

Mountain View VOICE

OCTOBER 3, 2008 VOLUME 16, NO. 39

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**70-year
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IN BUSINESS
| P.21



VERONICA WEBER

Eighth grader Anthony Otey works on the speedbag after school at Crittenden Middle School last Thursday.

PAL gets in the ring

AFTER SIX MONTHS OF PRACTICING, BOXING LEAGUE READY WITH NEW EQUIPMENT

By Casey Weiss

The 18 middle and high school students race around a makeshift track, jogging forward, then backward and sideways, trying not to fall

behind as their coaches lead the way.

For the last six months, these students have spent their afternoons in the Crittenden Middle School gym learning how to box. Every day after the final

school bell rings, they line up in the gym, ready to do laps and core strengthening exercises with their coaches, who are all local police officers.

The program is the newest addition by the Mountain View Police Activity League (PAL), which pairs at-risk youth with officers to play sports and work out some of that extra energy — before it's channeled in the wrong direction.

As they stretch, the coaches help the students, who are both girls and boys, with their technique, and playfully challenge the ones who can't keep up.

"It's fun and the coaches are good at teaching," Crittenden seventh grader Fred Jordan said. "They make us sweat a lot."

Ron Cooper, a school resource officer who works with the Mountain View Whisman School Dis-



VERONICA WEBER

Jerusalem Jimenez, left, and **Michelle Amador** practice a few sparring moves during a PAL boxing league workout.

► See **BOXING**, page 11

'Redrawing the American dream'

MASSIVE REPORT BY ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE OUTLINES 89 WAYS TO GO GREEN

By Daniel DeBolt

Possibly one of the most significant reports in the history of Mountain View is now in the City Council's hands after a year of intense research and analysis by dozens of local residents.

The city's Environmental Sustainability Task Force has finished the job for which it was created: generating a report on how to increase the sustainability of Mountain View. The council will spend its entire meeting on Nov. 7 discussing the report.

"Our plans are about redrawing the American dream," said Deb Henigson, a Google employee who chaired a task force working group on land use planning.

Broken into 11 chapters, the report makes 89 recommendations for the sustainability of Mountain View, from reducing greenhouse gases to improving the quality of life for residents and adapting to climate change. Its 300 pages were met with praise from expert consultants at a meeting Tuesday night, where half of the task force's 11 groups presented their ideas.

"We have received the report and we are very impressed by both the size and the quality," said Culley Thomas of Edaw, a consulting firm the city has hired to create a greenhouse gas reduction program.

City officials are in shock over the report's length, say task force members who are concerned about whether their work will sit on the shelf. From here on, the process will involve sometimes political decisions on the part of the City Council as to which rec-

ommendations will be a priority, and which will be cost effective in improving the sustainability of the city.

Some of the most consequential recommendations came out of Henigson's group, which recommends a network of "healthy

► See **TASK FORCE**, page 13

Kingmakers step up in council race

ENDORSEMENTS FROM NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS, LOCAL LEADERS COULD HAVE GREATER INFLUENCE

By Daniel DeBolt

It's that time during the City Council election cycle when campaigns are picking up speed, and residents begin to decide who they like among the candidates.

In the last few weeks, Mountain View's nine candidates have been busily filling out questionnaires and doing interviews with about two dozen groups, including the Chamber of Commerce, the police and fire unions, the Sierra Club and the Democratic Party — all in the hopes of winning one of four avail-

► See **ENDORSEMENTS**, page 8

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Palo Alto Medical Clinic

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Health Education Highlights

Lectures and Events



Celebrate Health Education

October 20 - 24 is National Health Education Week

Mark your calendars and come celebrate at the Mountain View Health Resource Center between the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. View the latest books, exciting displays and models. Free education materials and a special gift (while supplies last) will also be given out in honor of Health Education week.

Mountain View Center, 701 E. El Camino Real, Third Floor



Dr. Marvin Small Memorial Parent Workshop Series

Understanding Your Child's Learning Style

Tuesday, October 7, 7 - 9 p.m.

Mountain View Center, 701 E. El Camino Real

Third Floor Conference Rooms C & D

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Classes and Support Groups

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Feeding Your Toddler/Preschooler

Thursday, October 9, 11 - 1 p.m.

Mountain View Center, 701 E. El Camino Real

Third Floor Conference Rooms

Cost: \$20

*For more information or to reserve your space, visit
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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Kelly Truong.

What is your opinion on Proposition 4 (the state measure on abortion which would force minors to notify a parent or guardian)?



"I'm pro-life, so I think that a girl, if she becomes pregnant, should think of other options, and I think parents can help with that decision. I think it is a good idea."

Allie Ralph-Ching, Mountain View



"Let the kids do what they think they have to do. They're going to have to grow up real fast. Welcome to adulthood."

Barbara Goodwin, Mountain View



"I think a very young teen needs to have her parents know, but I'm not sure if it should be government-mandated."

Pearl Thompson, Pittsburg



"I would hate to have a child, such as Sarah Palin's daughter, have to have a child because it was her mother's decision. It's not always black and white."

Monica Roscelli, Campbell



"I don't have a legitimate viewpoint, because I haven't been through it myself."

Bryan Kim, Mountain View



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Have a question for **Voices Around Town**? E-mail it to editor@mv-voice.com



The Mayor's Corner

Did You Enjoy Thursday Night Live?

Greetings. My term as mayor expires at the end of this year, and I want to use these last few months to write about my mayoral experience, update you on recent council accomplishments, and summarize some of the important issues facing the city of Mountain View. For this issue the focus is on one of the fun events that makes our community great. Did you have a chance to attend one of the **TNL - THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE** events this past summer? A few years ago

I initiated the council goal of closing off a portion of Castro Street for summer evenings. I thought it would be nice to walk and dine on a warm night without vehicles on the street. Before I brought this concept to council, I met with downtown merchant groups and community leaders to get their input and encourage their involvement. The concept proceeded through several committees and finally emerged as **TNL**. Many thanks go to the efforts of downtown

business merchants and city staff for taking the lead in organizing the special events for each evening. I had a simple idea, but others made it a great idea. **TNL** has turned into a lively downtown event with great food, music, fresh produce, and fun activities for children. Where else can kids chalk up an intersection right in front of the City Attorney and not get in trouble? I hope this great event will continue and would value your input on ways to improve **TNL**.

Visit www.tommeansonline.com

Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Tom Means (ID#1307820)

■ POLICE LOG

ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON

300 Block Chiquita Ave., 9/25

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

Del Medio Ave./Fayette Dr., 9/24

AUTO BURGLARY

400 Block Mountain Laurel Ct., 9/25
100 Block Montecito Ave., 9/26
Century 16 Cinema, 9/26
300 Block Escuela Ave., 9/27

BATTERY

Terra Bella Academy, 9/26
100 Block Montecito Ave., 9/26
100 Block N. Shoreline Bl., 9/27
Sierra Vista Ave., 9/28

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

Target, 9/24

DISTURBANCE

100 Block W. Middlefield Road, 9/26
500 Block W. Middlefield Road, 9/26
200 Block Grant Road, 9/28

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

200 Block Latham St., 9/24
100 Block Rengstorff Ave., 9/24
100 Block Rock St., 9/26

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Castro St./W. El Camino Real, 9/28

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Stierlin Road/Wright Ave., 9/27
Bryant St., 9/28

GRAND THEFT

100 Block El Monte Ave., 9/23
200 Block Wyandotte St., 9/23
400 Block N. Shoreline Bl., 9/26
Kaiser Medical Center, 9/26

IDENTITY THEFT

700 Block Cottage Ct., 9/27

MISSING PERSON JUVENILE

100 Block Rock St., 9/24
500 Block View St., 9/25
100 Block Montecito Ave., 9/28

PETTY THEFT

100 Block N. Rengstorff Ave., 9/24
100 Block Charleston Road, 9/25
100 Block Boranda Ave., 9/25
100 W. El Camino Real, 9/25
100 Block Wright Ave., 9/26
Shoreline Park, 9/26
700 Block San Carlos Ave., 9/26
N. Whisman Road, 9/28
N. Shoreline Bl., 9/28

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

Castro St./W. Dana St., 9/28

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

100 Block Rock St., 9/25
200 Block California St., 9/26

ROBBERY

700 Block Vaquero Dr., 9/24

STOLEN VEHICLE

100 Block Latham St., 9/26
Promethean Way, 9/28

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

Crittenden School, 9/26

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

400 Block San Antonio Road, 9/25
200 Block Alvin St., 9/26
Arco Leong, 9/27
100 Block California St., 9/28
200 Block Jennifer Ct., 9/28

VANDALISM

100 Block Mercy St., 9/25
100 Block Mercy St., 9/25
400 Block N. Shoreline Bl., 9/25
800 Block California St., 9/26
800 Block California St., 9/28

■ CORRECTION

A brief in the Sept. 19 issue of the *Voice* titled "League hosts election panels and forums" mis-stated the date of an upcoming City Council candidates forum

hosted by the League of Women Voters. The event is Monday, Oct. 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the council chambers, located at 500 Castro Street in Mountain View.

The Roundtable at Stanford University

Wanted: Courage, Compassion, and Character Leadership for the 21st Century

Saturday, October 11, 2008
9:15 – 11 a.m. Doors open 8:15 a.m.

Maples Pavilion, Stanford University
www.stanford.edu/roundtable

In the last century the world faced great challenges – totalitarianism, economic depression, and world war. Great leaders emerged to guide us with courage and skill, defending the public good.

As the 21st century begins, we face not one great national and global threat, but many. Religious and ethnic violence, climate change, dwindling resources, economic turbulence, and poverty and disease among the world's most vulnerable threaten our well-being and our very existence.

These times will test not only Americans, but all nations and all people as well. Leaders will be called upon to meet these complex and daunting challenges.

Join renowned journalist and this year's moderator Tom Brokaw with a distinguished panel of leaders for the third Roundtable at Stanford University.

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NBC News

John L. Hennessy
President, Stanford

Congressman
Xavier Becerra

Gary Fiorina, CEO
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Turning Ideas into Reality



Memories

By Don Frances

“I ENJOYED your ‘From garbage to glory’ article in the Sept. 26 edition of the *Voice*,” wrote John T. O’Rourke. “I was, however, disappointed that you did not mention the engineering firm, Cooper, Clark & Associates, who played a major role in the development of this park. I worked for this firm, and if it was not for their outstanding ability this project would not be as successful as it is today.”

OUR OWN Jose Antonio Vargas — *Washington Post* reporter, Pulitzer Prize winner, Mountain View High graduate and onetime *Voice* intern — returned home a couple months ago to give a talk. Next Thursday, Oct. 9, he’ll be doing it again.

Vargas will come to Mountain View High for a public interview with Rich Fischer, the former high school district superintendent who mentored Vargas. Apparently Fischer (an entertaining fellow in his own right) will interview Vargas about his journalism experiences, from the Spartan paper to the *Voice* to his current beat: the presidential campaign trail.

The event, hosted by Mountain View-Los Altos Community Scholars and Partners for New Generations, begins at 7 p.m. in the Spartan Theater at Mountain View High. Fischer mentored Vargas through the latter group before Vargas graduated in 2000. Vargas credits Fischer with his successes, and says the two still keep in touch.

Naturally, we at the *Voice* are always rooting for Vargas. This is partly because he got his start here, and partly because of the adversity he overcame. But it’s also because seeing a journalist go big-time is such a rare thing now, like spotting an endangered bird in the wild. ■

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



VERONICA WEBER

Jeff McTighe (far right) teaches Asim Walker (left) and Troy Larkin to arrange bricks into a column during a recent class.

Construction class puts bricks before books

By Kelly Truong

Next to the predictable duo of math and English, one class on high school student Eric York’s schedule stands out.

Alta Vista High’s construction class, sponsored by the Regional Occupation Program, is a new addition to the school’s academic

catalog this year. It stood out to York while he was in the process of choosing classes, attracted by the idea of physical work over taking notes.

“I just decided to take a chance,” said York, the only freshman in the class. “It’s a really fun class — we actually go out and do stuff.”

“It’s different,” said senior

Alfonso Gonzalez. “We do physical activities: carrying wheelbarrows, laying brick, just learning basics.”

In technology-oriented Silicon Valley, the construction class is, in a way, a return to basics. “Not everyone is college graduate-type material,” said instructor

► See **CONSTRUCTION**, page 10

■ ELECTION BRIEFS

LWV HOSTS MORE FORUMS

The Los Altos-Mountain View Area League of Women Voters still has plenty more election forums and panels planned for the month of October, beginning next week.

On Monday, Oct. 6 from 7 to 9 p.m., the League will host a Mountain View City Council candidate forum at the council chambers, located at 500 Castro Street.

On Oct. 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the League will hold a forum on state propositions at Foothills Congregational Church, 461 Orange Ave., Los Altos. Titled “The League Recommends,” it will include the group’s stances on the propositions.

A second “League Recommends” forum on the propositions will be held Oct. 15 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos.

All of the events are free and open to the public. Most are being

broadcast and webcast by local television station KMVT, available at Comcast channel 15 and at www.kmvt15.org. For more on local League events, visit www.lwvlamv.org or call (650) 941-4846.

SERIES OF DEBATES FOR COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Besides the event hosted by the League of Women Voters on Monday, Oct. 6 (see above), Mountain View voters will get several more chances to see the nine City Council candidates debate the issues.

On Thursday, Oct. 9, KMVT will host a live council candidate debate moderated by renowned SETI scientist Seth Shostak. The event starts at 7:30 p.m. on local cable channel 15. Viewers may call in and ask questions at (650) 968-1540. The broadcast will repeat on Oct. 12 at 10:30 p.m.

On Oct. 16, The Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association

will host a debate where the audience will be able to give candidates anonymous written feedback. It starts at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council chambers at 500 Castro St.

On Oct. 20, The Whisman Station Neighborhood Association will host a council candidate debate from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the California Station Clubhouse, which is adjacent to the Whisman Station light rail station on Pacific Drive.

On Oct. 23, The Cuesta Park and Wagon Wheel neighborhood associations are jointly hosting a council candidate debate at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, located on the corner of Cuesta Avenue and Grant Road, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

On Oct. 25, The Monta Loma Neighborhood Association will host a debate from 10 a.m. to noon in the Monta Loma School multipurpose room.

— Staff reports

Murder suspects delay plea

TWO OTHERS WANTED IN DOUBLE HOMICIDE CASE REMAIN AT LARGE

By Casey Weiss

The six captured suspects in the double murder on Plymouth Street briefly appeared in court Tuesday, but their plea hearing was delayed until Nov. 5 after a defense attorney asked for more time to look through evidence.

Deputy District Attorney James Gibbons-Shapiro, a prosecutor in the case, said he did not expect anyone to enter a plea even by November due to the complexity of the evidence. It could be months before the suspects actually enter their plea, he said. The hearings are before Superior Court Judge Jerome S. Nadler.

“In a serious case like this the judge will give [the defense attorneys] the time they need,” Gibbons-Shapiro said. “Given the nature of this case, I think we will have a few more court appearances like this.”

Meanwhile, Mountain View police are continuing their search for two more young people accused of participating in the murders of Teresa Sanchez-Aquino, 27, and Omar Aquino, 24, siblings who were shot to death in their home on the 1900 block of Plymouth Street in the early hours of Saturday, June 28, while Sanchez-Aquino’s 8-year-old son slept in the next room.

Faith Thomas, 17, is accused of conspiracy to commit murder, and her brother Kenneth Ivory Thomas, 20, is wanted on two counts of murder and conspiracy to murder. Police consider the two suspects to be armed and dangerous since the murder weapon, a handgun, is still missing.

Their sister Fame Thomas, 15, is already in custody on charges of conspiracy and

► See **PLEA**, page 11



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VIEW ON HISTORY

The Mt. View Theatre



According to Honor Spitz, who scanned and sent in this photo from the library archives, the Mt. View Theatre "opened in 1924 after Fritz Campen, Jr. bought the old Pearson's Grocery store building at 228 Castro St. and replaced it with a modern movie theater.

"Price of admission: children, 25 cents; adults, 55 cents.

"In 1961 Andrew Saso bought and renovated the building, re-opening with 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' and 'The Devil at 4 O'Clock.' By the 1980s, multiplex theaters had replaced many of the single-screen houses."

A View on History runs the first week of the month. Seen Around Town runs all other weeks in this space. Please send your photo (as a jpg attachment) to editor@mv-voice.com.

Teen charged with two burglaries at the same home

POLICE STILL LOOKING FOR OLDER SUSPECT IN SIX-MONTH BURGLARY SPREE

By Casey Weiss

Mountain View police have arrested a 17-year-old on suspicion of committing two residential burglaries in the past week — both of them at the same residence — but said they do not believe he is connected to the larger burglary spree that has occurred throughout the city over the past six months.

Police are still looking for a white male with a thin build, between 50 and 60 years old, who they believe has burglarized around 20 homes since April.

On Tuesday, they arrested the teenager, a Mountain View resident, for allegedly burglarizing the same house on the 1900 block of Rock Street twice, once on Sept. 24 and again on

Sept. 30. The suspect entered the house both times through different unlocked windows and stole small items, police said.

Witnesses said they saw the suspect near the complex during the time of both burglaries, and the owner contacted the police.

Police are still looking for a white male with a thin build, between 50 and 60 years old.

Officer Ron Cooper, a school resource officer who works with at-risk students, was on duty at the time of the second burglary and had also seen the student biking away from the complex. Cooper knew the student, and police arrested him without incident at his relative's house in East Palo Alto on Tuesday. He was released to his parents the

same day.

"People need to be diligent about locking doors and windows because he got in twice," said police spokesperson Liz Wylie.

Meanwhile, Wylie said, residents still should be on the lookout for suspicious behavior, since the other suspect has not been found. She noted that there is no positive description of the suspect, and that police sketches

can be inaccurate.

"People need to take sketches with a grain of salt," she said. "We don't want people to get tied down on sketches."

Anyone with information is urged to call police at (650) 903-6344. ▀

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

Red Cross chapters to merge

Staff Reports

The Palo Alto Area American Red Cross chapter, which also serves Mountain View, will merge with the Santa Clara Valley chapter to become the American Red Cross Silicon Valley Chapter, officials announced Monday.

In a news release, officials said the boards of the two chapters agreed to merge and create a new, single entity that will serve the entire county beginning Jan. 1 of next year. They said the new chapter will combine the resources of the two leading organizations and provide enhanced services to residents throughout Santa Clara County.

The chief executive of the new organization will be Barb Larson, who currently runs the Santa Clara Valley chapter. Trish Bubenik, currently in charge of the Palo Alto Area chapter, will serve as executive vice president of strategic relationships.

"The individual chapters have complementary strengths and share the same mission, vision and values," said Bubenik. "We both have large volunteer bases and donors that are already intertwined. We have common supporters and constituents. As a result, many people assume that we are already one Red Cross chapter.

"By combining resources and communicating with one voice to the community, the new unified Red Cross chapter will be the leading emergency preparedness and response agency in Silicon Valley," she said.

"In the last 20 years, Silicon Valley has grown to nearly two million people," said John Dolan, the current chair of the Palo Alto Area chapter board, who has been elected to be the first chair of the combined chapters. "In addition, the diversity of the population, the variety of housing density and number of corporate constituents has changed dramatically. There-

fore it is imperative that the Red Cross evolves to meet the growing needs of the local community."

Dolan noted that the merger is timely, as the region approaches the 19th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake and the 140th anniversary of the Great Hayward Earthquake on the Hayward Fault. The Hayward Fault has had a major earthquake (6.9 or larger) strike approximately every 140 years.

"This merger will not only step up our visibility, our resources, our infrastructure, and our drive to provide residents with information on how to prepare for a disaster, but will enable us to train volunteers to respond to the major quake which some say is now overdue," he said.

"We know that it is not a matter of if, but when, the next major disaster will occur — whether man-made or natural," added Larson. "Our focus is to help families, faith communities, neighborhoods, corporations, nonprofit partners and our entire county to be ready to respond."

In the near term, both the Palo Alto Area and Santa Clara Valley chapters will maintain all of their current services and will follow their currently posted class schedules. The existing offices in Palo Alto and San Jose will be maintained for the immediate future, and the long-term strategy will include a physical presence throughout Silicon Valley, officials said.

The American Red Cross Silicon Valley Chapter will continue to depend on the contributions of time and money from local residents and companies in order to help the community prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies, officials said.

For more information on disaster preparedness, health and safety classes, volunteer opportunities and financial contributions, visit the Red Cross Web sites at www.scv-redcross.org and www.paarc.org.

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NOW HIRING

ENDORSEMENTS

► Continued from page 1

able seats on Nov. 4.

But lately many residents have preferred to know the endorsements of another, often unseen political force: neighborhood groups and leaders.

The trend became very noticeable in 2006 with the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association. It became apparent during the numerous hearings on the controversial Mayfield housing project that the neighborhood group was a force to be reckoned with. Some Monta Loma residents knocked on doors on behalf of the three eventual winners, and John Inks — who according to a by-neighborhood breakdown of results did not have the support of Monta Loma — lost by a narrow margin.

New group in town

Across town, another neighborhood group is becoming a political force in 2008.

“I’m finding the fact that so much activity is going on in our neighborhood makes this an important election for us,” said Lisa Matichak, president of the newly formed Wagon Wheel Neighborhood Association in the

North Whisman area.

The Whisman neighborhood has its own versions of the Mayfield “litmus test” this year: the proposed Hetch Hetchy housing project at 450 N. Whisman Road (which was the impetus to creat-

McAlister, both of whom have been vocal opponents of the proposals for 450 N. Whisman.

But litmus tests cut both ways. The Sierra Club, for example, supported both the Mayfield and Hetch Hetchy projects so that

Lately many residents have preferred to know the endorsements of another, often unseen political force: neighborhood groups and leaders.

ing the neighborhood group in the first place) and a massive 700-plus-unit housing project on Ferguson Drive, not to mention a lack of retail to go along with all that housing.

“I would say some of them are trying to court us, particularly me,” Matichak said of the candidates. “In my neighborhood people have asked me to provide guidance on who to vote for.”

The Wagon Wheel Neighborhood Association recently changed its policy barring its leaders from making personal endorsements. So far, Matichak says, she personally supports incumbent Laura Macias and planning commissioner John

more Mountain View employees could live in the city, resulting in less traffic and air pollution. This year, the Sierra Club has endorsed Mike Kasperzak, John Inks, Alicia Crank and Chris Clark.

Union power

Not all council-watchers believe neighborhood groups will have such a huge impact this November. Former council candidate Bruce Karney, for one, is skeptical.

“I think the last election was unusual in that there was a specific project the neighborhood had an opinion about,” he said, referring to Mayfield. “I can’t

think of any situations parallel to that in the past.” It was, he agreed, a “litmus test issue.”

Karney said unions, notably the local police and firefighter unions in Mountain View, can be far more organized than neighborhood associations in garnering support for candidates. “I would rank them well behind the unions,” he said about the neighborhood groups. That includes downtown’s Old Mountain View Neighborhood Association, where he is an active member.

The unions “provide volunteers and independent campaign expenditures. The city’s campaign spending cap is \$20,000. If a union runs an ad supporting x, y, and z candidate, that doesn’t go against the limit. In the past the union expenditures have been quite significant. And they ask members to make contributions.”

The police union has yet to announce its endorsements, but the Mountain View Professional Firefighters have endorsed incumbents Tom Means and Laura Macias and commissioners Alicia Crank and John Inks.

Networkers win

In larger cities, the endorsement of the Democratic Party might be seen as an important thing,

but that hasn’t been the case in Mountain View. This year the party has endorsed Chris Clark, Alicia Crank and Laura Macias, according to its county Web site.

In Mountain View, the largest political organization is the local chapter of the League of Women Voters, but that group does not endorse candidates. It does, however, publish the Web site smartvoter.org, which is used by many residents to learn about all candidates and measures on the ballot, from local to federal. The group also organizes forums and debates for local candidates, social events attended by officials, and publishes a newsletter with notes from the group’s observers who regularly attend public meetings.

Ultimately, Mountain View politics often comes down to the art of networking — which people, and how many of them, work behind the scenes to get the candidates elected.

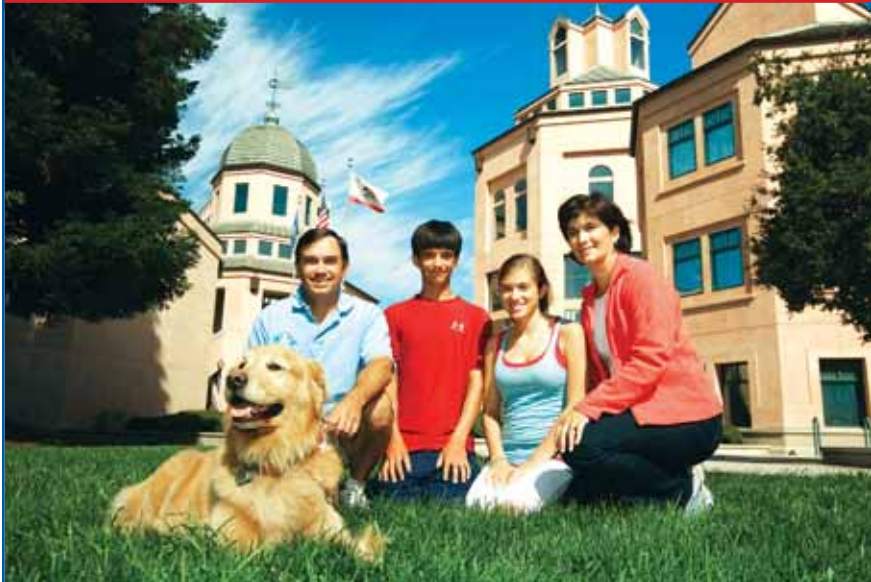
“It’s not a good old boy network, it’s more of an old girl network,” said Elna Tymes, former president of the Monta Loma Neighborhood Association and now campaign manager for Kasperzak. “There are more women involved than there are men.”

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

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DANIEL DEBOLT

Sign wars

The size of the average lawn sign used by council candidates is increasing this year.

Candidate Mike Kapserzak joked that he was the “Dr. Strangelove” who started the “arms race” with his sign, which was larger than the

others until incumbent Laura Macias put four of her smaller signs together to make one large sign. The leader of the race — as far as sign size goes — is now Chris Clark, who has the largest single lawn sign.

— Daniel DeBolt

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SPEAKING UP
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CONSTRUCTION

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Jeff McTighe. Instead, his course calls for practical skills: in the first few weeks, McTighe has had the students laying brick and building walls.

"This class is hands-on," said junior Marco Cruz.

Although McTighe, who has worked as a contractor for four decades, has taught others masonry for years at his own contracting business, this class is his first experience working with students. His philosophy is to treat it as a job, allowing students to work without too much interference.

"In the real world where you work, it's not like a school," McTighe said. "We're in an open-air environment where they can talk."

Students spend the class time out-

side, working on projects. "It's like a brotherhood," Cruz said, explaining that he feels comfortable talking to McTighe and his classmates and asking them for help. "You don't feel embarrassed here."

For McTighe, the atmosphere is a welcome change of pace from his previously stressful work days. "They're all having a good time, and I'm all about having a good time," he said.

McTighe came into the job with little expectations. "Kids nowadays have a reputation of being lazy, or being technical," he said. He was pleased to have that notion proven wrong by his students: "They come out every day, they work hard. I'm really impressed."

Through this class, those students who work hard enough will be given opportunities to earn money in the future through the

Regional Occupation Program's job placement program. While York's geometry class crosses off a prerequisite for college — generally considered the path to a successful future — McTighe's class offers a much more immediate gateway to a secure career.

McTighe sums it up neatly: "Let's go make some money," he said.

The students have a number of projects to work on in the meantime: McTighe has plans to build barbecues at Alta Vista and Mountain View high schools, and Alta Vista High would like them to build a ramp for disabled students.

Along the way, he and his students have fun.

"I laugh every day," he said. "It's a good time." ■

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EDUCATION BRIEFS

COLLEGE BOARD RELEASES SAT SCORES

Students at Los Altos High School increased their SAT scores, while the average results on these college entrance exams dropped slightly at Mountain View High School, according to the official scores from 2007-08 recently released by the College Board.

Overall, students at the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District exceeded state averages, according to a district press release.

The exam tests students in three sections: critical reading, mathematics and writing, with a maximum possible score of 800 in each of these areas. Most colleges and universities use the scores in their admission process.

Seniors at Los Altos High School had an average combined score of 1,790, compared to an average score of 1,729 in 2006-07. The average at Mountain View High slipped slightly, from 1,764 in 2006-07 to 1,750 in 2007-08. Both of these scores are above the national average of 1,511.

— Casey Weiss



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BOXING

► Continued from page 1

trict, brought the program to this campus last spring, and recruited his brother-in-law Alfonso Hernandez, a San Jose officer, and Mountain View police officer James Goearra to help coach. PAL pays for the program costs, but the coaches volunteer their time, and also took a course to become certified boxing trainers.

From his work with the students on campus, Cooper saw that many of them needed an outlet. These practices have become almost a form of counseling for most of the boxers.

“It is important for them to do something positive and get their energy out without getting in trouble,” said Cooper, who boxed in the Army.

The program only recently acquired some real boxing equipment, and after half a year

of training and learning how to land hooks and jabs — and spending the last two weeks assembling a ring — the students were ready to start boxing.

maintain a C average in school, and may not box outside the ring. Part of the league’s intention is to teach the students respect for fighting.

Because boxing “is 90 percent endurance,” Cooper said, the program teaches self-reliance: “If you are not conditioned, you are going to get knocked out. You can’t blame anyone but yourself.”

“It is important for them to do something positive and get their energy out without getting in trouble.”

RON COOPER

On Tuesday, other officers and police Chief Scott Vermeer came to watch as students used the new ring and equipment for the first time.

“It is a huge part of Coop’s life — making sure all of these kids get on the right path,” Vermeer said of the coach.

After stretching and running, the students split up. Some work on boxing techniques with their coaches, some practice in front of the mirror, some use the new equipment and punching bags.

Cooper has two ironclad rules for the students: They must

Other PAL leagues have their own boxing programs, and the coaches hope their students will be ready to compete with the others soon. These matches will go onto the students’ records, beginning their amateur career.

In fact, next year the local team will travel to Southern California for a statewide PAL boxing tournament. The trip will be sponsored by the Mountain View Police Department. ▀

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PLEA

► Continued from page 5

two counts of murder. Also in custody are Nicory Spann, 18, of San Jose; Michael David Adams, 20, of San Jose; Eric Williams, 22, of Union City; and Kim Pham, 19, of San Jose. All are charged with two counts of murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Victoria Frances Thompson, 20, of Morgan Hill, also is being held for conspiracy to commit murder. The three Thomas siblings are from Campbell.

Police believe robbery was the original motive for the crimes, and have not ruled out drug or gang activity. According to a complaint filed in Superior Court, the suspects spent several weeks planning the robbery, and communicated through text

messages on the night of the murders in an elaborate plan to rob Aquino. The suspects are said to have stolen an iPhone and other valuables before allegedly killing the siblings.

Mountain View police currently have leads on the two suspects at large “and are not running on empty,” said police spokesperson Liz Wylie. She would not elaborate, but said the Thomas family has not been helpful in finding

the suspects. “The entire county is on alert,” Wylie said. “You can run, but you can’t hide forever.”

Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of Kenneth and Faith Thomas is urged to call the Mountain View Police Department at (650) 903-6344. ▀


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TASK FORCE

► Continued from page 1

villages” in the city that are “high density” and “livable” with most day to day needs within walking distance of one’s home. Preferred densities are not specified, but Henigson assured those at Monday’s meeting that her group wasn’t envisioning high-rise buildings.

The “healthy villages” recommendation was closely tied to the work of the transit and transportation group, which proposes four “grand boulevards” in the city which would allow people to travel in “high capacity vessels” down redeveloped streets, including El Camino Real and Middlefield Road.

Everyone in the room Tuesday night seemed to agree that city needed to build affordable housing quickly, and emphasized the “practically unavoidable” wave of population increases predicted for the future — the 35 percent population increase predicted by 2035 in Santa Clara County would be like adding two more cities the size of San Jose, the report says.

“We cannot just push populations farther and farther towards the Central Valley,” the land use section of the report reads. “Fifty percent of Mountain View’s greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation. ... Mountain View must develop land so that more residents can easily choose non-car methods for daily activities.”

Task force steering committee member Aileen La Bouf said she was concerned about the local “push to preserve neighborhoods and not do high density housing.”

“By the day, by the week, there are more people,” La Bouf said. “Where are we going to put them?”

Land use details

Henigson talked about modifications to the building code that she said could encourage people to be less “selfish.”

“Why not use some homeowners association fees to have a community garden, rather than a patch of grass or a pond filled with chlorine?” she asked.

The report also recommends “density bonuses” and planning process “fast tracking” to developers who build within the many specifications of the group’s village concept.

The land use group goes also recommends that the city build

housing in the Shoreline area, so that employees, such as those of Google, can walk home. However, another portion of the report warns that much of the Shoreline area will be under water within decades, and recommends a building moratorium in low-lying flood plains.

The “adaptation to climate change” working group says levees have been shown throughout history to be inadequate. The report says creeks that run near, and sometimes in between, Shoreline’s office buildings will be more prone to overflow their banks when the Bay rises.

In the Shoreline area, Google is already preparing for the effects of climate change, Henigson said. Google is building a bridge over Permanente Creek — to connect the Googleplex with the former Alza campus Google is now leasing — that can easily be raised for the inclusion of flood retention walls along the creek in the future.

What to build

The task force members disagree with the positions some current City Council candidates take on development. They say the council members encourage commercial development while putting the brakes on housing, partly in an effort to insure that the city generates enough tax revenue.

“The city is jobs rich and housing poor,” said Jeff Segal, a member of the “adaptation to climate change” group. “City councils and planners are incentivized to do that for tax reasons,” he said.

Many talked about new mandates coming from the state regarding housing, and a possible overhaul of the tax system that could change the way cities are encouraged to develop.

The group’s city staff liaison, Steve Attinger, pointed to the wall, where a chart from the city’s general plan outreach showed that the community wants to preserve Mountain View’s “small town feel,” even as it makes sustainability a priority. He asked the Edaw consultants, there to receive input from the task force, to consider what the limit was in population that the city could support.

The task force was scheduled to discuss reports from the remainder of its working groups in the evening on Thursday, Oct. 2 at City Hall. ■

“By the day, by the week, there are more people. Where are we going to put them?”

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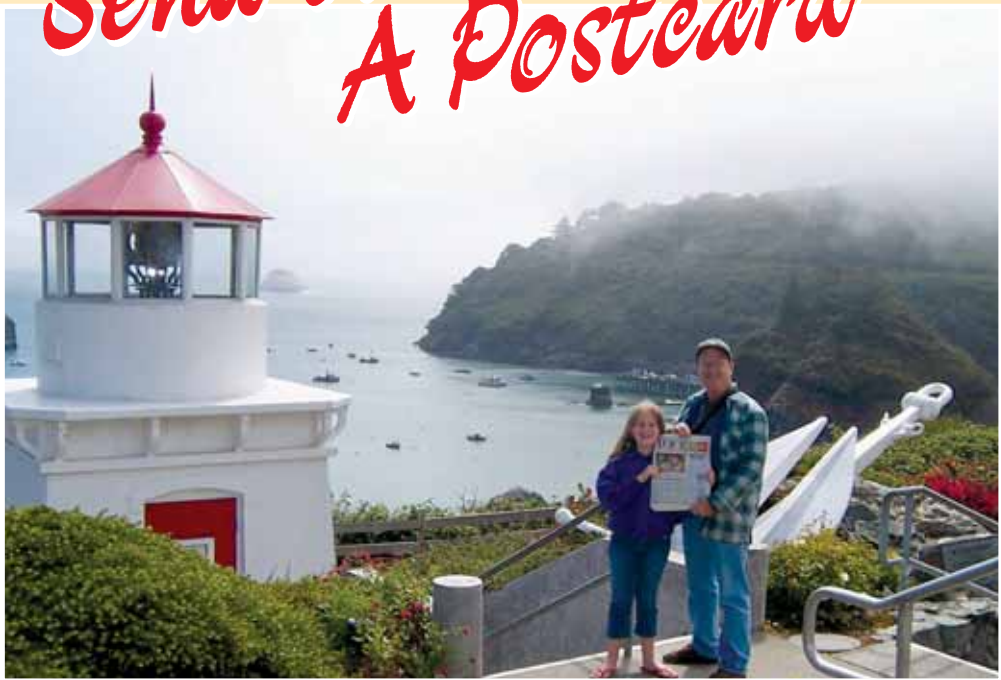


Photo of Allen Henderson with his daughter, Juliet, at Trinidad Bay in Humboldt County, Northern California.

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EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

A chance to fix redistricting process

After numerous failed efforts, voters finally will have a chance Nov. 4 to clean up the horrible process currently used to draw up boundaries for legislative districts.

Proposition 11, which calls for a constitutional amendment and statute, creates a 14-member redistricting commission responsible for drawing new lines for districts of the state Senate, state Assembly and Board of Equalization.

The measure requires the state auditor to randomly select commissioners from a registered voter applicant pool. The auditor must reject applicants for various reasons, including if they have recently been a lobbyist, political candidate, or given more than \$2,000 in a year to a political candidate.

A 60-person pool is created from which legislative leaders of both parties can strike 24 names. The auditor then randomly draws eight commissioners, three from each major party plus two others, who select the final six from the pool to produce a commission with five from each major party plus four others.

The measure establishes standards for drawing district lines that require respect for the geographic integrity of neighborhoods and that encourage compact districts. The commission would hold hearings and take public comment. Nine votes are required to approve final district maps. The state Legislature would still draw lines for congressional districts but must adhere to the same geographic standards.

The measure is supported by the League of Women Voters, California Common Cause, AARP and many business groups as well as Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. While it has picked up support from Democrats such as Steve Westly, Gray Davis, former Assembly Speaker Robert Hertzberg, former assemblymen Fred Keeley and Tom Bates, and more than a dozen Democratic clubs as well, it is opposed by the state Democratic Party, Don Perata, Barbara Boxer and Nancy Pelosi, who fear losing Democratic seats if it passes.

Other support includes such diverse interests as Southern California's ACLU, the California Democratic Council, the California Police Chiefs Association, the Bay Area Council and the California Taxpayers Association.

We opposed the redistricting initiative proposed in 2005 by this governor that would have handed the process to three retired judges, and we have not been satisfied with other approaches on past ballots.

This is different. While we share some of the opponents' concerns, it's apparent to us that the governing process in Sacramento is broken. Part of the problem is term limits which produce a rotating cast of amateurs who work with an ineffective governor. Part is the two-thirds vote requirement for budgets. Part is the campaign finance system.

But part of it is also non-competitive legislative districts for both parties. This measure is not perfect, but it's the best we've seen, and it's time for change in Sacramento.

We recommend a yes vote on Proposition 11.

LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT ANNEX PLAN

Editor:

Thank you for publishing the Cuesta Annex blueprint endorsed by both Save Open Space Mountain View and our city's history association ("Community mulls latest plan for Cuesta Annex," Sept. 26). I hope all interested residents will physically take that blueprint to the Annex and imagine for themselves what current features will be lost, and what new features will be gained.

I then hope residents will share their thoughts and feelings about this proposal with the city's Parks and Recreation commissioners and City Council members before the blueprint is finalized in November and December.

I also want it to be known that I retired from SOSMV in July of 2007, and from my past 14 years of championing the Cuesta Park Annex prune orchard's restoration. Kevin McBride, Justine Fenwick and Bob Weaver are all wonderful, energetic residents who have achieved many accomplishments through SOSMV and the Mountain View History Association.

Robert Schick
Los Altos Hills

HOW TO EXPAND FLOOD BASIN CAPACITY

Editor:

I attended the meeting on Monday night, Sept. 22, for the Cuesta Annex. Among the many proposals presented is the digging of a 4.1-acre flood basin in anticipation of the 50-year flood.

While I am not yet sold on the desirability of the flood basin, I do have a suggestion to greatly increase its capacity if one is built. Currently in the developed part of

Cuesta Park, there is an extensive sunken basin in the center of the park. When Cuesta Park was first built this basin was intended to be a boating lake. I believe there is even some underground piping already in place.

If a flood basin is constructed in the Cuesta Annex, it would be very cost effective to lay a connecting pipe to the existing basin to add its storage capacity to that of the new flood basin in Cuesta Annex.

I suggest that the city and the Santa Clara Valley Water District consider this idea. Perhaps it will give the city additional leverage in negotiating with the water district.

Gene Lee
Ernestine Lane

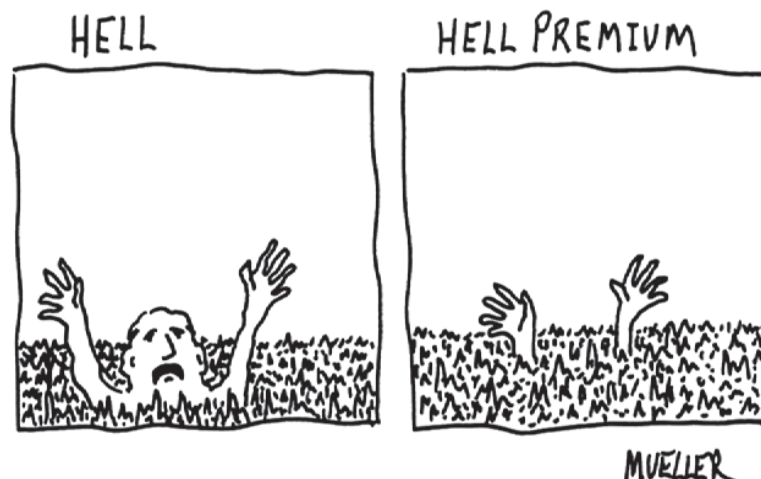
TIME TO CLOSE SPECIAL TAX DISTRICTS

Editor:

After almost 40 years of redevelopment, it's time for the city to close down two property tax sinks: the Shoreline District and the downtown special tax district. What purpose is now served by diverting more than \$5 million a year away from our local schools to subsidize Google, Microsoft and the downtown?

The City Council, and particularly those running for election this year, need to rethink this tax-and-spend structure. (The full council earlier this year voted to extend the downtown district, rather than let it lapse.) As several recent articles and commentaries have pointed out, this "redevelopment" district problem is statewide. If the districts aren't closed, our city property tax money may end up going back to Sacramento.

Steven Nelson
Bonita Avenue



Weekend

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

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The apple of our eye



LOCAL TREES ARE LADEN WITH FALL'S FAVORITE FRUIT, AND NEW VARIETIES ARE COMING TO MARKET

VERONICA WEBER

By Renee Batti

Long before the autumnal equinox last week, local trees were enticing us with the spicy aroma and sweet taste of apples. Farmers were bringing their fall apple crops to market weeks before, and judging from the Honey Crisps, Empires and Galas I've been feasting on, this should be a good year locally for

what Henry David Thoreau called "the noblest of fruits."

Walk around most Midpeninsula neighborhoods, from Menlo Park to Mountain View, and you're likely to sniff out apple-laden trees even before sighting them. The next best thing to having your own trees is having a neighbor who does, because an apple crop usually produces far too much for a

single household, and giveaways are almost a certainty.

There's an old-world romance surrounding the apple; perhaps the Garden of Eden story has something to do with that. While walking through a Menlo Park neighborhood about two weeks ago, I watched a woman, still in pajamas and robe, amble out of her house in the late morning, walk up to the lovely little apple tree in her

front yard, pull off and smell an apple, then slowly bite into it. It was an intensely pleasurable tableau — and I wasn't even the one who was eating the fruit.

Many of us who grew up in rural, apple-growing regions have long known the pleasure of biting into an apple just plucked from the branch, or picked only a day or two before. But American supermarkets have done much damage to the

Local apple varieties include, from left, Wickson (also at far right), Empire, Gala, Spitzenburg, Hawaiian, Mutsu and Stayman Winesap.

apple's reputation by filling their bins with fruit that often travels long distances, and has been in cold

► See **APPLE**, page 16

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APPLE

► Continued from page 15

storage for weeks.

Now, with the abundance of farmers markets in the area, we don't have to settle for the bland flavor and dreadful texture of many supermarket fruits. And the choices of varieties seem to grow every year at the outdoor markets.

In California, growers are bringing to market varieties including Empire, Jonathan, Gravenstein, Spitzenburg (reputed to be Thomas Jefferson's favorite), Wickson,

Arkansas Black, Hawaiian, Black Twig and Mutsu — that's in addition to the more commonly found Gala, Fuji, Granny Smith, and both Red and Golden Delicious apples.

With that kind of temptation — and with the number of people in the area who have thriving apple trees — it's good to think about the versatility of the apple. Although many people's thoughts turn to apple pie and other baked dishes, apples can be a real treat in cooked dishes as well. That is, when you don't feel like eating them out of hand, or sliced with a plate of cheese.

The apple can be well-used in soups and salads, and is complementary to roasted or sauteed pork as well — using a tart apple when the sauce for the meat is on the sweet side, and vice versa.

One non-baked fall dessert that is a sure bet for guests is apples, cored and halved, simmered in a concoction of one part butter to two parts each of orange juice and sugar, with a splash of vanilla and a sprinkling of cinnamon. At times I've added toasted pecans or walnuts near the end of the cooking time. ▣

RECIPES

CELERY ROOT, POTATO AND APPLE SOUP

Courtesy of Peninsula restaurateur Jesse Cool, from her latest cookbook, "Simply Organic."

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 5 cups chicken or vegetable broth, or more if you like a thinner soup
- 1 large russet potato, peeled and chopped
- 1 large celery root (celeriac), peeled and chopped (about 1 pound)
- 1-1/2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme
- 1 apple, grated
- Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese, about 4 ounces (optional)
- 1/2 cup pecans, toasted (optional)

In a large pot over medium-high heat, warm the oil and cook the onion for 4 minutes, or until soft. Add the wine and cook for 3 minutes longer. Add the broth, potato, celery root and thyme. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce the heat to medium-low, simmer for 1 hour, or until the vegetables are very soft.

Working in batches if necessary, transfer the mixture to a food processor or blender. Process until smooth. Stir in the apple and pour back into the pot. Warm for 15 minutes to let the flavors marry, and season with salt and pepper to taste.

To serve, ladle into soup bowls and top each serving with the cheese and pecans, if using. Makes 6 servings.

FAVORITE APPLE CRISP

Courtesy of Ruth Wilcox

- 10 medium apples, peeled, cored and sliced
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Combine the apples, sugar, 2 tablespoons flour, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt in a large bowl and toss to coat apples. Transfer to the baking dish.

Make the topping by combining ingredients and cutting in the butter, then sprinkle over the apple mixture.

Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until the topping is crisp and golden. Serve plain or with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream. It's delicious slightly warm. Serves 8 to 10.

- Topping:
- 1 cup flour
 - 1 cup brown sugar
 - 1/2 cup oats
 - 1/2 cup butter, cut into 1-inch pieces
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly butter a 10" round casserole or a 9x13 baking pan.

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KILLER APPLE PIE

Courtesy of Holly Myers

Filling
 8 or 9 apples
 1 cup sugar (or to taste)
 Juice of 1/2 lemon
 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 Pinch of nutmeg
 Raisins (occasionally, depending on anyone's mood)
 Slice apples uniformly and fairly thin — they cook up better and they layer into the pie better. Add remaining ingredients, and stir together.

Dough
 2-1/4 cup flour
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 2 sticks cold butter or margarine (if margarine, use Canola brand)

Put flour, salt and butter (each stick cut into a few pieces) into a food processor and process until


butter is thoroughly cut into flour. Add 5 tablespoons of ice water evenly around the top of the flour mixture, and process again until dough ball forms and dough pulls away from the sides of the processor. (This happens very fast.) If dough sticks to the sides, sprinkle a tablespoon or so of flour into the dough.

Wrap dough in wax paper and chill. Then, roll out half of the dough for the bottom pie crust and fill with apple-sugar mixture. Roll out second half of the dough, either for a full top crust or for lattice strips. Any left-over dough can be used decoratively, or saved or tossed.

Bake at 360 degrees until crust is golden and apples are done — about one hour.

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APPALOOSA (R) Century 16: 1:20, 4:25, 7:10 & 10 p.m. Century 20: 1, 4:05, 7 & 9:50 p.m.**BABYLON A.D. (PG-13)** Century 12: 7:55 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 10:25 p.m.**BANGKOK DANGEROUS (R)** Century 12: 1, 3:25 & 7:20 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 9:25 p.m.**BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA (PG)** Century 16: 12:40, 2, 3:05, 4:20, 5:30, 6:45, 7:50, 9:10 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 1:20, 2:25, 3:45, 4:50, 6:15, 7:20, 8:40 & 9:50 p.m.**BLAZING SADDLES (R)** Century 16: Sat. at 10 p.m.**BLINDNESS (R)** Century 16: 1:05, 4, 7 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 1:45, 4:40, 7:35 & 10:30 p.m.**BURN AFTER READING (R)** ★★★1/2 Century 16: 1, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10 & 9:35 p.m.**CHOKE (R)** ★★★1/2 Century 20: 7:30 & 9:55 p.m. Aquarius: 2, 4:30 & 9:40 p.m. Fri.-Wed. also at 7:30 p.m.**THE DARK KNIGHT (PG-13)** ★★★ Century 12: 12:20, 3:40 & 7 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 10:20 p.m.**DEATH RACE (R)** Century 12: 1:25, 4:10 & 7:40 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 10:05 p.m.**THE DUCHESS (PG-13)** Century 20: 1:40, 4:35, 7:25 & 10:05 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 10 p.m.**EAGLE EYE (PG-13)** Century 16: 12:30, 1:45, 3:15, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:20 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 12:20, 1:05, 1:50, 3:10, 3:55, 4:40, 6, 6:45, 7:30, 8:50, 9:40 & 10:20 p.m.**THE EXPRESS (PG)** Century 16: Sat. at 7:30 p.m. Century 20: Sat. at 7:35 p.m.**FLASH OF GENIUS (PG-13)** Century 16: 1:10, 4:05, 7:05 & 9:50 p.m. Century 20: 1:30, 4:30, 7:25 & 10:10 p.m.**GHOST TOWN (PG-13)** ★★★1/2 Century 16: 1:50, 4:50, 7:35 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 4:50, 7:15 & 10 p.m.**THE HOUSE BUNNY (PG-13)** ★★★ Century 12: 1:10, 3:50 & 7:05 p.m. Fri.-Sat. also at 9:30 p.m.**HOW TO LOSE FRIENDS AND ALIENATE PEOPLE (R)** Century 16: 1:40, 4:55, 7:55, & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55 & 10:35 p.m.**IGOR (PG)** Century 16: 12:35, 2:50 & 5 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 2:15 & 4:30 p.m.**KUNG FU PANDA (PG)** ★★★1/2 Century 12: 12:40, 3:05 & 5:25 p.m.**LAKEVIEW TERRACE (PG-13)** ★★★1/2 Century 20: 12:55, 4:10, 7:40 & 10:30 p.m.**THE LONGSHOTS (PG)** Century 12: 7:25 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 9:45 p.m.**MAN ON WIRE (PG-13)** ★★★★★ Aquarius: 1:30 & 10 p.m.**MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA (R)** ★★ Century 16: 2:30 & 6:15 p.m. Fri. also at 8 p.m. Sat. also at 9:40 p.m. Sun.-Thu. also at 8 & 9:40 p.m. Century 20: 12:15, 1:25 & 4 p.m. Fri. & Sun.-Thu. also at 7:35 p.m.**THE MUMMY: TOMB OF THE DRAGON EMPEROR (PG-13)** Century 12: 1:40, 4:30 & 7:35 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 10:35 p.m.**MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL (R)** Century 20: 7:40 & 10:10 p.m.**NICK AND NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST (PG-13)** Century 16: 12:45, 1:55, 3:10, 4:10, 5:25, 6:25, 7:40, 8:40 & 9:55 p.m. Century 20: 12:10, 1:15, 2:35, 3:50, 4:55, 6:20, 7:20, 8:30 & 9:55 p.m.**NIGHTS IN RODANTHE (PG-13)** Century 16: 12:30, 1:30, 2:55, 3:55, 5:20, 6:50, 7:45 & 10:15 p.m. Fri. & Sun.-Thu. also at 9:15 p.m. Century 20: 12:35, 1:55, 3, 4:25, 5:35, 8 & 10:25 p.m.**PINEAPPLE EXPRESS (R)** ★★1/2 Century 12: 1:30, 4:20 & 7:15 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 9:55 p.m.**RELIGULOUS (R)** Century 20: 12:15, 2:50, 5:20, 7:55 & 10:25 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:40 & 7:20 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 9:55 p.m.**THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW** Guild: Sat. at midnight.**RUSHMORE (R)** Century 16: Fri. at 10 p.m.**SPACE CHIMPS (G)** Century 12: 12:35, 2:50 & 5 p.m.**STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS (PG)** ★1/2 Century 12: 12:25, 2:55 & 5:20 p.m.**TELL NO ONE** ★★★1/2 Aquarius: 7 p.m. Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 4 p.m.**TRAITOR (PG-13)** ★★★ Century 12: 1:20, 4 & 7:30 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 10:10 p.m.**TROPIC THUNDER (R)** ★★★1/2 Century 12: 7:50 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 10:25 p.m.**TYLER PERRY'S THE FAMILY THAT PREYS (PG-13)** Century 12: 12:50, 3:30 & 7:10 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 10 p.m.**VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (PG-13)** Guild: 1:30, 4, 7 & 9:30 p.m.**WALL-E (G)** ★★★1/2 Century 12: 12:30, 3, 5:30 & 8 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 10:30 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

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MOVIE REVIEWS

**BURN AFTER
READING** ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) The Coen Brothers veer a hard left with a humorous and cautionary tale of lust and revenge. Kicking off this comic thriller is a pastiche of prickly players fully invested in their self-absorbed worlds. Osborne Cox (John Malkovich) is a CIA analyst fired for a "drinking problem," at which point he comes totally unglued. His bitchy physician wife, Katie (Tilda Swinton), feels no pain (and little sympathy) as she's banging conflicted U.S. Federal Marshal Harry Pfarrer (George Clooney) on the side. Stage right is Hardbodies Gym, where office manager Linda Litzke (Frances McDormand) is fretting over her insurance company's unwillingness to cough up the dough for elective cosmetic surgery. Hyperactive trainer Chad Feldheimer (Brad Pitt) is her shoulder to cry on, far more brawn than brain. Opportunity knocks when a Hardbodies employee finds a CD of Osborne's scathing tell-all memoirs on the gym's floor. Believing they've struck gold, Chad and Linda attempt to blackmail him, offering to trade the CD for \$50K and blissful dreams of lifts and liposuctions. As usual, the Coens know dark comedy inside and out. *Rated: R for pervasive language, sexual content and violence. A taut 1 hour, 31 minutes.* — J.A.

CHOKE ★★★1/2

(Aquarius, Century 20) What's not to love about a twisted, sex-addicted historical interpreter (i.e., tour guide) with relentless wit and a big old damaged heart? That's Victor Mancini (Sam Rockwell), who spreads himself razor-thin between gigs at the colonial theme park, weekly addiction workshops and tending to his delusional, sociopathic mother Ida (Anjelica Houston). Victor's motivations may be skewed — banging mom's doc (Kelly MacDonald) to keep her in his corner and keeping mom alive to establish the identity of his real dad — but he's nothing if not resourceful. Raunchy sex and nudity accompany a witty, pattering voiceover that utilizes dialogue from Chuck Palahniuk's controversial novel of the same name. When it's all said and done in actor/director Clark Gregg's inimitable style — dark, smart and quirky — Victor emerges a weirdly benevolent protagonist you won't soon forget. *Rated: R for graphic language, nudity and sexuality. 1 hour, 35 minutes.* — J.A.

GHOST TOWN ★★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) To call dentist Bertram Pincus (Ricky Gervais) a "people person" is akin to labeling a couch potato a "go-getter." Bertram prefers to be left alone, stuffing wads of cotton in the mouth of his talkative patients to avoid conversation or sneaking past a colleague's new-baby celebration. A fluke reaction to a minor surgical procedure leaves Bertram dead for seven minutes. When he comes to, he is remarkably able to see and hear a myriad of ghosts wandering Manhattan. Seems the spectators have unfinished business, especially tuxedo-clad smooth

▶ Continued on next page

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talker Frank Herlihy (Greg Kinnear). Frank is desperate to break up the pending marriage of his widow, Gwen (Tea Leoni), who happens to live in Bertram's building. As Bertram begrudgingly agrees to help Frank in exchange for solitude and silence, he quickly finds himself falling for Gwen and learning more about the lost lives of the other ghosts seeking his aid. "Ghost Town" is a fantasy charmer, from its tight cast and excellent soundtrack to its complex characters and soulful climax. *Rated: PG-13 for strong language, sexual humor and drug references. 1 hour, 43 minutes. T.H.*

LAKEVIEW TERRACE

★★★★1/2
(Century 16, Century 12) A crack cast and chilling performance by psycho stalwart Samuel L. Jackson anchor this smart and suspenseful thriller. Jackson is L.A. cop Abel Turner, an edgy single dad of two whose grip on sanity and the responsibilities of neighborhood watch is a tad tight. New neighbors Chris and Lisa Mattson (Patrick Wilson and Kerry Washington) find out the hard way. Abel doesn't take kindly to their biracial coupling and makes it known in a number of intimidating ways: security lights shini-ng in windows, noisy late-night parties and ethnic slurs evocative of the racist gold-standard film "Crash." The Mattsons steadfastly cling to their politically correct cocoon, refusing to apply significance where there may be none. Ultimately the situation unravels and they crest a breaking point, turning home front into battle front. *Rated: PG-13 for language, violence and mature themes. 1 hour, 46 minutes. J.A.*

MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA ★★

(Century 16, Century 20) With breathtaking harmony James Marsh balances tempo, humor and passion in the re-telling of high-wire artist Philippe Petit's stunning walk across New York's City's Twin Towers. From a tender age Petit had a dream, the as-yet-unfinished World Trade Center Towers galloping in his brain as the object of an unquenchable quest. In the early '70s the cat-like Petit and a ragtag bunch of friends set about a plan that would rock their world, testing cables, wires and provocative schemes to string a tightrope between a pair of monumental skyscrapers. The group dummied up fake invoices and ID cards, and with Lady Luck on their side got themselves and their accoutrement to the top of the North and South Towers in August of 1974. There Petit's destiny is sealed. With the help of captivating interviews, fresh re-creation and astonishing archival footage and photos, Petit's journey becomes an emotional roller coaster, fraught with danger. Outrageously entertaining and perfectly profound. *Rated: R for language, nudity and excessive violence. 2 hours, 40 minutes. In English, German and Italian with English subtitles. — J.A.*

■ **MOVIE CRITICS**

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

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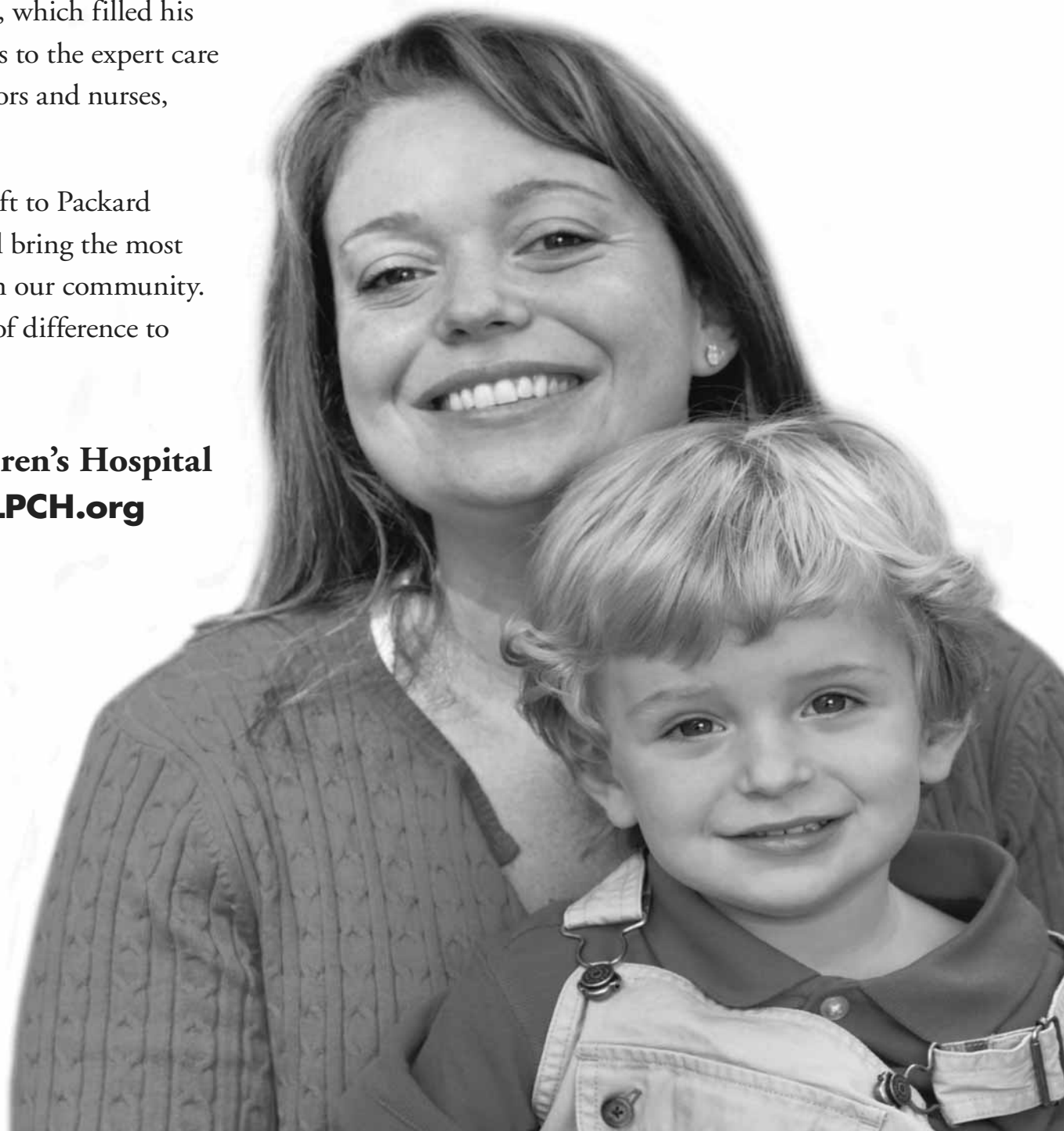
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