

Mountain View VOICE



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Housing report: City is 'jobs rich'

CALL FOR THOUSANDS MORE HOMES KICKS OFF 'RE-VISIONING' PROCESS IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

By Daniel DeBolt

Every seven years, Mountain View residents have a chance to significantly change the direction of the city's housing policies, a process called "re-visioning" the General Plan's housing element. And if controversies over the past few years are any indication, the upcoming re-visioning should be a big deal.

The housing element of the city's General Plan — "the primary pol-

icy document for the development, rehabilitation and preservation of housing" — is under revision and will be discussed in General Plan hearings throughout the year, including a slew of neighborhood General Plan meetings in May.

Kicking off the housing discussion is a new report on the city's housing needs from Bay Area Economics. Among numerous issues, it points out that the city is becoming increasingly "jobs rich," while housing development has not kept pace. It says jobs increased by 19 percent since 2003, while housing units increased by only 3 percent since 2000. Mountain View's population has increased 10 percent since 1990, to 72,932.

By comparison, the county has grown by 23 percent since 1990 and had three times less job growth on average.

To meet its "fair share" of the county's unmet housing needs, the Association of Bay Area Governments has calculated that Mountain View needs to accommodate — perhaps through zoning — another 2,123 units by 2014, including 467 very low income units. That goal may be difficult to achieve in a slow housing market: Permits for only 99 units were approved last year, while 377 units were permitted in 2007.

The report also points out that high land costs and public opposition to dense housing development have hindered housing production.

About three years ago, when the slow-growth versus pro-growth debate raged during and after the 2006 Council City election, the city had over 3,000 housing units in the planning pipeline. On Wednesday,



MICHELLE LE

WAY TO PARADISE: For Haiying Yang, an art teacher at Mountain View's Yew Chung International School, a simple and beautiful work of art — in this case, a bird of paradise on a silk canvas — could be just the antidote for these troubled economic times. See story, p. 7.

Hotel deal worries council dissenter

INKS SAYS \$30 MILLION 'SUBSIDY' IS RISKY, BUT OTHER MEMBERS SEE A GOOD INVESTMENT

By Daniel DeBolt

After seeking a hotel and conference center for over 20 years, the city of Mountain View is finally near a deal for one in the Shoreline area.

But depending on your perspective, the deal's price tag — it could cost the city more than \$30 million — is either an unwise subsidy or it's a smart investment that will help save the city from future financial woes.

► See **HOTEL**, page 14

► See **HOUSING**, page 10

Election looms large for schools

MAY 19 BALLOT MEASURES CALLED CRITICAL TO KEEPING DISTRICTS AFLOAT

By Casey Weiss

A special election is coming next month, and local school administrators are watching it closely.

After months of wrangling over the state's budget deficit through 2010, estimated at nearly \$42 billion, California politicians finally passed a long-overdue budget in February. But even that budget wasn't the final word on the matter: Legislators decided to let California voters make the decision on major aspects of the budget, including cuts to social and educational services, transferring money from special funds and deciding whether to borrow against lottery profits.

Voters get the final say on May 19, when they vote on six measures intended to balance the state budget through the next year and a half.

Only two of these propositions are directly related to education, but all of them could have a major effect on school budgets. Fifty percent of the state budget goes to public schools and community colleges;

"If money does not come into the state there will be less money for schools."

BARRY GROVES

if these measures fail, education would inevitably suffer bigger cuts to compensate for the shortfall, local educators say.

"It is important for public education that these pass," said Mountain

View-Los Altos High School District Superintendent Barry Groves.

Both MVLA and the Mountain View Whisman Elementary School District already took hits in February, and administrators are still working to figure out what exactly the cuts means for local schools and how much districts will get from the federal stimulus package.

The high school district faces \$2 million in cuts through 2010, most of which is coming out of the Adult School (see story on ESL cuts, page 5). The elementary school district will lose \$2.6 million during the next year and a half.

"If money does not come into the state there will be less money for schools," Groves said. "Because it is so late, we would have to look at

► See **BALLOT**, page 11

VTA Fiscal Year 2010 and 2011 Recommended Budget, Fare Modifications and ADA Paratransit Service Changes Review Meetings

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is holding six public meetings to review and to obtain public input regarding the Fiscal Year 2010 and 2011 Recommended Budget, proposed fare modifications and proposed changes to the ADA paratransit service area, hours, and "premium" services.

Proposed fare modifications include increases for all fixed-route cash fares, day passes, and monthly passes. Eco Pass contract rates and ADA paratransit fares are proposed to increase proportionally. ADA paratransit service changes include eliminating "premium" services not required by ADA, modifying the service area and hours and advanced reservation policies.

The VTA Board of Directors will consider the recommended budget and fare modifications at its June 4, 2009 meeting. If approved, proposed Eco Pass rate changes and fare modifications will become effective no later than July 1, 2010. ADA paratransit service changes are proposed to be effective October 1, 2009.

The recommended budget, fare modifications and ADA paratransit service changes can be viewed at www.vta.org. A written copy can be obtained by contacting VTA Customer Service. If you are unable to attend any of the public meetings, please submit your comments by Friday, May 15, 2009 to VTA.

Comments are also welcome by phone: (408) 321-2300;
Hearing Impaired (TTY only) (408) 321-2330; fax: (408) 321-7537;
Email: customer.service@vta.org

The meetings will be an open house format. The general public is invited to attend any of these meetings. Meeting dates, times and locations:

Monday, May 4, 2009 3-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.

County of Santa Clara
Isaac Newton Room
70 West Hedding Street, San Jose
*This location is served by VTA Light Rail
and Bus Lines 61, 62, 66, 180 and 181.*

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 6-8 p.m.

Morgan Hill Community & Cultural
Center
17000 Monterey Road, Morgan Hill
*This location is served by VTA Bus
Line 68.*

Wednesday, May 6, 2009 6-8 p.m.

Milpitas Public Library, Room B
160 North Main Street, Milpitas
*This location is served by
VTA Bus Line 66.*

Monday, May 11, 2009 6-8 p.m.

Mountain View Council Chambers
500 Castro Street, Mountain View
*This location is served by VTA Light Rail
and Bus Lines 35, 51 and 52.*

Tuesday, May 12, 2009 6-8 p.m.

Quinlan Community Center
10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino
*This location is served by VTA Bus Lines
23, 25, 54 and 55.*

If you require special accommodations to participate in the meetings, please contact VTA (see below) at least five days in advance of the meetings.

For More Information
For a detailed list of the proposed changes, contact VTA Customer Service.
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TTY: (408) 321-2330
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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Andrea Nott.

What's your favorite reality television show and why?



"Project Runway." I majored in fashion design and it's inspiring to me, and I like to see them get such a unique opportunity."

Tiffany Vickers, Mountain View



"I guess 'The Real World.' It's not as much drama as all the dating shows."

Raksha Singh, Mountain View



"American Idol." I am totally hooked on it this season. It's actually the first season I've watched."

Jessica Robertson-Baird



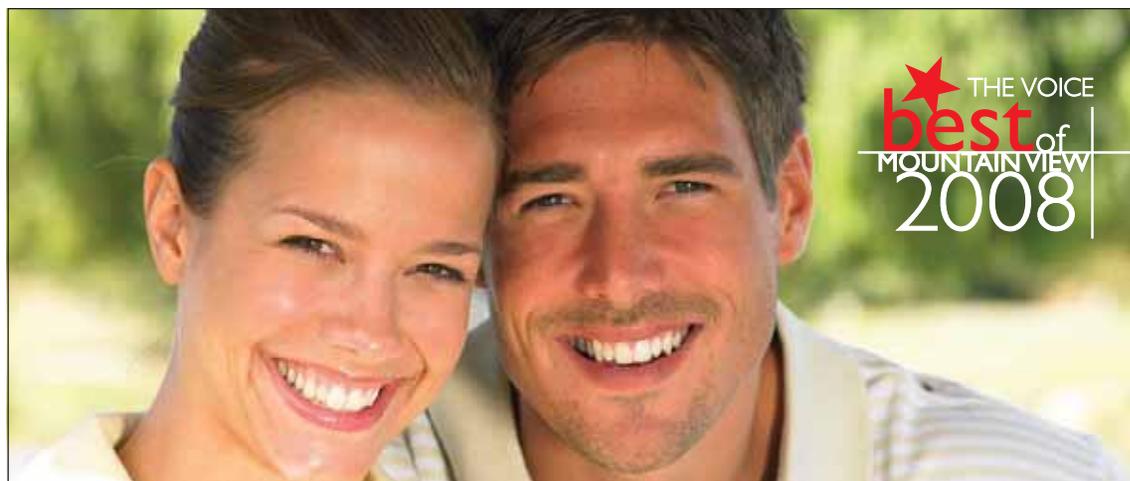
"The news is my favorite reality TV show."

Peter Ferrante, Martinez



"I don't watch reality TV. I'd rather live reality."

Ritu Riyat, Mountain View



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9:45 am Church School Nursery
11:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary,
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LocalNews

■ POLICE LOG

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

700 block E. El Camino Real, 4/15

SUICIDE

700 block E. El Camino Real, 4/15

AUTO BURGLARY

1900 block Leghorn St., 4/15
2300 block Jane Ln., 4/16

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

1800 block Fordham Way, 4/15
500 block S. Rengstorff Ave., 4/15

PETTY THEFT

2100 block Old Middlefield Rd., 4/15
Sears Department Store, 4/15
400 block San Antonio Rd., 4/15
900 block Rich Ave., 4/15
100 block N. Whisman Rd., 4/16
400 block San Antonio Rd., 4/17
Sears Department Store, 4/17
Walmart, 4/17
400 block N. Rengstorff Ave., 4/18
1600 block Cornell Dr., 4/18
100 block Calderon Ave., 4/18
800 block High School Way, 4/18
Walmart, 4/18
1300 block Montecito Ave., 4/18
Higdon Ave./Villa St., 4/18
2000 block California St., 4/19
Polaris Ave./Wentworth St., 4/19

GRAND THEFT

100 block N. Whisman Rd., 4/17
Wolf Camera, 4/18
100 block Calderon Ave., 4/18
600 block Taylor Ct., 4/19

STOLEN VEHICLE

Latham St./S. Rengstorff Ave., 4/15
Plymouth St./N. Rengstorff Ave., 4/16
400 block Easy St., 4/17
2200 block Latham St., 4/17
Pacific Inn, 4/17
100 block Montebello Ave., 4/18

VANDALISM

1000 block Clark Ave., 4/15
Granada Dr./Wildrose Way, 4/15

CURFEW VIOLATION

500 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 4/14

BATTERY

200 block Mountain View Ave., 4/14
2600 block W. El Camino Real, 4/18

**SUSPICIOUS
CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSONS**

200 block W. El Camino Real, 4/14
Old Middlefield Way/N. Rengstorff Ave., 4/15
500 block Central Ave., 4/16
Walmart, 4/16
1900 block W. El Camino Real, 4/16
Monte Carlo Club, 4/19

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

1000 block Villa St., 4/18
100 block Crestview Dr., 4/19
1900 block California St., 4/19

**MISSING PERSON -
JUVENILE**

1900 block Hackett Ave., 4/16

MISSING PERSON - ADULT

0 block Evandale Ave., 4/15

**POSSESSION OF
MARIJUANA**

W. El Camino Ave., 4/14

**POSSESSION OF
A STOLEN ITEM**

Mc Carty Way/Mercy St., 4/16

**DRIVING UNDER THE
INFLUENCE**

1400 block Crittenden Ln., 4/15
Cuesta Dr./Miramonte Ave., 4/16
W. El Camino Real/S. Shoreline Blvd., 4/16
Mervyns Department Store, 4/18

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

Castro School, 4/15

TRESSPASSING

400 block E. Middlefield Rd., 4/15
500 block Devonshire Ct., 4/16

**RESISTING OR INTERFERING
WITH ARREST**

1600 block Amphitheatre Pkwy., 4/17
Rengstorff Park, 4/17
Colony St./N. Rengstorff Ave., 4/18

**FAILURE TO OBEY A COURT
ORDER**

1900 block California St., 4/19

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*** SIBLING PREPARATION CLASSES**

Designed for children two years of age and older, this class prepares siblings for the emotional and physical realities of the arrival of a newborn.

- Saturday, May 9

*** PEDIATRIC WEIGHT CONTROL PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE**

This family-based, behavioral and educational weight management program promotes healthy eating and exercise habits for overweight children and their families. More than 80% of children achieve long-term weight loss through this program – and parents lose weight too! Call (650) 725-4424 for information.

- Monday, May 11

*** MOTHERS OF SONS: THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF
GUIDING YOUR SON THROUGH ADOLESCENCE**

Robert Lehman, MD, co-creator of the "Heart to Heart" program will be joined by family counselor Nancy Sanchez in an evening just for mothers of adolescent sons. Emphasis will be on understanding and encouraging open communication between parents and children.

- Wednesday, May 20

*** HEART TO HEART SEMINAR ON GROWING UP**

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: Thursdays, May 21 & 28
- For Girls: Fridays, May 22 & 29

Call (650) 723-4600 or visit www.lpch.org to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



CALL TODAY TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES (650) 723-4600

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The fifth dimension

You're traveling through another dimension — a dimension not only of sight and sound but of mind.

— Rod Serling

AS YOU CAN imagine, I read a lot. It comes with the job.

But this week I read one of the most amazing and wondrous sentences I have ever laid eyes upon.

It was spoken by city manager Kevin Duggan, and written down by *Voice* reporter Daniel DeBolt, and regards the proposed Shoreline hotel, which Duggan endorses (see page 1).

As part of his endorsement, Duggan stated the following, which at first I believed may be evidence of an alternate universe:

“We would not do it if revenue from doing it would not generate more revenue than not doing it.”

I spent a long time mulling over this remarkable sentence. Like a Mobius strip, it seems to point to new ways of seeing things, to open up new doors of perception.

But as always, a little mathematical rigor can sweep away those cobwebs. Consider the following: We have the revenue from doing it (A), and the revenue from not doing it (B), and this says that if B is larger than A then we would not do it.

Now let's turn the sentence inside-out mathematically, to see if the inverse is true (or is it the converse? I always mix those up):

“We would do it if revenue from not doing it would generate less revenue than doing it.”

In this case, if B is smaller than A, then we would do it. So the inverse holds true, and we are grounded mathematically. Duggan's statement makes sense.

It remains to be seen whether I'm very well-grounded satirically. But Duggan is a good sport, and knows this whole silly exercise was all in fun. ▀



Christopher Perkins, CEO of Unimodal, speaks during the Exploration and Sustainability Expo at NASA Research Park and Ames Research Center on Tuesday.

Expo offers glimpse at future of transportation

LOCAL COMPANY AIMS TO BUILD ITS 'SKYTRAN' AT NASA RESEARCH PARK

By Daniel DeBolt

A local company imagines a day when computer-controlled electric vehicles will become the default mode of public transportation, taking people to their destinations via a network of overhead magnetic rails at the touch of a button.

Unimodal, Inc. has already built prototypes of “SkyTran” at its facilities inside NASA

Ames Research Park. “Personal Rapid Transit” (PRT) is a futuristic idea that's been around for over 30 years, but now that technology has caught up, PRT systems are being considered for Santa Cruz, Marin County and San Jose airport.

The system could also come to Mountain View's outskirts. While not part of any formal plans yet, discussions are underway about installing

a PRT system at the 73-acre NASA Ames Research Park when the area is redeveloped as a research hub for private companies and universities.

On Tuesday, during a talk at NASA Ames' “Exploration Expo,” Unimodal CEO Christopher Perkins likened the technology's superiority over cars and buses to the Internet's superiority over switchboards.

► See **SKYTRAN**, page 8

Next in line to be cut: ESL class at Castro

By Casey Weiss

More than 100 parents and teachers are petitioning to save an English language program they say has helped dozens of Latino parents get more involved in the community.

For the last several years the Mountain View-Los Altos and Mountain View Whisman school districts have collaborated to offer a free English as a Second Language (ESL) class at Castro Elementary School for local parents. Most of the parents drop their kids off at Castro, then spend the morning learning English vocabulary and grammar, which in turn helps them contribute to their children's education.

But due to steep budget cuts, the class may be terminated at the end of the school year.

Until now the elementary school district provided the classroom rent-free five days a week for three hours, and MVLA's Adult School contributed financially to a Castro preschool program, where many of the students leave their children. But in the current fiscal climate, the Adult School cannot provide more funding, school officials said. And elementary school district administrators say that they cannot offer the classroom space for free anymore.

► See **CASTRO**, page 16

MVHS robotics team wins championship

By Casey Weiss

The Mountain View High School robotics team can call itself one of the best in the world after winning a prestigious competition last weekend in Atlanta.

Over 350 teams from around the world competed in the “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology” (FIRST) competition, held April

16 to 18, and only three walked away as champions, according to Mountain View High team captain Hershah Patel.

“It was pretty intense,” Patel said. “There were a lot of amazing robots out there. It was great to see we could compete.”

This year the students had to build a robot that could throw balls and also had a cage to catch the balls. The goal of the competition was for a robot to

get the most balls into its competitor's cage, while keeping balls out of its own. Seventeen of the Mountain View High students on the robotics team traveled to Atlanta to watch their robot compete.

“It is kind of like golf,” team coach Sarah Good said of the competition. “The lower your score, the better.”

The robotics team designed and built their own robot, according

to Good, and parents and teachers helped coach and supervise. As a first place team, the Spartans won a banner and trophy.

This is the first time Mountain View High has won the championship, Good said, although the students reached the national competition in 2004 and 2006. The student-led team had to qualify in a regional competition to make it to the nationals. ▀

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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Bees in the lavender



Kjell Stenberg of Towne Court Circle sent in this image, writing: "I took this photo in my garden last week — I've been concerned about the bee population since I heard it is in decline. I'm always pleased to see them coming to my lavender bushes but wonder if it's the last time I'll see them. I ask, what can we do?"
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.

■ NEWS BRIEFS

DEPORTED FELON RE-ARRESTED AT RENGSTORFF PARK

Police say they have called Immigration and Customs Enforcement regarding a previously deported felon and gang member after he was stopped Sunday evening leaving Rengstorff Park with three other known gang members.

Miguel Martinez, 33, was booked in the county's main jail for lying about his identity, police say, and is on immigration "hold" until he can be deported again.

Police say Martinez and the three other known Sureno gang members were driving out of the park when an officer — a member of the police department's Gang Suppression Team — stopped their car on a traffic violation. The officer recognized one of the passengers as a gang member and thought he was possibly violating his probation (he was not).

Police found a set of brass knuckles and arrested Jose Posadas, also 33, for possession of a dangerous weapon.

— Daniel DeBolt

UWINK CLOSES IN MOUNTAIN VIEW

The high-tech restaurant on Castro Street that promised to bring "social gaming" to Silicon Valley eaters has closed its doors.

Alyssa Tappan, company spokesperson for uWink, blamed last week's closure on the economic recession, which began a few months after the restaurant opened last summer, as well as high rent for the location on the corner of Castro and California streets. She said uWink's remaining two locations, both in Southern California, are doing fine.

The restaurant allowed patrons to order food and play games on LCD screens placed on each table. The idea came from Nolan Bushnell, creator of the Atari video game console and the Chuck E. Cheese restaurant chain.

In January, uWink removed itself from the stock market after its share price hovered around zero for months.

MV POLICE HELP IN SUNNYVALE ARRESTS

Mountain View and Sunny-

vale police took two armed suspects into custody last week after the men allegedly robbed two Sunnyvale locations and led officers on a lengthy search throughout both cities.

Two men armed with guns robbed two locations in Sunnyvale on Wednesday, April 15, according to Mountain View police spokesperson Liz Wylie. One of the suspects was cornered at around 10 p.m. that evening, and Mountain View police arrived on the scene to assist Sunnyvale officers. A Mountain View officer used a Taser on the suspect, and Sunnyvale police took him into custody, Wylie said.

San Jose police officers joined the search by helicopter, and Mountain View police continued to search for the other suspect by foot. They eventually found him at around 11 p.m., hiding behind a dumpster on El Camino Real, and turned him over to Sunnyvale police.

Sunnyvale police confirmed that the armed robberies occurred, but would not comment further because they are still investigating the case.

— Casey Weiss

Local artist Haiying Yang brings the ordinary to life

By Andrea Nott

The simple brightness of a hand-painted silk scarf might be just the springboard to happiness people are looking for these days, according to local artist Haiying Yang. In fact, she wears her own artwork around her neck or over her hair, hoping it will have an uplifting effect on the people around her in these troubled economic times.

With so many people on the job hunt now, Yang realized that what is most important to her is “to be independent and follow your heart,” she said.

So, she began to pursue art full time.

Yang is not a classically trained artist, but was inspired by her mother, who was. Her mother died 15 years ago and left her art supplies to Yang. “When I went to pick up her things, I felt compelled to start painting,” she said.

Most of her works are inspired by nature, but reveal her personality with their striking, near-fluorescent colors on fabrics and canvases. “Everything has a life,” she says. “I try to imitate it, but it’s not about how accurate it is. There are cameras for that.”

Although she also practices traditional art forms like Chinese calligraphy, she is a fully modernized artist, adept at sharing her work on the Internet. As of this writing, Yang had posted 1,655 videos and counting on YouTube. (They can be found at www.youtube.com/yanghaiying.)

With the videos, “I’m just trying to bring good energy. I’m not trying to sell anything,” Yang says.

One of her earlier instructional videos received negative

comments from people who said her work was not “real art.” She thinks this might be due to how quickly she can finish a piece — as little as five minutes sometimes. In response, Yang made another video of herself chopping off her own hair into a little bob that she still wears today. The intended message is, “Don’t take yourself too seriously,” she said.

Now her videos include everything from the self-administered haircut to Chinese cooking demonstrations.

Yang was born in China, but met her husband in France. Due to her husband’s job in high-tech marketing, they have traveled the world, living in India, Brazil and Australia.

The couple landed in Silicon Valley 10 years ago, and they love it. Yang’s two sons, ages 6 and 9, attend Yew Chung International School in Mountain View, and she volunteers there to teach the students art.

Yang is a collaborative artist as well — currently, for example, she is working on cross-promotional projects with a jazz musician — and she encourages everyone to express themselves through art in one way or another.

“Sometimes words are too weak. Art is beyond vocabulary. You can put all your wildness and all your freedom into it.” ■

E-mail Andrea Nott at anott@mv-voice.com.

■ INFORMATION

Yang’s work will be on display starting May 1 in the upstairs coffee shop at Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View. For more, visit www.yanghaiying.com.



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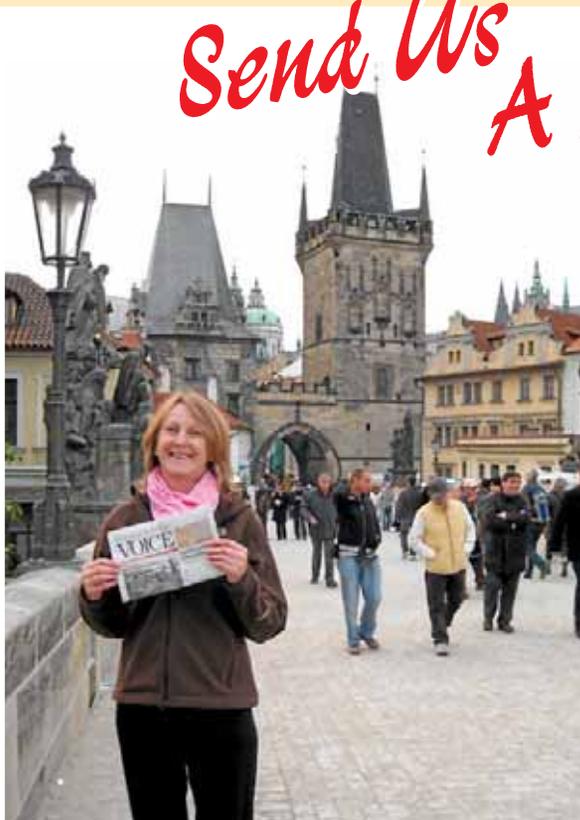


Photo of Sally Glauz standing on the Charles Bridge in Prague, Czech Republic.

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

SKYTRAN

► Continued from page 5

Just as the Internet efficiently sends packets of information through a network of cables and servers, SkyTran would efficiently send people through a computer-controlled network of stations and “maglev” rails, Perkins said.

Pointing to a picture of grid-locked freeway traffic, Perkins said the “freedom” of the automobile is something everybody wants. However: “We’re all held captive by this same desire.”

The 1,500-pound electric vehicles allow up to three passengers. Users do no driving — computers control the system to prevent accidents. The vehicles literally float on overhead rails using magnetic levitation or “maglev” technology instead of wheels. The vehicles would get the equivalent of 500 miles per gallon and could travel up to 150 miles per hour before becoming inefficient.

One SkyTran line can support as much traffic flow as a three-lane freeway, Perkins said. Power could come from rail-mounted solar panels or wind turbines.

Among the advantages of PRT is that, unlike trains, it can provide non-stop service



An artists' renderings of SkyTran.

(vehicles merge off of main lines for stops). Because of the light weight of the vehicles, the overhead rails and support poles need not be large.

Perkins said that right now it would cost \$15 million per mile to construct SkyTran, but costs would go down “substantially” once mass produced.

If the technology gains public acceptance, Unimodal expects it to go “viral” at some point, spreading across the county to various cities. Perkins envisions urban areas with stations within walking distance.

The Marin County Board of

Supervisors reportedly approved a letter of interest in January for a demonstration SkyTran system that could connect Marin’s civic center with a new SMART rail line. Unimodal can use the letter to help acquire private funding.

Perkins says he hopes private companies would develop and operate the systems piece by piece, the way private companies once developed the county’s railroad system. Taxpayer funds usually would not be necessary, Perkins says, though Marin has discussed using some state grants for its project. Fares for the systems in Marin are report-



IMAGES COURTESY OF UNIMODAL

edly estimated at 25 cents per mile, paid using RFID cards.

There are several other companies developing personal rapid transit systems, including Ultra in Britain, which is constructing the first modern system at Heathrow airport, and POSCO Steel, which is testing a system in Sweden.

“It’s time for the USA to get into the race,” Perkins said. “That’s why we’re going to develop a system here at Ames.”

Clark Foster, a mechanical engineer, says the company is supported by a team of engineers, some of whom volunteer their time because they “believe

to a high degree in the concept.” Perkins and Foster say Unimodal’s biggest problem is political acceptance, and Foster admits that politics “is not our world.”

Such acceptance is the “final hurdle all good ideas must overcome,” said Phil Smith, CEO of Space Grant Education and Enterprise Institute, which may send college interns from around the country to work for Unimodal.

For more information, including video, visit www.unimodal.com.

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



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■ OBITUARY

RANDY CALLES

Randy Calles, a Mountain View resident from 1961 to 1974, died on April 13 after a four-year battle with colon cancer. He was 53.

Calles moved to Mountain View at the age of 6. He went to Castro Elementary School, Graham Middle School and Mountain View High School.

He enlisted in the Army in 1974 and served in Germany. After the Army he graduated from Feather River College in Quincy, Calif. with a degree in forestry. After spending some years in Plumas, Colo., he moved to Santa Rosa where he worked for the city.

He is survived by his wife, Georgia Calles; his mother, Joyce Calles; siblings Jim Calles, Gloria Ortega, Elizabeth Mastracchio and Robin Cook; his long-time friend and sister-in law, Cheryle Calles; and nieces and nephews Brian Schuck, Maggie Freele, Jesse Calles, Ana Calles, Dominic Mastracchio, Nayeli Calles and Lily and Lucas Freele.

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Community Forum

Mountain View Whisman School District

Comprehensive Master Plan for District Facilities:
Program Needs and Enhancements

Monday, May 4, 7-9 p.m.
Castro School Multi-use Room
505 Escuela Avenue
Mountain View

The Mountain View Whisman School District is in the process of developing a 10-year Comprehensive Master Plan for District Facilities, which will be considered for approval by the District's Board of Trustees in June 2009.

District staff and community members are invited to a Community Forum to provide input on District facility and program needs and enhancements. Input will be considered in the development of the Comprehensive Master Plan for District Facilities.

The Community Forum will be facilitated by representatives of the District's architectural firm, Bill Gould Design.

For questions regarding the Community Forum, please contact Jeannine Avila at 650-526-3548 or javila@mwwsd.org.

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HOUSING

Continued from page 1

Planning Director Randy Tsuda said there were only about 1,200 units in the works, including 450 at Mayfield and about 500 at South Whisman.

"The market has definitely slowed down," said Scott Plambaeck, city planner. Council member Mike Kasperzak believes the city passed on an opportunity to build many homes in the past few years. Unlike other council members, he says it's more of a "community" problem than a regional one.

"It's easy to say Los Altos Hills needs to build more affordable housing on smaller lots, but I don't see any new jobs in Los Altos," Kasperzak said. "It's sort of the same old issue — if the community doesn't want more people living here we should say no to more jobs. All those [new employees] may have to drive now to get here and that's not sustain-

able development to me."

A changing city

As part of the 19 percent job growth, the city has seen a 294 percent increase in "information sector" jobs since 2003, according to the report. This may explain why the city has more young workers and fewer families than other cities in the county: About 13 percent of Mountain View's households are "non-family," while the county averages 9 percent.

Meanwhile, Mountain View has slowly chipped away at the high ratio of rentals in the city by almost exclusively developing new ownership housing and converting some apartments to condos. The number of people who rent in Mountain View slightly decreased from 62.2 percent in 1990 to 58.6 percent in 2008, according to the report.

For many years Mountain View has been known as a city with a relatively high ratio of renters. The county shows the opposite trend, with about 40 percent renters and 60 percent homeowners, according to the report.

The report cites other concerns. About 19 percent of the city's multi-family apartment buildings are not built to withstand a major earthquake, it says, noting that of the city's 584 apartment buildings, 111 have a "soft story" design where an "open wall condition" on the first floor can lead to "seismic weakness" in an earthquake.

Reflecting county-wide trends, the report says 32 percent of Mountain View renters "overpaid" by spending more than a third of their income on rent, compared to 36 percent county-wide. Seniors overpaid the most: In 2000, the report says, 50 percent of seniors overpaid for housing and 26 percent "severely overpaid."

The report adds that there are no assisted living facilities affordable to low income seniors in the city. It says the city has placed a 180-unit cap on small apartments — also known as "efficiency studios," like the ones at San Antonio Place — so only 62 more can be built.

Mountain View's median income for 2008 is slightly lower than the county median of \$81,246, according to the report. Per capita income, however, is higher: \$46,644 versus \$37,470.

The report also points out that 122 homeless people called themselves residents of Mountain View in 2007, and 89 percent said they were unsheltered compared to 71 percent countywide. A bill passed by the state Senate, SB 2, will require Mountain View to zone an area for a homeless shelter within one year of the housing element's adoption.

The BAE report can be viewed on the city's Web site at laserfiche.mountainview.gov/webink77/Browse.aspx as a staff report for the April 22 Environmental Planning Commission meeting. ■



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BALLOT

► Continued from page 1

[dipping into] our reserves.”

League opposes measures

Each of the six propositions, labeled 1A through 1F, address the budget shortfall in their own ways. All require a simple majority to pass.

Under Proposition 1B, California must repay public elementary, middle and high school districts and community colleges \$9.3 billion it owes the schools for not meeting state funding requirements over the last two years. The state would make these payments using a reserve established under Proposition 1A. (If 1A fails, then

1B automatically fails.)

The four remaining propositions ask voters to approve transferring of money, borrowing against the lottery and preventing some elected officials from receiving a raise when the state faces a deficit.

Many educational groups, such as the California Teacher's Association (CTA), publicly support all the measures, saying they're needed to keep social and educational programs running.

“Next year if these two propositions do not pass, we will be looking at a totally different situation,” said Gloria Valdez, president of the local chapter of the CTA. “We will be, like the majority of schools in the state, in real difficult times.”

But some surprising groups have come out against the prop-

ositions. The League of Women Voters, which traditionally supports education and health measures, says these propositions are not a solution, and the League officially opposes most of them (the group is neutral on 1B and 1F).

Sue Graham, president of the Los Altos-Mountain View chapter, said the League does not see these measures as solving the state's budget problems.

“In general the League feels these are stopgap measures,” Graham said. “It's just moving money around.”

The League recognizes the need for more educational and health funding, she said, but “This isn't the way to do it.”

The election, she added, “is putting it out to voters who have limited knowledge.” ▽

A look at the ballot measures in the May 19 special election

Following is an overview of the six measures on the ballot in the May 19 special election. Information is provided by the California League of Women Voters.

Prop 1A: State Budget

If passed, Proposition 1A would extend the length of recent tax increases in an effort to put more money in the state reserve. It would also place stronger restrictions on how this money can be spent.

Proponents say the proposition would help the state prepare for future downturns, while opponents say the proposition is too complex and removes legislative flexibility.

Prop 1B: Public Education Funding Payment Plan

Under Proposition 1B the state would have to repay public schools and community colleges for not meeting funding obligations during the last two years.

The reserve, set up under Prop 1A, would help fund the \$9.3 billion the state owes schools. If Prop 1A doesn't pass, 1B will not pass either.

Proponents say the proposition would allow the schools to receive required funding they may not otherwise see. Opponents say passing 1B means supporting extended tax increases under 1A, which they believe is not the way to address the state deficit or problems in the schools.

Prop 1C: Lottery Modernization Act

All profits from the state lottery currently go toward public education, totaling about 1 percent of schools' funding. Proposition 1C would change this, and under this measure the state could instead borrow \$5 billion from future lottery profits to pay back debt. Schools would receive their funding from the state general fund instead of from lottery profits.

Proponents say this will provide funding for schools, while helping to balance the budget and potentially avoiding higher taxes. Opponents say this is only a one-time fix, and the state should not rely on gambling to fix its money woes.

Prop 1D: Protects Children's Services Funding

Proposition 1D would change the way the state funds some social and health programs for children under the age of 5. The group First 5 currently receives taxes from tobacco sales to help address health and educational needs for under-represented children.

Prop 1D would transfer \$340 million in 2009-10 from the First 5 fund and then \$286 million each year for the next five years from tobacco taxes to the state general fund to help pay for similar programs for low-income children. First 5 would not be reimbursed.

Proponents say this will help prevent drastic cuts from health services for at-risk children, but opponents argue that children would be affected by cuts to the First 5 programs.

Prop 1E: Mental Health Services Funding

If passed, Proposition 1E would transfer money from a specific fund for mental health services to the state's general fund.

Prop 1E would transfer about \$230 million each year for two years to pay for state mental health programs, specifically for Medi-Cal patients under age 21. The money would not be reimbursed.

Proponents say the proposition would allow the state to continue providing essential mental health services. Opponents argue that current programs are working to reduce incarceration and homelessness and should not be altered. These transfers, they say, would hurt a vulnerable population.

Prop 1F: Elected Officials' Salaries

Under Proposition 1F, state officials would not receive pay raises when the state faces a deficit of 1 percent or more. The League of Women Voters estimates that not giving raises of 3 percent to all elected officials would save \$420,000.

Proponents argue that many state residents are not getting raises, and state officials shouldn't either, while opponents say withholding these raises will not give legislators an incentive to balance the budget.

— Casey Weiss

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Vol. 1 Issue 31

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HOTEL

► Continued from page 1

The city is planning to use somewhere between \$28 million and \$31.5 million in Shoreline tax district revenue to help defray the costs of the proposed “four diamond” hotel, which would be privately developed at a cost of \$75 million to \$80 million on vacant city property next to the Googleplex. Council member John Inks says the deal is too risky.

“I’m not warm to the idea right now because of the city subsidy,” Inks said. “Whether it requires a subsidy is not clear.”

Inks was the lone dissenter earlier this month when the City Council voted 6-1 to select Robert Greene Company as the developer.

Despite assurances from city manager Kevin Duggan, and cost estimates from consultants (which Duggan admits are probably conservative), Inks says he does not

know enough about the project to be able to assure his constituents that the investment is a good one — that it wouldn’t put the city at risk of unforeseen costs, such as the need for more subsidies in the future to finish the hotel or keep it running.

City officials say the hotel’s occupancy taxes and land lease revenue would provide \$1.5 million to \$2 million in annual revenue to the city’s \$89 million general fund, which faces a deficit of \$6 million for next year. Property taxes from the hotel, along with property taxes from the Google land lease on the north end of the site, would be enough to pay for the city’s contribution to the hotel’s development. Duggan has proposed using a no-interest bond to pay for the \$30 million up front, which would not raise taxes or require voter approval.

Duggan went as far as saying that the hotel was “probably the best alternative we have to continue to generate new general fund revenues.”

Inks points out that the deal that fell through last year to have Google build the hotel would have cost the city nothing. The city went “from not subsidizing the project to being a major contributor,” he said.

Another failed deal for that site, this time with Hyatt in 2002, would have cost the city \$19 million.

But Duggan said it doesn’t make sense to make comparisons with deals that did not work out.

The hotel and convention center is also vital to the city’s efforts to remain competitive in attracting new businesses to the city, he said.

“A lot of the Bayshore area is getting older,” Duggan said. “In order for it to stay competitive a number of things need to happen.”

Conceptual plans

Architect Bob Glazier called the project’s conceptual design a “very simple and economical approach to a hotel,” adding that it wasn’t a “resort.” Developer Robert Green said the idea was not to compete

with the “amazing” and “amorphous” office structure that Google has planned on the north end of the site, but to complement it.

The design makes use of glass walls for a transparent look, and glass hallways along the rear will allow a view of the offices Google has planned. A restaurant that fronts the corner of Shoreline and Charleston Roads will be the only one in the immediate area. Greene described it as “not just a hotel restaurant, but a great amenity for the whole community.”

Greene said he is interested in a green building and will seek LEED certification.

The convention center would host business conventions as well as community events such as weddings and graduation parties.

The property would be operated by Kimpton Hotels, which oversees 45 hotels nationwide. Joe Long, vice president of acquisitions for Kimpton, told the council that Kimpton was rated one of the 100 best

companies to work for by Fortune Magazine, and Kimpton’s customer satisfaction level topped all other major hotel operators, according to a 2008 survey.

Long described the hotel’s style as to the right of center on the spectrum between “conventional” and “uber-hip.”

Union OK with talks

The local chapter of Service Employees International Union has yet to speak at a public hearing or picket the hotel site, as they did last year when Google would not meet to discuss a labor neutrality agreement.

That is probably because the Robert Greene Company and Kimpton Hotels have told the SEIU that they would be “happy to sit down and work something out,” Greene said last week.

“Whether that leads to a labor neutrality agreement remains to be seen. I think they [the SEIU] are comfortable we are heading in the right direction,” Greene said, adding that the labor neutrality would “help relations with the city.”

A labor neutrality agreement would all but guarantee that the hotel operator would not interfere with union negotiations. Last year city and Google officials would not confirm speculation that the deal with Google fell through over the issue.

If the developer and the city do not come to an agreement on ground lease terms by early July (or September if an extension is used), the city has the right to put the project out to bid again. ■

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

City sets high-temp records

Mountain View set temperature records on Monday and Tuesday, with a high of 90 degrees on Tuesday, April 21 — the hottest temperature the city has experienced on that day since record-keeping began, according to the National Weather Service.

Forecasters said the weather would start cooling down Wednesday, and take a dramatic dip Thursday and Friday, with 65 to 70 degree highs expected in Mountain View. A chance of rain had been previously forecasted, but as of Wednesday, according to Steve Anderson of the National Weather Service, no rain was expected for the weekend.

Mountain View joined dozens of Bay Area cities in setting hot-weather records due to a heat wave which hovered over the region. “Records were set pretty much everywhere,” Anderson said.

— Casey Weiss

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SPRING FAMILY PARADE IS THIS WEEKEND

The 31st Annual Spring Family Parade hits Castro Street this Saturday, April 25 at noon.

The theme of this year's parade is "Save the Day ... Mountain View's Superheroes," according to a press release.

The parade starts at the north end of Castro Street and meanders through Civic Center Plaza before ending at Pioneer Park for food, entertainment and children's activities.

For more information contact Kristine Pardini, recreation supervisor, at (650) 903-6410 or by e-mail at kristine.pardini@mountainview.gov.

— Daniel DeBolt

KEN BALLARD SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE NEARS

Mountain View High School students have until the end of this month to apply for the Lt. Ken Ballard Memorial Scholarship, recently established in the memory of the Mountain View High alum who died while serving in Iraq.

The \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a local high school student interested in history and international relations. A scholarship committee will be looking for someone with perseverance and leadership skills. Applicants must be 2009 graduates of Mountain View High School and must write an essay about why they are qualified.

Applications are due by April 30. For more information or a copy of the application, visit www.ltkenballard.com.

— Casey Weiss



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Mountain View VOICE

CASTRO

► Continued from page 5

Because of these setbacks — and since the Adult School can't afford the \$15 an hour for the class — teacher Kit Miller said the high school district will have to end the ESL course. Miller started a petition to keep the class which now has 111 teacher and parent signatures.

"We see this as a bi-district project," Miller said. "We can't keep paying for it."

The Adult School is already cutting back teachers and programs as it faces \$1.3 million in budget cuts through June 2010. In its current budget proposal, the Adult School plans to cut over 40 percent from ESL programs, according to director Laura Stefanski.

Since the Adult School withdrew funding, the rules dictate that the elementary school district must

begin charging the class as an outside group, according to chief financial officer Craig Goldman.

"We understand there have been significant cuts to the Adult School," Goldman said. "We see a need to comply with the law. Otherwise what would stop any

part of our key mission to reach immigrants who are poor," Miller said. "Mountain View is benefiting from having these parents becoming involved."

Maura Garbuza, a student in the class who has two daughters at Castro, signed the petition, and

for parents. And it is hard for many of the parents, who don't have cars, to get to these classes.

Rosa, another student in the class who did not want her last name used, said she does not have time to commute by bus to Moffett Boulevard every day. She drops her three children off at Castro in the morning, and needs to be back by 11:15 a.m. to pick the youngest up from preschool.

"It's too far for me since I have to walk or take the bus," she said.

Miller said Rosa is not alone, and many parents would stop their English education altogether if the class were cancelled.

"If I don't stand up for this class who will," Miller said.

The high school district's board of trustees will discuss the cuts during their meeting on April 27, and make a final decision on May 11. ■

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

"Our Castro School class is part of our key mission to reach immigrants who are poor."

KIT MILLER

other group from expecting the space for free?"

Miller said many of the petition signers were planning to attend the elementary school district's board of trustees meeting on Thursday, April 23 to speak about the importance of the class. She said the district should continue providing the classroom because the course helps so many district families.

"Our Castro School class is

said the course has helped her become conversational in English. She can now help her daughter with her homework.

"I want to learn. It is important," Garbuza said. "I want to communicate with people when I go to the doctor with my kids."

The Adult School campus, across town on Moffett Boulevard, also offers English classes, but Miller said none of them are specifically

■ PROPOSED CUTS TO ADULT SCHOOL PROGRAMS

High school district trustees will meet Monday to begin cutting \$1.3 million from the Adult School in the 2009-10 academic year. A final decision will be made May 11. Below are some Adult School programs facing the biggest cuts:

■ Adults with disabilities: Instructional hours will be reduced 45 percent, including elimination of classes at two of three sites.

■ ESL and citizenship: Instructional hours will be reduced 44 percent, resulting in fewer classes.

■ Vocational program: All classes that do not lead to certification for employment will be eliminated, a total of more than 800 instructional hours.

■ Older adults: All classes will become fee-based and self-supporting by July 1. Programs providing outreach to convalescent homes in the area may be dropped by June 30.

■ High School Diploma and GED: Adult high school diploma program will be reduced in size "with a stronger emphasis on adults working toward their GED certificate," according to director Laura Stefanski. The Adult School will continue to offer instructional services to concurrently enrolled students from the comprehensive high school sites, but take fewer referrals due to reduced program staffing.

■ Grants: Reduced funding expected for the Even Start Family Literacy Grant, CAL-SAFE Grant for young teen parents and Cal-WORKs Grant for adults on public assistance.

■ Fee-based classes: Expected to stay intact if they meet minimum enrollment requirements and are self-supporting.

— Casey Weiss



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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Judicial Watch should mind its own business

Is allowing the Day Worker Center of Mountain View to move into what is now a rundown building on Escuela Avenue next to the railroad tracks really going to harm the neighborhood, as some residents claim?

In our opinion, the answer is a resounding no, due mostly to the track record the workers left behind at the Calvary Church at Escuela Avenue and California Street, just down the road from the new site, and at Trinity United Methodist Church at Hope and Church streets, the center's current location.

During the Worker Center's stay at both locations, no unruly behavior was reported, there were no incidents that required police intervention, and the relatively quiet neighborhoods remained quiet with little increase in traffic, as most day workers ride their bicycles to the center.

But good behavior is not what the Escuela neighbors want to talk about. Instead, they are upping the ante, challenging the Worker Center as a haven for illegal immigrants. To help in their cause, some neighbors have enlisted the aid of Judicial Watch, a national legal group that specializes in filing suits against cities like Mountain View.

On what grounds, you ask? The cities in Judicial Watch's sights refuse to take a hostile stance against the Worker Center. Mountain View officials have determined that the center is a legal operation and that its new location does not violate any local zoning laws or other ordinances. On May 5, the City Council is expected to give the center final approval to occupy the Escuela space — meaning that, after years of bouncing from one location to another, it will finally have a permanent home of its own.

In an e-mail to the *Voice* last week, Escuela resident Brad Keller said Judicial Watch is concerned that "the Day Worker Center may, in violation of U.S. federal immigration law, support undocumented workers and employers of undocumented workers, and that local cities may be using citizens' tax dollars to support these activities."

The fight in Mountain View is hardly unique. In the years ahead, the Obama administration and Congress are expected to take up the immigration issue, which must somehow acknowledge the millions of working immigrants in our country. Like other communities across California and the nation, Mountain View surely has its share of residents who are not legal immigrants. But groups like Judicial Watch are not going to solve that problem — though they might wind up costing the city a lot of money as it is forced to defend itself in court.

Instead of bringing in outside agitators, the Escuela neighbors would do better to leave immigration issues to the federal government. A much better choice would be to reach out to the day workers and work with them to improve the neighborhood. After all, they have done that already at their last two locations.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

LOOKS LIKE COUNCIL WAS ASLEEP AT THE BUDGET WHEEL

Editor:

Your April 10 article on the city's budget crisis made one thing painfully clear: The City Council has not been on the ball ("Council hears city budget in 'crisis', asks for more info").

With a \$6 million budget gap this year, and projected multi-million-dollar budget shortfalls in the coming years, it looks like the city is going to have to tighten its belt and make some difficult cuts.

Perhaps instead of making the suggested cuts to the public library or to public safety, the first place we should consider making some cuts is to the paychecks of the council members. It should be easy, seeing as they probably won't notice.

They already admitted that they don't know how the city budget works. Any bets on how active they would be in the process then? What are the chances they actually pay attention to their personal finances? I doubt that they will be so passive when it is their own money and not the taxpayers'.

Aaron Dalton
E. Dana Street

DAY WORKERS KICKED IN AT FOUNDATION AUCTION

Editor:

I was very impressed when, at the recent fundraiser for the Mountain View Education Foundation, which supports our local K-8 schools, there were two silent auction items donated by the Mountain View Day Worker Center, each for four hours of donated labor. Thank you to the day laborers for supporting our schools.

Bonnie Malouf
Evandale Avenue

JUDICIAL WATCH NOT WELCOME HERE

Editor:

The announcement that Judicial Watch is becoming involved in the Mountain View Day Worker Center controversy is not welcome news ("National legal group targets Worker Center," April 17). Judicial Watch is one of many conservative foundations funded by Richard Mellon Scaife, an ultraconservative who uses his inherited wealth to promote right-wing causes.

Judicial Watch claims it is an educational foundation, but

► See **LETTERS**, page 18



Let's Hear from You!

Letters to the editor and guests columns are welcome.



The Mountain View City Council has scheduled a study session for Tuesday, May 5, 2009 to consider the Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget for the General Operating Fund, Building Services, Shoreline Golf Links, various City Reserves and various recommended City fees. The study session is scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like the City Council and staff to know your views, please send a letter to the City Council at P.O. Box 7540, Mountain View, CA 94039 or an e-mail to city.clerk@mountainview.gov by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2009.

The report will be available after 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2009 on the City's website at www.mountainview.gov/BudgetDocuments.asp. Copies of the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Narrative Budget Report – General Fund will be available for review by 8:00 a.m. on Friday, May 1, 2009 at City Hall in the City Clerk's Office, 500 Castro Street, 3rd floor, Mountain View, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and at the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St, Mountain View.

City of Mountain View Fiscal Year 2009-10 Budget Schedule remaining (tentative):

- April 28 CDBG Public Hearing II
- May 5 Narrative Budget Report (Part II) – General Fund
- May 26 Annual Goals adoption
- Capital Improvement Program adoption
- June 2 Budget Public Hearing
- June 9 Public Hearings on City Utility Rates and Proposed Budget Adoption

LETTERS

► Continued from page 17

its main means of teaching is through litigation rather than critical thinking. It almost always represents conservative causes, and is primarily known for being the instigators in the impeachment of President Bill Clinton.

In short, Judicial Watch is to the law what Fox News is to journalism.

**John Cormode
Franklin Avenue**

POLICE UNION IS STUDYING PAY CUT REQUEST

Editor:

The Mountain View Police Officers Association is very sympathetic to the current economic situation the city and the nation as a whole is currently experiencing. City manager Kevin Duggan has done an outstand-

ing job in managing the city's finances through many challenging times both in the past and in current times. Through his conservative economic practices he has placed our city in an outstanding financial situation compared to most of our surrounding municipalities.

He has additionally kept the collective salary and benefit levels of his city employees marginally at parity with our benchmark cities. If you do a comparative analysis of our salary and benefits with that of our benchmark agencies, you will find us at the median level of compensation/benefits.

As a result of Mr. Duggan's conservative fiscal practices, he has successfully managed to keep his operational costs, more times than not, under budget, leaving him with a surplus of millions of dollars each year to transfer into various reserve funds.

Mr. Duggan has asked the collective labor groups to consider voluntarily forgoing their cost of living allowances (COLA), but we and the others are still in the process of understanding the city's current economic situation and level of the fiscal crisis.

As an organization we are working diligently with Mr. Duggan and his staff, along with the other city labor groups, to address ways to control costs to the city, generate and recover revenue and manage health care costs. Our dialogue with Mr. Duggan and his staff is ongoing, and we will continue to work with him and the other labor groups to meet the challenges of our current economy while providing the outstanding level of service the citizens of Mountain View deserve.

**Allen Sakaguchi, president
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Power loss in the engine can sometimes be linked to a shift in valve timing due to a partially failed cam (timing) belt. The function of the cam belt is to transmit drive from the engine's crankshaft to the camshaft (which revolves to open the engine's intake and exhaust valves). In the event that some of the teeth are worn off the belt, it may change the position of the crankshaft relative to the camshaft, reducing engine compression and power. Otherwise, the cam belt may have stretched or the belt tensioner may be improperly adjusted. If so, the cam belt can jump on the cam sprocket, altering the relationship between the crankshaft and the camshaft. Immediate replacement is required.

Certain engines with overhead camshafts have timing belts that have a limited life span. While it's true today's cars are more complex than ever, the service technicians

at Larry's AutoWorks, have the expertise your vehicle demands. Questions? Stop by 101 Freeway on Leghorn between San Antonio and Rengstorff in Mountain View. Take the Rengstorff exit south, then right on Leghorn, or call us. We are an AAA approved facility. We also offer loaner cars when you leave your car with us for repair! Every car our customers bring to us for service has a technician who is factory-qualified and trained on that vehicle. Keep that in mind. There is a difference here and our customers know it. You'll know it when you entrust your vehicle to us.

HINT: While a cam belt requires replacement at recommended intervals to avoid potentially catastrophic engine failure, cam chains should last the life of the vehicle.

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Weekend

MOUNTAIN VIEW VOICE

- RESTAURANT REVIEW
- MOVIE TIMES
- BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT



VERONICA WEBER

The Spicy Napa Salad at Calafia features pulled roasted chicken, shredded napa and red cabbages, carrots, orange segments, and julienne wontons.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Calafia here we come

LATEST PROJECT BY CHARLIE AYERS BOLSTERS
PALO ALTO'S TOWN & COUNTRY VILLAGE

By Sheila Himmel

Charlie Ayers may finally be able to shed his exes. The chef known for feeding Google and the Grateful Dead has a hit in Calafia Cafe and Market-A-Go, his contribution to the amazing revival of Palo Alto's recently renovated Town & Country Village. Good luck finding a parking space during lunchtime at this once-moribund center.

What is Calafia? If you Google the word, the first three hits are a hotel in Baja California, a consortium of California libraries, and the Barony of Calafia, a club dedicated to reliving and recreating the Middle Ages.

What it means to Ayers is an homage to Queen Calafia, goddess of an enchanted land ruled by courageous black women, according to 15th century literature. Legend has it the state name of California is derived from it.

What it means to us: At last, a sensibly priced, enjoyably furnished, all-purpose restaurant in Palo Alto. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, takeout. From vegans to omnivores, tofu scramble to braised pork, the food is good and the menu is the soul of diversity.

Comfort classics are listed under the "You Don't Have to Be a Kid Menu." They change daily, as does much of the menu.

► See **CALAFIA**, page 20

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LocalNews



VERONICA WEBER

The duck dumplings (foreground) and crispy tofu spring rolls are some of Calafia's popular lunchtime appetizers.

CALAFIA

► Continued from page 19

Recent comforts included turkey Bolognese, chicken tempura and vegetable potpie.

Macaroni and cheese (\$6.50), la creme de la creme of comfort foods, is served in a baby cast iron pot. The spinach melts so thoroughly into the cheese that you hardly notice it's there. This mac 'n' cheese is like a warm hug from a favorite aunt. For me, a little more bite to the cheese and crunch to the breadcrumbs would be welcome.

Chicken potpie (\$6.95) is equally mild, but loaded with tender roasted chicken and topped with flaky puff pastry. I found it more satisfying.

The nine-inch pizzas make perfect starters to share. Wolfgang's Pizza (\$11) is a Puck-ish combination of goat cheese and Oaxaca-style mozzarella, pumpkinseed pesto and shredded duck leg. It can't help being a little greasy. Vegan Love Fest (\$9) is another pizza option.

The best dish we tried was the signature mahogany salmon (\$15). It's a big hunk of beautiful fish with crispy skin, grilled asparagus and brown rice. Servers ask if you want it medium-rare, and you do.

Also excellent, the new Bohemia salad (\$8.50) is a near-meal in itself, with baby spinach, avocado, jicama, and toasted pumpkin-

► Continued on next page

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VERONICA WEBER

Charlie Ayers, owner and chef of Calafia Café & Market A-Go-Go, stands in the restaurant with the Sunshine Day Dream pizza.

► Continued from previous page

seeds, tossed in basil-citrus vinaigrette and topped with warm braised pork shoulder. Less filling but more exciting, the crimson quinoa (KEEN-wah) salad (\$8.75) is a tangy treat, unless you hate beets or arugula.

Servers are friendly and eager, as befits the whole tenor of Calafia. But, our neighbors' potpie was cold, pacing is problematic, and we never got the promised water refill. Don't expect perfection. On the other hand, servers talk you down if you're ordering too much, a nice gesture.

The point may be that you leave room for dessert, coffee and after-dinner drinks. Carrot cake and warm apple galette (\$8) are OK. My advice is to go home with a Calafia cake (\$3.95 at the market). Light years from the Hostess Cupcake, whose main virtue is that you can pull off the frosting in one piece, the Calafia Cake's white squiggly line bisects creamy perfect chocolate frosting that covers the dark, densely moist cake with a layer of whipped frosting inside.

Procedures at the market are a little goofy. Checking out the case of pre-made salads, entrees and sandwiches, we couldn't find a Stanford mufaletta (\$8.50). It was all gone and would not be reproduced for the time being. Tough luck. The dinner receipt offered 15 percent off for market items, which the poor clerk had to

laboriously deduct one by one: Calafia Cake, minus 60 cents; avocado, minus 8 cents.

It was a tasty avocado, on an excellent made-to-order sandwich (\$7) of Canadian bacon, smoked turkey, lettuce, tomato and a whole-wheat roll. The market offers self-checkout, which is smart, considering the nearness

of Palo Alto High School, the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, and soon, Trader Joe's.

Calafia's ambiance sets the bar for environmentalism. San Francisco interior designer Nicole Hollis is all about re-use, re-purpose and redefine. Find the surprising objects yourself. I won't spoil the fun. ▀

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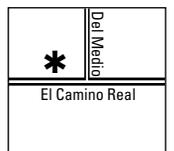
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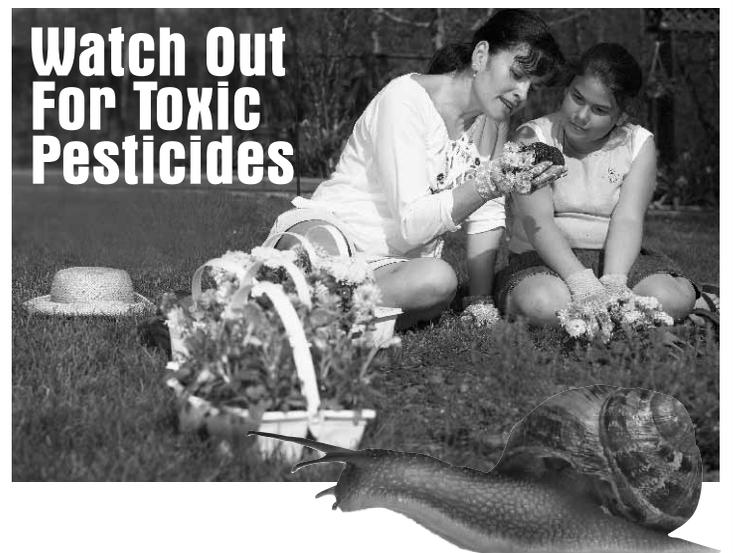
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MOVIE TIMES

17 AGAIN (PG-13) ★1/2

Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 2:15, 4:55, 7:25 & 9:55 p.m.

ADVENTURELAND (R) ★★★

Century 20: 2:35 p.m. Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 7:45 p.m.

ANVIL! THE STORY OF ANVIL (NOT RATED) (NOT REVIEWED) Aquarius: Sat. at 9:45 p.m.

CRANK: HIGH VOLTAGE (R) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:05 & 10:30 p.m. Century 20: 12:20, 1:25, 3:35 & 6:55 p.m. Fri.-Tue. also at 5:55, 8:15 & 10:40 p.m. Fri., Mon. & Tue. also at 11 a.m.

DEATH NOTE L: CHANGE THE WORLD (NOT RATED) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: Wed. at 7:30 p.m. (subtitled). Thu. at 7:30 (dubbed). Century 20: Wed. at 7:30 p.m. (subtitled). Thu. at 7:30 (dubbed).

DUPLICITY (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 20: 2:45 & 9:20 p.m.

EARTH (G) ★★★ Century 20: 12:25, 2:55, 5:30, 8:05 & 10:40 p.m.

FAST AND FURIOUS (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: 7:50 & 10:25 p.m. Fri., Sat. & Mon. - Thu. also at 11:05 a.m. & 1:35 p.m. Fri., Sat. & Sun. also at 4:10, 6:45 & 9:20 p.m. Century 20: 12:25, 2:55, 5:30, 8:05 & 10:40 p.m. Fri. & Sat.-Tue. also at 1:55, 4:30, 7:05 & 9:40 p.m. Fri. also at 11:20 a.m.

FIGHTING (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: 11:20 a.m.; 1:50, 4:25, 7:30 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: 12:20, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55 & 10:25 p.m.

GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: Thu. at midnight. Century 20: Thu. at midnight.

THE GREAT BUCK HOWARD (PG) ★★★1/2

Aquarius: 4:45 p.m. Fri. & Sun.-Thu. also at 9:45 p.m.

HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE (G) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 2:20, 4:50, 7:20 & 9:50 p.m. Century 20: 12:30, 3, 5:30, 8 & 10:30 p.m.

I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 2:25, 5, 7:35 & 10:10 p.m. Century 20: 12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50 & 10:20 p.m.

THE INFORMERS (R) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 7:55 & 10:20 p.m. Century 20: 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10 & 10:35 p.m. Fri., Mon. & Tue. also at 10:15 a.m.

IS ANYBODY THERE? (PG-13) ★★★

Palo Alto Square: 2:20, 4:50 & 7:20 p.m. Fri.-Sat. also at 9:50 p.m.

LYMELIFE (R) (NOT REVIEWED) Aquarius: 2:30, 5, 7:30 & 10 p.m.

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS (PG) ★★1/2 Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 1:40, 4:20, 7 & 9:30 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 2:20, 4:40, 7 & 9:20 p.m.

OBSERVE AND REPORT (R) ★★1/2

Century 20: 12:15, 2:25, 4:45, 7 & 9:25 p.m.

OBSESSED (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED) Century 16: Noon, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50 & 10:25 p.m. Century 20: 12:05, 1:20, 2:40, 3:55, 5:20, 6:30, 7:55, 9:10 & 10:30 p.m. Fri., Mon. & Tue. also at 10:40 a.m.

SHALL WE KISS? (NOT RATED) (NOT REVIEWED)

Guild: 1, 3:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m.

SIN NOMBRE (R) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 2 & 4:30 p.m. Fri.-Tue. also at 7:10 & 9:35 p.m.

THE SOLOIST (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 12:35, 1:55, 3:15, 4:35, 6, 7:15, 8:45 & 10:05 p.m. Century 20: 12:05, 1:35, 2:50, 4:20, 5:40, 7:05, 8:25 & 9:50 p.m. Fri. Mon. & Tue. also at 10:45 a.m.

STATE OF PLAY (PG-13) ★★★ Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 1:05, 2:35, 4, 5:30, 7:05, 8:30 & 10 p.m. Century 20: Noon, 1:30, 3, 4:25, 6, 7:30, 9 & 10:25 p.m. Fri. & Mon.-Tue. also at 10:35 a.m.

SUGAR (R) (NOT REVIEWED) Aquarius: 2 & 7 p.m.

SUNSHINE CLEANING (R) ★★1/2

Century 20: 12:10 p.m. Fri.-Tue. & Thu. also at 5:10 & 10:15 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 2:15, 4:45 & 7:15 p.m. Fri. & Sat. also at 9:45 p.m.

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG-13) (NOT REVIEWED)

Century 16: Thu. at midnight. Century 20: Thu. at midnight.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

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For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the Aquarius, Guild and Park, visit www.LandmarkTheatres.com

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

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



MOVIE REVIEWS

17 AGAIN ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Zac Efron's 17-year-old Mike O'Donnell grows up to look like doughy old Matthew Perry. The father of two teens with whom he fails to connect, Mike considers the road not taken: At 17, he passed up a basketball scholarship to commit to family life with Scarlett (Leslie Mann), whose divorce filing is about to be finalized. Before you can say, "Aww, gee, Mary, it is a wonderful life!" Mike looks like Efron again. With the help of lifelong best bud Ned (Thomas Lennon), Mike reasons that "spirit-guide transformation magic" has given him a second chance at life and/or a unique opportunity to bond with his kids. This is the sort of comedy that hopes we won't notice the plot holes (like how two key characters who knew Mike well in high school fail to recognize him) and only-in-the-movies nonsense (like Ben eating breakfast wearing pointy ears). As for lessons, young viewers can learn empathy for their parents, to seize the day, or to vicariously enjoy a father's loving care. *Rated PG-13 for some sexual material, language and teen partying. 1 hour, 42 minutes.* — P.C.

FAST & FURIOUS ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Let's face it: No one goes to an entry in the "Fast and the Furious" franchise expecting Ibsen. Action junkies — primarily males — know the deal. In place of thoughtful dialogue, they get hot rods in hot colors, curvy women busting out all over them, and a handful of high-octane car chase sequences in thunderous surround sound. And the women get Vin Diesel, he of the bulging biceps. For some, this empty-calorie junk-food cinema will be just the comfort food to hit the spot: "Furious" entertainment for a moment of "populist rage." But it's hard to escape the feeling that "Fast & Furious" is more than a little ... mechanical. *Rated PG-13 for drug references, language, violence, intense sequences of action and some sexual content. 1 hour, 39 minutes.*

THE GREAT BUCK HOWARD ★★★1/2

(Aquarius) Troy Gabel (Colin Hanks) is toiling away at law school and hating every minute. Despite his dad's objections he does what any self-respecting 20-something would do — quits school and decides to become a writer. Until that Great American Novel is published Troy needs to eat, and inexplicably lands himself a personal-assistant gig with famed Kreskin-like mentalist The Great Buck Howard (John Malkovich). Despite his pathetic attempts to regain his former glory, Howard exudes a cheesy timeless charm that audiences eat up. Howard is magic onstage; offstage he's a tyrannical egomaniac refusing to accept the inevitable passage of time. "Buck Howard" is refreshingly wholesome, an affectionate and even nostalgic tale with an easy narrative sans agenda or guile. — P.C. (Reviewed April 3, 2009) *Rated: PG for language and suggestive remarks. 1 hour, 27 minutes.* — J.A.

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS

★★★1/2
(Century 16, Century 20) In the case of Monsters v. Aliens — henceforth to be referred to as “Monsters Vs. Aliens” — we find in favor of monsters. Said monsters are the heroes of the latest Dreamworks Animation release, rendered in CGI and presented in 3D. The parties involved in this sci-fi-themed action comedy include Susan Murphy (voiced by Reese Witherspoon), whose transformation into a 50-foot-tall woman (alias Ginormica) we witness. Murphy stipulates the existence of four other government-sequestered monsters: lagoon creature The Missing Link (Will Arnett), insectoid mad scientist Dr. Cockroach (Hugh Laurie), blob B.O.B. (Seth Rogen) and the Godzilla-meets-a-hamster creature Insectosaurus (who roars anonymously). This court ultimately finds in favor of those darn monsters. Especially that B.O.B., who has no brain, but affirms, “Turns out, you don’t need one.” Delightful! *Rated PG for sci-fi action, some crude humor and mild language. 1 hour, 34 minutes. P.C.*

OBSERVE AND REPORT

★★★1/2
(Century 16, Century 20) Ronnie Barnhardt could be Paul Blart’s sick-and-twisted brother. Both are mall cops who live with their mothers and have dreams of trading their security-guard badges for the real thing. But beneath his good-natured surface, Seth Rogen’s lumbering Ronnie is a bipolar, delusional vigilante with visions of greatness. All he needs is a real case to prove himself — and some firearm power instead of being restricted to using tasers and mace. A flasher harassing women in the mall’s parking lot provides the perfect opportunity. A comic conundrum, the movie feels fresh and unpredictable within its formulaic narrative. Adding a dark underbelly to the genre, the vulgarity has some redeeming value. But like the shopping-mall experience, “Observe and Report” isn’t for everyone. *Rated: R for pervasive language, graphic nudity, drug use, sexual content and violence. 1 hour, 25 minutes. — S.T.*

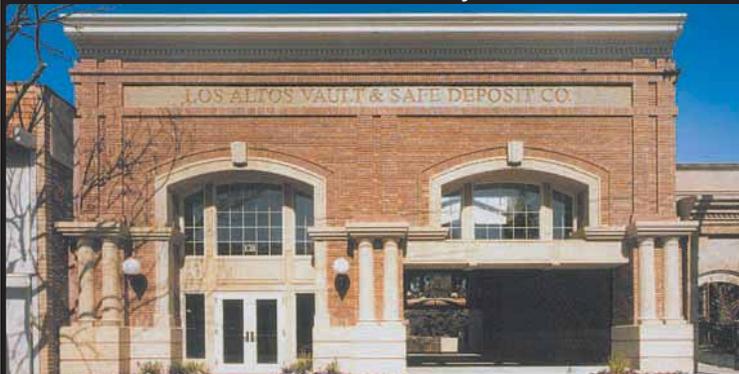
STATE OF PLAY ★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Washington Globe reporter Cal McAffrey (Russell Crowe) links two seemingly unconnected violent incidents to each other and to his college roommate-turned-congressman Stephen Collins (Ben Affleck). The apparent suicide of Collins’ young and pretty aide leads to the revelation that Collins has been cheating on his wife, Anne (Robin Wright Penn), a secret that proves intertwined with the shooting of a thief and a bystander. As a political firestorm blazes, McAffrey and Collins prowl around each other with mixed feelings of friendship and professional self-preservation. The congressman’s burning question: “Am I talking to my friend now, or am I talking to a reporter?” *Rated PG-13 for brief drug content, some violence, sexual references and language. 1 hour, 58 minutes. — P.C*

■ **MOVIE CRITICS**

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

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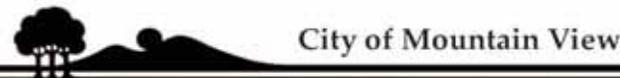
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By Lisa Loomer

“LOL funny, ‘Distracted’ nails conundrum of life in ADD age”

The Mercury News

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