (866) 570-8211. Anonymous callers can still receive the award. An identification number given to callers links them to the information they give. ▀

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

After a string of assaults and murders involving youth over the past year, the council gave the police department \$180,000 towards the creation of a Youth Services Unit.

Earlier this year, Mountain View was the only small city to win a grant from the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Program.

The council approved the police funding 5-1, with Mayor Tom Means absent and member Matt Pear opposed.

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FREESTYLE

► Continued from page 5

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"This is a very rewarding process," said junior James Glass after the reading.

Each year, the Freestyle students complete a longer narrative project, and last year they made graphic pages. The students said making the books was busy, especially while they were making films and completing other Freestyle projects.

"We wanted to make the books applicable to younger kids," said junior Alyssa Young.

The Parent Nursery School, which was just reaccredited, often invites local high school students to volunteer and participate in the classroom, according to director Claire Koukoutsakis. ▣

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■ EDUCATION BRIEFS

CASTRO OVERENROLLED

Enrollment at Castro Elementary School is growing faster than at any other school in the district, administrators said recently.

With a projected student body of 692 students for the 2008-09 school year, plus another 100 preschool students, Castro is the largest elementary school in the Mountain View Whisman Elementary School District. Bubb

is next, but trails far behind with an estimated 551 students for the coming year. Castro also has more students than either of the middle schools.

Stephanie Totter, director of administrative services, said the large projected enrollment — which could still increase — is mostly due to the extra programs at Castro. In addition to regular classes, it houses the district's very popular PACT and

dual immersion programs.

In the short term, administrators and trustees will open up two classrooms on campus that had previously been used by private organizations, but are still brainstorming other ideas. Totter said moving the choice programs to another site is a long-term option for curbing the growth.

— Casey Weiss

DAY WORKER

► Continued from page 5

who employ day workers, often homeowners and contractors, are responsible for health care expenses when a day worker gets hurt, and many are covered by homeowners' insurance policies. In other cases, John Rinaldi, a lawyer who serves on the Day Worker Center's board, has been known to represent day workers.

The law is rarely enforced for those workers who solicit work on the street, speakers said at the workshop. And when an injury happens, as one worker told the *Voice*, it's all too common for workers to hear employers say, "We don't have any more work for you."

"Thank God it's not too common, but one is too much," Marroquin said about injuries to workers who use her center.

One undocumented worker from San Francisco said he injured his hip muscle in late 2006. The employer he worked for, who was building heavy granite countertops, immediately fired him and has refused to pay his health expenses. He still suffers from the injury and it prevents him from working most jobs he is offered.

According to a study on day laborers in Los Angeles and Illinois, 20 percent suffered work-related injuries, and two thirds of those injured received no medical care. Of those studied, 55 percent also did not receive break time for lunch or even to drink water — factors making accidents more likely due to exhaustion.

Before the workshop, a day worker left the center with a large container of water, saying the employer had not given him water the day before.

During the presentation, one worker said he was injured on the job after soliciting work on the street, was never paid, and wanted to know who could help. Workers like him were directed to legal experts at the end of the presentation.

To help those workers who stand on El Camino Real near San Antonio Road, the center has started an outreach program with \$10,000 from the city and some help from the police department. Under the program, workers are educated about their rights and the services available at the Mountain View center, such as the mobile health clinic that visits weekly. ■

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

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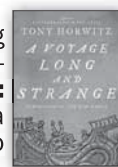
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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Endorsements

EDGE GOES TO CASERTA IN ASSEMBLY RACE

District 22 voters have a tough choice to make when they go to the polls next week. Four candidates are running in the Democratic primary, and the winner is all but certain to replace Assemblywoman Sally Lieber, D-Mountain View, who is termed out.



Our choice in this tight race is Santa Clara City Council member and high school teacher Dominic Caserta, although we also are impressed with Paul Fong, a longtime professor and 15-year trustee of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District.

We gave the nod to Caserta due to the wealth of ideas he provided in a Voice questionnaire, which asked all four candidates to state their positions on a series of issues (see page 18). The other two candidates are county school board member Anna Song and Cupertino City Council member Kris Wang.

On some of the big questions, Caserta and Fong had virtually the same answers. For example, both support SB-840, the universal health care bill proposed by Assembly member Sheila Keuhl. But we liked that Caserta would go further, adding a series of community health care clinics to provide immunizations, preventive care and other services to ease the burden on doctors and emergency rooms.

This follows a pattern with these two candidates: Although we like Fong's blunt, no-nonsense style, we also like that Caserta seems to have thought the issues through more closely, often providing more specific or creative ideas.

On education, for example, Caserta and Fong are similar in most respects. Both of these educators agree passionately that the state's schools must be funded fully and without compromise. And both agree that Proposition 98, in Fong's words, "should be the floor, not the ceiling" of funding. But Caserta also wants to expand technical classes like auto shop, focusing on legitimate career paths for California's students that often are ignored.

Caserta, a former Republican, is running against the tide in this race, as Fong has been endorsed by Lieber and the Democratic establishment, including U.S. Reps. Anna Eshoo, Zoe Lofgren and Mike Honda. Caserta has backing from several unions and the Mountain View Police Officers Association.

Although it is a close call, we believe Caserta is the best candidate in the District 22 race, and urge voters to support him on June 3.

VOTE YES ON MEASURE C

A reminder: Last week the Voice endorsed Measure C, which would renew and increase the parcel tax in the Mountain View Whisman School District. The new tax would take effect in 2009, and provide an additional \$1.3 million to the district. Most property owners would see their current parcel tax increase by \$52 a year — more than worth it, in our view, to assure the quality of Mountain View's elementary schools.

■ CORRECTION

In its editorial last week, the Voice incorrectly stated higher-end rate hikes as proposed by Measure C, the parcel tax for Mountain View's elementary schools. Rates for the largest lot size would jump from \$600 to \$1,016 under the new measure. The Voice regrets this error.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY ON TWO WHEELS

Editor:

On behalf of the Environmental Sustainability Task Force's transportation working group, I'd like to thank Forrest Linebarger for his recent column discussing biking and citing the efforts of our task force as well ("The new math on bicycling," May 23). In particular, I'd like to cite his remarks on "community" in the transportation section of our final report.

For example, he said: "Talking to this new breed of bikers, one gets a sense that they feel like they have a more intimate sense of community than the four-wheeled set. They are not separated from their neighborhood by the glass walls of the automobile. They stop by the corner store to shop. They teach their children to ride bikes, and train them on safety. They say hello to their neighbors because they travel at human-scale speeds. Their windows are never closed."

As Linebarger noted, the task force's next public meeting is June 3 at City Hall. For more information, visit www.sustainablemountainview.org or write to comments@sustainablemountainview.org.

Bruce England
Whisman Station Drive

BUDGET REVISE STILL LEAVES SCHOOLS GASPING

Editor:

Thank you for your recent coverage of the governor's May budget revision and its impact on local school districts ("Schools struggle to unravel budget," May 23).

Despite reversing course from January and not proposing to suspend Proposition 98, the governor, according to his latest budget plan, would still deprive schools of \$4 billion compared to what we need just to maintain existing levels of service.

For the Mountain View Whisman School District, for example, it amounts to approximately \$505 less for each student. There is no question that's better than what we expected in January, but it's still a loss.

It's also dependent upon the budget stabilization act and lottery securitization plan the governor has proposed, neither of which looks promising. We think budget stabilization is a great idea but, in its current form, it locks schools into ongoing inadequate funding by starting with an underfunded base year. Additionally, it's a power grab that gives the governor and his political appointee unprecedented authority to make mid-year cuts up to three times per year.

Lottery securitization can only be described as "lipstick on a pig." It's a short-term fix that won't address the imbalance between the educational needs of our students and existing revenues. We cannot continue to borrow our way out of our budget woes.

The leaders of tomorrow are in our schools today. They need an excellent and complete public education to contribute and be innovators here Silicon Valley. It's time to invest in our future.

Judy Hannemann, Trustee
MVLA High School District

Gloria Higgins, Trustee
MV Whisman School District



■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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State Assembly candidates' position Q&A



Dominic Caserta

What we cannot do is to cut spending for education and those most in need. We can:

- Raise revenue by closing tax loopholes, and impose a windfall-profits tax on oil companies;
- Reduce government expenses by increasing governmental efficiency.
- When our state is flush with money, we should establish a "rainy day" account to mitigate deficits.
- Boost economic activity. One area, for example, is the clean, green energy sector.

Q: What do you propose be done about the state's budget crisis?

- **Expand on Senate Bill 1660** — to draw math and science teachers to low-performing districts — to include all teachers who choose to work in such schools.
- Ensure that Prop. 98 sets a minimum, not maximum, for school spending.
- Offer online classes in each discipline for grades seven through 12.
- Make career and technical classes a graduation requirement to lower absenteeism and help the next generation of workers feel more secure in the global economy.
- Establish a system to monitor spending to ensure that taxpayers' money is used properly.

Q: The state's school system is among the nation's worst. How do we change that?

By reducing fuel consumption, we will reduce California's main sources of transportation funding — the gas tax and the sales tax on gasoline. **To curtail greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the state's infrastructure needs, we must change how we fund transportation.** For example, I would propose that we:

- Significantly raise the gas tax.
- Adopt distance-based fees based on vehicle fuel efficiency and distance traveled.
- Enact congestion pricing by raising tolls during peak commute hours.
- Enact "feebates" to increase the manufacture and purchase of cleaner vehicles.

Q: What are California's greatest transportation concerns, and how should we address them?

Yes, I support universal health care for all Californians. I would:

- Expand the system of affordable, community-based health clinics to provide immunizations, preventive care, pregnancy tests and other services. This approach saves time and money by relieving the strain on doctors' offices and emergency rooms. It would be part of the universal health care reform package.
- Make dental and other oral care a part of all health coverage.
- Prevent insurers from dropping patients with pre-existing conditions.

Q: Do you support a universal health care system for all Californians? What would it do?

Our electoral system must be reformed. I support establishing a citizens' commission to take redistricting out of politicians' hands and create more competitive and representative legislative districts.

Gerrymandering is antidemocratic. We need to create a system where officeholders are held accountable at the ballot box.

I also support creating a system of public financing, similar to the one used in Arizona.

Q: Some believe the state's electoral system is gerrymandered beyond recognition. Do you agree, and if so, what if anything should be done about it?



Paul Fong

Bridge the deficit without further cuts to education or to those who are most vulnerable.

- We need to generate revenue by eliminating tax loopholes, raising fees, collecting the estimated \$6.5 billion in corporate and personal income taxes that go unpaid and uncollected every year, and securing the additional \$2 billion in sales and use taxes that currently go uncollected.
- Consider a severance tax on oil extracted in California that could generate an additional \$1.2 billion in yearly revenue for the state.

We need to fully fund education. Proposition 98 should be the floor for funding, not the ceiling. Additionally, we need to close the education achievement gap. I will work to close the gap by:

- Fostering public/private partnerships that will fully fund quality online resources on the High Speed Network
- Expanding prekindergarten programs.
- Connecting our schools with educational organizations, local government agencies, parent groups, and businesses.
- Providing local schools the funding that best meets their students' needs.

I support regulations and legislation that would:

- **Increase funding for public transportation, such as requiring spillover monies be spent on the purpose they were intended for such as public transit.**
- Equalize funding for highways and clean public transportation projects.
- Promote and support planning at the regional and statewide level that combines transportation and land use planning that employs smart growth methods.
- We need incentives to locate housing developments closer to where people work, shop, and go to school.

Yes. With the number of uninsured now reaching 6.5 million residents, and with most of the newly insured from middle-income families, I support SB 840, the single payer health care legislation that would provide Californians with quality, affordable healthcare regardless of employment.

SB 840 would provide fiscally sound, universal health care and control health cost inflation, achieving overall savings of more than \$29 billion, most of which would be used to cover the uninsured and provide financial savings to employers and families, while actually reducing total health spending for California by about \$8 billion in the first year alone.

I don't believe that the state's electoral system is gerrymandered beyond recognition. However, I support turning redistricting over to an independent commission.



Anna Song

First, I support changing the budget approval threshold from two-thirds to a lower percentage — 55 or even a 60 percent threshold — to get a budget complete.

- I propose a special five year assessment of 10 percent on all income earned over \$250,000 per person (\$500,000 per couple).
- I do not support reinstating a high car registration tax.

Strengthen school site councils.

These relatively low-profile groups are underused in most districts. We must also expand language, science and math training.

It's unacceptable that test scores from Latino and African-American students consistently show a wide achievement gap. One small solution I would propose is to pressure media groups like Univision and Telemundo to step up and provide a massive public outreach campaign to change priorities about homework, tutoring and year-round studying.

Our first statewide priority must be highway maintenance and infrastructure investment.

- I support providing incentives for transit-oriented development that will encourage cities to build housing along transit lines.
- I support encouraging local governments to invest in quality local transit systems that actually will get people out of their cars on a daily basis.
- I support a high-speed rail Line, but we cannot allow our current state highways to deteriorate. The best way to solve the transportation concerns is to provide viable options that reduce commute distances.

I support a universal health care system and I will vote for whatever version of Sheila Kuehl's bill (SB-840) makes it to the Legislature next term.

However, I also will vote for reasonable health care bills that don't quite get to the "universal" standard. If we keep splitting our votes between the good, the better and the best, we're not going to make progress. We're dealing with people's lives here and it's time to get something passed to expand health care coverage and get it signed into law.

While all boundaries are not totally beyond recognition, I do agree it's a mess.

I support adopting very clear guidelines that take some flexibility out of the legislature's hands.

I support a clear one-week notice period before any map can be adopted. And, I support a clear cutoff date after which the Legislature would forfeit its right to consider further boundary changes.

I would give the Legislature the power to draw boundary lines — but with public and journalistic scrutiny prior to adoption. And, I would keep midsize and small city boundaries as a key criterion for determining district edges.



Kris Wang

Establish local committees to increase communication between the state and our cities. Each group will be held accountable for progress and efficiency.

- Rein in spending via budget control boards. The board will be able to check spending so that we do not overspend and overbudget.
- Establish a rainy day fund; theoretically, with efficient planning, a rainy day fund would not be needed. But in times of fiscal emergencies could prevent us from exacerbating the problem.

Education is the best investment we can make for the future of California. I am a strong advocate for quality funding and appropriate oversight for our schools. **I believe smaller classrooms, diverse curriculum, and more support for faculty are fundamental.**

Schools are often judged by the preparedness of our students entering the workforce. In Silicon Valley, this can be best accomplished through vocational programs that enable students to work directly with our companies and industry experts.

The goal is to properly align the benefits of a transportation system with the costs.

Reducing time of travel, encouraging economic growth, and improving security are benefits, but damaging the environment and operating and maintaining the systems are costs.

Decisions should be made where benefits and costs are equally distributed to all users and citizens.

I do support universal health care.

I believe that affordable, quality healthcare is a basic human right, and that it is the job of representatives in Sacramento to make sure every person in our state has access to the basic human need of medical attention.

Currently, many Californians are only one accident away from financial ruin for the rest of their lives.

Universal coverage for California would consolidate a lot of wasteful spending and grant all Californians access to a basic human right.

There is no question that our state's electoral system has been gerrymandered. The difficulty is finding a healthy medium in which both sides agree.

Gerrymandering is illegal, and the next best shot to change it partially is 2010, when the next U.S. census is calculated and distributed. Ideally, we would be able to find a non-biased way of districting in which party denomination, race, or ethnicity do not play a role.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

■ MOVIE TIMES

■ BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

The short list

BRUNELLO IN MENLO PARK EARNS HIGH MARKS FOR FOOD, AMBIENCE, SERVICE

By Renee Batti

When I sit down in a restaurant and am handed a menu with a long list of entrees, I get nervous.

There have been some notable exceptions, but so often I find that a restaurant that offers more than a dozen or so main entrees on the regular menu executes none of them exceptionally well. In some cases none of the dishes even rises above mediocrity.

A short menu, on the other hand, offers more hope that the chef has mastered each of the dishes, narrowing his or her focus to securing the perfect ingredients and preparing food to be proud of.

Brunello Ristorante Italiano, the new downtown Menlo Park

restaurant, appears to be living up to that hope. There's a short list of antipasti, a short list of soups and salads, a short "primi" list of pastas, and a six-item list of "secondi" entrees on the regular menu. And judging from recent dining experiences there, chef Gabriele Astoria takes much pride in the meals he serves Brunello patrons.

Chef Astoria, who hails from Naples, follows the principles of Italian cooking that I find the most appealing: Use the best, freshest ingredients possible, and prepare the food simply, but with a finesse that allows those ingredients to shine.

An example is his preparation of a traditional Italian dish that I've always considered simplicity itself: minestrone. The broth is delicate

but savory, the vegetables seemingly fresh-picked and cooked al dente. Minestrone can so often taste and look like a dreadful mush of whatever old vegetables a restaurant might have on hand at the time. Mr. Astoria's brightly flavored minestrone just might be the best I've ever had.

Brunello opened in late September in the space at 651-H Maloney Lane, near Oak Grove Avenue, formerly occupied by Trattoria Buon Gusto. The attractively renovated restaurant is small, cozy and inviting. Its walls blush with pale, warm color and, along the walls, bench seats are upholstered in a patterned fabric that can make you feel as if you're sitting in

► See **BRUNELLO**, page 20



VERONICA WEBER

The Caprino con vegetali grisliati appetizer at Brunello Ristorante Italiano.

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

BRUNELLO

► Continued from page 19

a Gustav Klimt painting. On a recent cold evening, I ordered the zuppa di pesce (\$18.95), served in a huge bowl full of a light tomato broth, clams, mussels, scallops and a small filet of salmon, with a small portion of vermicelli noodles in one side of the bowl. It was fragrant and delicious.

My dining companion was equally happy with his entree, pork cutlets in a gorgonzola sauce, which he ordered from the specials menu. The meat was tender and the cheese sauce flavorful, but mild enough not to overwhelm the meat.

We started with caprino con vegetali grigliati (\$7.95), an appetizer of grilled vegetables layered with warm goat cheese and served with a basil coulis.

We also split a Cesar salad (\$6.95), which our waiter asked the kitchen to plate separately for us.

Both appetizer and salad were excellent.

The creme brulee (\$6.50) we split for dessert was creamy in texture and a fitting end to a terrific meal.

I talked up the fish soup so much my friend decided to order

it when we went to Brunello for lunch soon after. On the lunch menu, the cost is slightly less, and the entree comes with a salad.

My lunch companion liked her zuppa di pesce, and thought the broth was well-flavored with the essence of the fish, but she would have preferred a fish

other than salmon. Also, she noted that the dish was a bit difficult to eat because of the vermicelli in the soup. "I would not want to eat ... this on a first date or a business meal," she warns.

She also praised the green salad, which she found fresh, with just the

Our dinner waiter, after finding out what type of wine we prefer, steered us to an excellent southern Italian red that was one of the least expensive on the menu.

► Continued on next page

DINING NOTES

Brunello Ristorante Italiano
 651-H Maloney Lane
 Menlo Park
 (650) 328-2778

Hours:
 Lunch: Tuesday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Dinner: Tuesday through Sunday, 5 to 10 p.m.
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 —Ralph Barbieri KNBR 680



VERONICA WEBER

The chefs at Brunello Ristorante Italiano prepare dinner entrees in the small kitchen.

► Continued from previous page

right amount of oil and balsamic dressing.

The ravioli I ordered (\$13.95) were cooked al dente (a rare and welcome event) and were lightly dressed with a delicate cherry tomato and garlic sauce - a simple but satisfying meal.

On two other lunch occasions, I tried the panini, sandwiches made with focaccia-style bread. The panino with prosciutto, fresh mozzarella, tomato and olive oil was the standout, with the rich olive oil a lovely complement to the rosemary focaccia.

The panino alla Milanese was also very good, but it was served on thicker, crustier bread, and was a bit difficult to eat. The Milanese includes breaded chicken, sliced tomato, lettuce and a tasty, creamy tomato-based sauce.

A friend was very happy with her chicken panino on rosemary focaccia, which included tomato, lettuce and aioli.

We also found the soup of the day, a pureed garbanzo bean concoction, a true delight.

All panini on the menu are

\$8.95, except for the vegetarian, which is \$7.95.

Brunello changes its dinnertime specials menu every seven to 10 days, according to Fusae Yoshioka-Castelluccio, the gracious manager who greets customers every day. The specials menu typically features five entrees. A recent specials menu offered a range of entrees from sea bass in a caper, olive and light tomato sauce (\$21.95), to rack of lamb in rosemary sauce (\$19.95), to rigatoni alla amatriciana, pasta with bacon, onion and tomato sauce (\$16.95).

Desserts, which include tiramisu, panna cotta and other house-made choices, cost between \$6.50 and \$6.95, Yoshioka-Castelluccio said.

The restaurant features Italian wines from various regions, as well

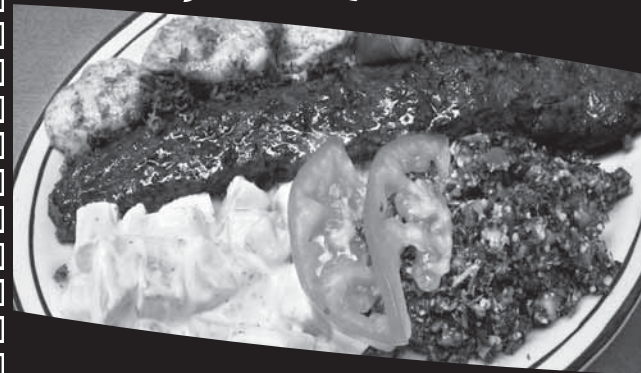
as California wines.

In addition to fine, satisfying food, Brunello offers super service, with waiters who are attentive, helpful and accommodating.

Our dinner waiter, after finding out what type of wine we prefer, steered us to an excellent southern Italian red that was one of the least expensive on the menu.

And when, after lunch, I asked if I could have the chocolate truffle gelato in my affogato (a scoop of gelato "drowned" in a shot of espresso) instead of the vanilla listed on the menu, the waiter didn't hesitate to ask the manager (who didn't hesitate to say "si, si"). These folks aim to please, and they succeed — with panache. ▣

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MOVIE TIMES

BABY MAMA (PG-13) ★★★ Century 12: 2, 4:30, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m.
BEFORE THE RAINS (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)
Guild: 1:45, 4:30, 7 & 9:40 p.m.

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 12:20, 2:20, 3:35, 5:55, 6:50, 9:10 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 12:10, 1:10, 2:25, 4:20, 5:35, 6:20, 7:30, 9:05 & 10:35 p.m.

THE COUNTERFEITERS (R) ★★★1/2
Century 20: Noon, 4:45 & 9:35 p.m.

DR. SEUSS' HORTON HEARS A WHO! (G) ★★★
Century 12: 1:20, 3:40, 7:10 & 9:30 p.m.

THE FALL (R) ★★ Aquarius: 1, 3:45, 7 & 9:40 p.m.

THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 12: 3:55 & 10:15 p.m.

FORGETTING SARAH MARSHALL (R) (NOT REVIEWED)
Century 20: 11:40 a.m.; 2:20, 5:05, 7:55 & 10:30 p.m.

HAROLD AND KUMAR ESCAPE FROM GUANTANAMO BAY (R) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 12: 1, 4:20, 7:30 & 10:20 p.m.

HOW THE GARCIA GIRLS SPENT THEIR SUMMER (R) ★★
Century 12: 12:50 & 7:15 p.m.

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: 11 & 11:30 a.m.; 12:10, 12:50, 2, 2:35, 3:10, 3:55, 4:30, 5:10, 5:40, 6:15, 7:05, 7:35, 8:05, 8:40, 9:15, 10 & 10:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat. & Mon.-Tue. also at 1:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:05 & 11:35 a.m.; 12:15, 1, 1:35, 2, 2:35, 3:25, 4:10, 4:40, 5:10, 5:45, 6:30, 7:05, 7:50, 8:20, 8:55, 9:40 & 10:20 p.m.

IRON MAN (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 1:15, 2:15, 4:20, 5:15, 7:15, 8:15 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 1:20, 2:15, 3:20, 4:15, 5:15, 7:10, 8:15, 9:35 & 10:15 p.m.

MADE OF HONOR (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: 1:10 & 7:10 P.M. Century 12: 2:15, 4:45, 7:35 & 10:05 p.m.

MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY (PG-13) ★★★ Century 20: 2:30 & 7:10 p.m.

NIM'S ISLAND (PG) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 12: 1:30, 3:50, 7:20 & 9:40 p.m.

REDBELT (R) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 12: 3:30 & 9:45 p.m.

RESERVOIR DOGS (R) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: Fri. at 10 p.m.

ROMAN DE GARE (R) (NOT REVIEWED) Aquarius: 1:30, 7 & 9:40 p.m. Fri.-Mon. also at 4 p.m.

SEX AND THE CITY (R) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; noon, 12:30, 1:25, 2:30, 3:15, 3:45, 4:40, 5:45, 6:30, 7, 8, 9, 9:45 & 10:15 p.m. Century 20: 11:10 & 11:45 a.m.; 12:45, 1:30, 2:20, 3, 4, 4:45, 5:30, 6:15, 7:15, 8, 8:45, 9:30 & 10:30 p.m.

SIN CITY (NOT RATED) (NOT REVIEWED)
Century 16: Sat. at 10 p.m.

SMART PEOPLE (R) ★★ Century 12: 1:10 & 7:25 p.m.

SON OF RAMBOW (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 12: 12:35 & 7:05 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:30, 7:10 & 9:35 p.m.

SPEED RACER (PG) ★★★ Century 16: 3:40. Sun.-Tue. also at 9:40 p.m. Century 12: 12:40, 1:50, 3:45, 5, 7, 8:40 & 10:10 p.m.

THE STRANGERS (R) SNEAK PREVIEW Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 1:35, 3:50, 6, 8:10 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 12:30, 1:40, 3, 4, 5:20, 6:15, 7:40, 9 & 10 p.m.

UNDER THE SAME MOON (LA MISMA LUNA) (NOT RATED) ★★★1/2 Century 12: 3:10 & 9:50 p.m.

THE VISITOR (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 20: 11:55 a.m.; 2:25, 4:55, 7:30 & 10:05 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1:40, 4:20, 7 & 9:30 p.m.

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: 12:25, 3, 5:25, 7:55 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:40, 2, 3:05, 4:30, 5:35, 6:55, 8, 9:25 & 10:25 p.m.


YOUNG AT HEART (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 1:55, 4:35, 7:15 & 9:50 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

HOW THE GARCIA GIRLS SPENT THEIR SUMMER ★★
(Aquarius, Century 12) It's a long, hot summer in one of those small towns where everyone knows everything. What makes Georgina Garcia Riedel's feature debut unique is her focus on three generations of Mexican-American women. Their interaction rings true, primarily because of the warmth exuded by America Ferrera and the easygoing relationship established with Lucy Gallardo, who plays her 70-year-old widowed grandmother. Providing a cynical counterpoint, the always-impressive Elizabeth Pena convincingly portrays the divorced Garcia "girl" sandwiched between her sweet-natured teenage daughter and newly adventuresome mother — all on the verge of sexual awakening. The performances are remarkable given that Riedel's script languishes along, as slow-paced and directionless as its characters. Eventually scenes slip into a predictable rhythm. At best, the drama is in low gear. "How the Garcia Girls Spent Their Summer" made the film festival rounds in 2005. The three-year wait may not be worth it. *Rated: R for sexual content and some language. In English and Spanish with English subtitles. 2 hours, 8 minutes. — S.T.*

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL ★★1/2
(Century 16, Century 20) Harrison Ford reprises his role of the derring-do professor of archeology with wry panache, kicking it off circa 1957 with a dazzling escape from a group of Russian Communist soldiers searching for an ancient artifact that may hold the key to mysterious intelligence of the great beyond. Indy — man of nine lives — eludes the grasp of assailants and hails of bullets with effortless aw-shucks ease. But his quest comes with a price, as his nemesis will not be thwarted, and he is a she. Rapier-wielding Russian agent Irina Spalko (Cate Blanchett) is a whip-smart dominatrix with an unquenchable thirst for global control. While a cast of thousands (or so it appears) frantically and futilely searches for a mythical crystal skull struggles to untangle twisted riddles in dead languages, Indy makes the acquaintance of biker-boy Mutt Williams (Shia LaBeouf), an insolent punk dispatched by his mother to enlist Indy's help in rescuing loony-tunes colleague Professor Oxley (John Hurt). From then on it's stock buddy exploits mired in a virtual fun house of special effects and classic clichés. *Rated: PG-13 for violence and frightening images. 2 hours, 2 minutes. — J.A.*

MISS PETTIGREW LIVES FOR A DAY ★★★
(Century 16, Century 20) Guinevere Pettigrew (Frances McDormand) is a as a governess: scalding the porridge, losing her young charges in local parks, etc. The nanny service refuses to recommend her, so as a last resort Miss Pettigrew presents herself at the doorway of Delysia Lafosse (the enchanting Amy Adams). Delysia isn't looking for a nanny, per se, and there's not

Weekend

a rugrat in sight. Instead the flighty ingenue is casting about for a proper social secretary to make sense of her agenda. Miss Pettigrew to the rescue! As Delysia flutters through things Cinderella-style, Pettigrew deftly cuts a swath through her jumbled social clutter. Pettigrew also endures an unexpected makeover while choreographing the hazards of Delysia's romantic roundelay. The farce frays a bit at the edges as it telegraphs unmistakable idealisms, a tidy set-to of boy-meets-girl and girl-reserves-the-right-to-equivocate. A spare little trifle, clean and sweet. *Rated: PG-13 for some nudity, language and mature themes. 1 hour, 32 minutes.* — J.A.

SPEED RACER ★★

(Century 16, Century 12) Speed Racer (Emile Hirsch of "Into the Wild") has become the wunderkind of the auto-racing world. But the loss of his brother Rex in a tragic crash still permeates the Racer family. Although Speed's parents, Mom (Susan Sarandon) and Pops (John Goodman), continue to support his full-throttle fervor, Speed himself always seems to be chasing the ghost of his buried brother. When revelations surface that most races are fixed and a greedy megalomaniac named Royalton (Roger Allam) essentially controls the sport, Speed teams with the mysterious Racer X (Matthew Fox) to bring a sense of honor back to racing. With the help of his devoted girlfriend (Christina Ricci), his younger brother (Paulie Litt) and the family's pet chimpanzee, Speed strives to win a dangerous cross-country rally called The Crucible and prove not all drivers can be bought. Fans of the show and families in need of an enjoyable excursion should race to the theater without haste. All others can drop into first gear and wait for "Speed" to pull into Netflix. *Rated: PG for sequences of action, some violence and language. 2 hours, 15 minutes.* — T.H.

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, or so the story goes. Joy McNally (Cameron Diaz) and Jack Fuller (Ashton Kutcher) are on the fast track to destiny: Joy a commodities trader whose fiancé has said sayonara to her anal ways, and Jack fired by his own dad for being too much the life of the party. The two New Yorkers head to Vegas to blow off some steam and, after a fateful meeting and a crazy hazy night of feeling no pain, find themselves legally hitched Vegas-style. A simple annulment should take care of things, but there's a little glitch in the form of a tidy \$3 million Jack — and Joy — win at the slots shortly before they part ways. Can you say "community property"? Naturally the pair can't agree on the money so the court makes the decision for them: prove they can make their impromptu marriage work the old-school way or sacrifice the multi-million-dollar bonanza to the legal system. Okay, it's a throwaway but a pretty painless one. *Rated: PG-13 for language and sexual situations. 1 hour, 38 minutes.* — J.A.

MOVIE CRITICS

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

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Dominic Caserta

A Fresh Voice *for* Mountain View

DOMINIC CASERTA

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My name is Dominic Caserta and I teach high school civics, history and economics. I'm also serving my second term as a City Council Member in Santa Clara.

For five generations, my family has lived in the Santa Clara Valley. We've seen our region grow from an agricultural economy to a community that has revolutionized the world through innovative and inventive thinking.

I am a progressive Democrat running for State Assembly because I believe that by bringing the same environment of fresh ideas and creative solutions to the Capitol, we can start solving the problems facing our state.

Our core Democratic values – fairness, tolerance, respect – are qualities I live by and embrace both in the classroom and as an elected public official.

I am excited at the prospect of giving Mountain View a fresh voice in Sacramento. I would be grateful for your vote on June 3.



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- Mountain View Police Officers Association
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